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CAMP IN SCOTT'S VALLEY, SHASTA COUNTY, CAL.,

November 3, 1851.

SIR: In compliance with your request, the undersigned left this camp on the 30th ultimo for the purpose of ascertaining what lands, suited to agricultural purposes, existed in the neighborhood, with a view to your intended reservation for the Indians. We proceeded to the head of the principal valley of this river, and thence ascending the north fork, crossed the mountains to Shasta valley, opposite the peak, and followed its western side down to Shasta Butte city, a distance in all of about seventy-five miles.

The results of this examination we herewith subjoin, premising that the general character and features of the country were already known to us, and that our observations were directed more particularly to the specific objects of our journey. The valleys of Shasta and Scott's rivers contain almost all the level lands in this district of California, the country around being exceedingly mountainous and broken, and the principal river, the Klamath, having no valley of any extent within the State.

Small bottoms are known to exist upon streams entering the Klamath from the north, but not of dimensions sufficient to subsist tribes as numerous as those inhabiting the district, nor is it certain that they lie entirely to the south of the Oregon line.

Scott's valley is about twenty-five miles in extreme length from south to north, and about eight miles in width at the lower end, diminishing to a point at its head. It is of irregular shape, broken in some places by considerable hills; in others expanding into bays, or with narrow branches extending into the mountains. Its total area probably does not exceed one hundred square miles. Of this the far greater part is not available for agriculture, the soil consisting of sand and gravel, affording good pasturage in the bunch grass scattered over it, but too barren to yield crops that would remunerate labor. Tracts of a better soil are, however, found in it, chiefly upon the river and the few small streams that retain their water during the dry season. None of them, however, are of any great continuous extent, the largest being probably that in the neighborhood of the camp. Within a few miles of the upper extremity is also a tract of some size, fitted more particularly for the production of potatoes and vegetables. The narrow lateral branches are in general gravelly, and destitute of water except in winter: that on a branch of the North Fork, running parallel to the main one, which we ascended, is of this description. As regards timber, the pine, which

is the principal variety, is most abundant on the western side. Crossing the mountains to Shasta valley, we ascended to a height sufficient to give us a very extended view of the surrounding country, and have no hesitation in saying that its general character is the same. But few of the streams afford permanent running-water, and on our route we met with it in but two or three pools during two days' travel—in fact, from Scott's river to the Shasta. Our limited time did not permit us to traverse the whole extent of the valley, but we had an opportunity of overlooking it from several points, and two of our number were familiar with every part of it. The extent is about thirty miles in length, by eight as an average width, reaching from the foot of the Shasta Butte to the cañon through which the river enters the Klamath. It is

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traversed by only a few branches, and those nearly all sink or dry up in summer, the principal stream itself running over a bed of sand and stones, becoming tepid from the heat. The upper part of the valley, on the eastern side, is covered with extensive pine forests, and its soil stony and worthless. Through its middle extends a tract dotted with mounds and buttes of various forms and sizes, breaking it up to a degree unfitting it for cultivation, even if it were otherwise valuable. The remainder, though covered with abundant grass of the same kind as that clothing the hills around, is entirely destitute of water or timber, and too sterile to produce vegetables under any circumstances. The only tract where land of any value was seen is on the creek upon which the town itself is situated, and that is of small extent.

is situated, and the
Add to the facts already stated one which we received from good authority, that, in the greater part of the valley, frost occurs in every month in the year, and we are compelled to come to the conclusion that the agricultural part of your reserve must be found elsewhere. The objection of proximity to gold-diggings will, so far as our observation has extended, apply almost equally to every part of this district, nor could we point to any considerable tract which on that score would prove a safe one. Under these circumstances, we believe that Scott's valley will afford your only resource. The extent required for the purpose will necessarily depend on the number of persons to be brought within the reserve, and upon this we forbear to express an opinion.

We are, sir, your obedient servants,

GEORGE GIBBS.

BENJ. KELSEY.

SARSHAL WOODS.

ALVA BOLES.

CHAS. McDERMIT.

REDICK McKEE, Esq., *Indian Agent, &c.*
