

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

FOR

THE YEAR 1863.

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twenty-one Indians of the following tribes or bands, viz: the Alseas, Cooses, Umpquas, and Senslaws, all of whom are parties to the treaty already named as not having been ratified. Like their brethren at the Siletz agency, they are greatly dissatisfied because of their treaty not having been carried into effect. The amount of arable and pasture land at this agency is very limited, but is amply sufficient for the wants of the small number of Indians. They have the best of fisheries, and an abundance of game is found in the adjacent mountains, so that, with but little assistance from the government, they would very soon be in comfortable circumstances, and the agency become self-supporting.

From the foregoing summary of Indian affairs within this superintendency it will be seen that, considering the vast amount of good to be accomplished for the whites as well as the Indians, they may, by a comparatively small outlay, be placed in a most satisfactory and promising condition. I most earnestly commend the whole subject to your consideration, and through you to that of the approaching Congress, and trust that the various recommendations and suggestions may be carefully considered and meet with that liberal response to which I believe them entitled.

CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENCY.

The condition of Indian affairs within this superintendency is to me far from satisfactory, and I am fully satisfied that it can be materially improved as well in regard to economy as in promoting the welfare of the Indians and ridding the whites of the inconvenience and annoyance inseparable from the present system, or rather want of system, in organization.

The State is divided into two districts, the northern and southern, involving the necessity of two superintending agents, both of whom reside at San Francisco, and both requiring offices and clerks. This, as I conceive, nearly, if not quite, doubles the expense of the service performed.

The duties of a superintendent in California, who should perform all the labor incident to that position for the entire State, would not, in my opinion, prove more onerous than are those of the respective superintendents of several of the superintendencies, and would certainly be far less so than are those of the central and southern. I see no good reason, then, why the government should be burdened with the expense of two superintendents.

Within the northern district there are four Indian reservations owned by the government, viz: Klamath, Mendocino, Nome Lacke, and Round Valley. The first three of these are almost worthless as reserves. The buildings and improvements have been suffered to fall into decay, the adjacent country is occupied and owned by whites, and many settlers, under one pretext or another, by permission of agents and without permission, have gone upon the reservations; and the result has been, that they are almost entirely abandoned by the Indians, who prefer to gain a precarious living as best they may, rather than submit to those vexations and aggressions incident to so close a proximity to the whites, and often leading to arson, robberies and murder, as well on the part of the whites as the Indians. Whether the whites or the Indians are the more blamable for this state of affairs, it is very evident that these three reservations are no

longer desirable for the purposes for which they were established. Were it possible to rid them of the presence of white settlers, I should still favor their abandonment, for the reason that the country immediately adjacent is occupied by whites. The constant collisions that have occurred between the two races since the settlement of the State by the whites, and the measures of retaliation adopted by each, have engendered such a feeling of hostility and vindictiveness as to render it in the highest degree improbable that the Indians would be permitted to live in peace upon these reservations, however much they might be disposed so to do.

In obedience to a resolution passed at the second session of the thirty-seventh Congress, inquiries were instituted as to the propriety of reducing the number of Indian reservations within this State, the proper locations for such as might be retained, &c. The result of this investigation was such as to induce me in making my last annual report to strongly recommend the enlargement of the Round Valley reservation, and the establishment of another at Smith's river. The reservation at Round Valley, could it be enlarged in the manner then recommended, and all the white settlers removed therefrom, would in my opinion become by far the most eligible location for Indian purposes within the limits of the northern district. It is in the interior of the State; it is not adjacent to the mineral regions. Enlarged in the manner proposed, it would be so completely shut in by mountains as to be almost inaccessible; its area would be ample for the accommodation of all the Indians in the interior and northern portions of the State. Its climate is delightful and healthy. It has some six or eight thousand acres of arable land; is well watered and timbered. The three forks of Eel river would supply an abundance of fish, and the adjacent mountainous regions would furnish the "hunting grounds" so essential to the wants of the Indian while uncivilized. The only objection to the immediate enlargement of this reservation and its occupation by the Indians is the presence of white settlers, many of whom have doubtless just and equitable titles to the homes they have acquired. From information derived through late Superintending Agent Hanson, I have no doubt that such of the settlers as have just titles to their claims could be induced to sell the same to the government upon fair terms; nor have I any doubts that the purchase of these claims, the enlargement of this reservation as suggested, and the removal therefrom of all whites, except such as are required to conduct the official business of the government with the Indians, is a part of the only feasible plan which has yet been suggested for reducing our relations with the Indians of California to an economical and satisfactory system.

I regard it as essential to a proper location of the Indians of the northern district that there should be two reservations, one to be located in the interior, and the other upon the Pacific coast. It is said to be a fact, notorious to all observers, that Indians reared in the interior, and accustomed from childhood to its products, cannot be induced to remain upon the coast; and that those raised on the coast, and accustomed to sea-fish and weed, cannot be induced to remain in the interior. For the former, Round Valley is a suitable home; and for the latter, Smith River valley, or some other location, should be had.

Smith River valley is in the extreme northwest corner of the State; on its

north and east encompassed by mountains, so that no whites are likely to settle within twenty or thirty miles in those directions; on the south and west is the Pacific. The only entrance to the valley is in the southeast, and this is extremely narrow, rendering it practicable to almost wholly isolate the Indians, and secure them from the pernicious results which so invariably follow a contact with the whites. In addition to this valuable consideration, to which, in my judgment, too much importance cannot be attached, the valley is well watered and timbered, and has a suitable amount of arable land, while the adjacent mountains furnish an abundance of game, and the Pacific the best of fisheries. Government is now paying rent for the cultivated land of this valley at the rate of five dollars per acre, a price enormously disproportioned to the value of the improved land, all of which can be purchased, as I am informed, at rates averaging a little less than twelve dollars per acre. I know of no way to avoid these exorbitant charges for rent, except by the purchase of the land, or the establishment of a reservation at some other point upon the coast.

I have no doubt that, by timely action, we may yet secure for these people a home in the land of their birth, and feel that I should illy discharge my duty if I failed to urge upon you, and through you upon Congress, the importance of immediate action. Unless a tract of country is soon set apart for the use of the Indians, and its title secured to them, every available portion will be occupied by whites, and the Indians driven, by inevitable necessity, into a life of vagabondage and crime, resulting in constant annoyance and vexation to the whites, in frequent collisions between the two races, and, I fear, at last in the extinction of the red race.

On the 13th of January last I submitted for your consideration a communication from Superintending Agent Wentworth, informing me that hostilities had, to some extent, commenced with the Indians inhabiting that part of California known as the Owen's River valley, and expressing, in the strongest manner, his apprehensions that a general war would ensue with those Indians unless immediate measures should be adopted by Congress, having for their object the pacification of the Indians, and the securing to them of some portion of the home of their ancestors, where they could live unmolested by the whites. I regret to say that the apprehensions of Superintending Agent Wentworth have since been fully realized. The course of events in this valley is a forcible illustration of the wisdom and importance of entering into treaty relations with the wild Indians of our territories, prior to the occupation of their country. Here was a country extending from the eastern slope of the Sierra Nevada to the great desert, inhabited by several thousands of wild and warlike Indians, with whom we have hitherto failed to establish amicable relations, or, indeed, to hold any official intercourse whatever. The country had been in the unmolested possession of this people for generations, and was ample for their sustenance and support. In an evil day for them, it is discovered that their mountain gulches and ravines abound in the precious metals, and forthwith, in utter disregard of the rights of the Indians, and by resorting to precisely the same means as those employed towards the wild beasts of the country, a tide of emigration sets in upon them

and begins to despoil them of their homes, the graves of their ancestors, and the means of supplying their rude and simple wants. Surely, it could not be supposed that all this could be accomplished without any manifestations of opposition and hostility on the part of the Indians; and it cannot be doubted that, aside from the humanitarian and moral aspects of the subject, it would have been far more economical had we treated with these Indians; obtained from them by fair purchase such portions of their country as are desirable for our people; secured to the Indians a location where they could live in peace, and where we could gradually subject them to those influences which would, in the end, reclaim them from their wild and barbarous modes of life. All this, I fully believe, might have been done if we had been prompt to recognize the rights of the Indians, and to prepare them for the occupation of their country. The opportunity has now passed, and it is probably not an overestimate to say that, besides the valuable lives of our own citizens as well as the lives of the Indians that have already been sacrificed, we have already expended and incurred liabilities in our military operations against these Indians more than double the amount that would have been required to establish relations with them upon the basis of a firm and lasting friendship.

I have no doubt that hostilities may yet be terminated in this region much more speedily by negotiation than by military power, and that thousands of treasure and many valuable lives may be saved. I trust that the subject will receive from Congress the consideration its importance demands, and that such legislation may be had as will not only result in a speedy termination of these troubles, but will also harmonize the conflicting interests of the whites and Indians throughout the State, and produce in the conduct of our Indian relations that order and system which is so imperatively demanded.

NEW MEXICO.

The principal tribes of this superintendency are the Navajoes, the Apaches, and the Utahs. The Navajoes occupy the western portion of the Territory, and are the most powerful and hostile tribe within its limits. But little progress has been made in reducing them to submission to the authority of our government, and they prove themselves a source of constant vexation and alarm to all our exposed settlements. The nature of the country and the character of their organization is such that it has hitherto been found impossible, with the forces sent against them, to produce any permanent and decisive results. Their country abounds in mountain fastnesses, rendering it extremely difficult for any adequate military force to pursue them to their retreats, or inflict upon them a blow which has any considerable effect in breaking their power.

They are represented as an ingenious and skilful people in manufacturing blankets and other fabrics, in the cultivation of wheat and corn, and as being in all other respects far in advance of all other tribes within the Territory.

The Apaches consist of three bands, viz: Jicarillas, occupying the northeastern portion of the Territory; the Mescaleros, occupying the southeastern portion, and the Gila Apaches the extreme southwest. With the exception of some four hundred of the Mescaleros, who are located at Bosque Rodondo, under

CALIFORNIA SUPERINTENDENCY.

No. 28.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, NORTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, September 7, 1863.

SIR: In submitting my annual report, I shall not dwell in detail upon the various reasons which I have given in former reports in favor of reducing the number of Indian reservations from four to two, and enlarging those retained, and selling Mendocino and Nome-Lackee reservations, and applying the proceeds to the payment of the settlers' improvements in Round and Smith River valleys, thereby securing to the Indian service a good and suitable location for all the coast Indians, and one for the interior Indians, where they could and would be contented and happy. In adopting this policy nearly one-half the expense of keeping the reservations would be saved to the government in the matter of tools, teams, and employés.

Again, in connexion with economy, allow me to assure you that, had one-quarter of the money expended by the United States in the employment and maintenance of troops for the subjugation and collection of Indians been faithfully applied to the procurement of suitable reservations and stocking the same well with tools, teams, cattle, sheep, &c., &c., thereby making desirable homes for the Indians, not one-quarter of the trouble between the races would ever have existed. But the policy of the government has been to expend millions for troops, and a few scanty thousands for the comfort and maintenance of the Indians; and while the government pursues this pennywise policy, the Indian service must ever remain in a crippled condition.

In truth the troops, as a general thing, stationed at or near Indian reservations, are a great curse to the Indian service, for, in spite of the vigilant efforts of their own officers and of the officers and employés on the reservation, soldiers will clandestinely mix and cohabit with the squaws, thereby spreading disease and death broadcast among them. If, therefore, the policy I have so frequently and importunately urged be adopted, of employing none on the reservations but married men of good deportment, and increasing the laboring force so as to give each reservation a supervisor, who should be an energetic and practical farmer, one physician, one blacksmith, one carpenter, one miller, and one herdsman, and a laborer with each tribe of Indians thus settled on the various farms, suited in size to the number of Indians in the tribes, and a suitable married man as farmer, and each of those farmers provided with suitable barns, cribs, dwelling and out-houses, sheds, &c., then each of these reservations would be self-protecting as against the kidnappers, squaw-men, and all intruders.

As to the perfect safety of the employés against the Indians, no instance has ever occurred, under my notice or hearing, endangering in the least the white employés. Hence the propriety of at once adopting this policy. Reduce the number of reservations to two, make a more liberal appropriation, especially for one or two years, and remove all settlers and soldiers from the reservation entirely; then, and not till then, will the Indian service prosper in California.

A saw and grist mill is needed in Round valley. I have selected an excellent site for one, in close proximity to the valley, to be run by water power, and will make a commencement on the dam immediately. The machinery and work of a millwright, however, will require more funds than can be had from the last year's scanty appropriation.

The Indians recently collected in Butte county, together with those that were driven from or left Round valley last September, have involved an expense of some four or five thousand dollars. They are now being removed to Round valley. I could not negotiate for their removal by water to Smith river for less

than eight thousand dollars; and as I had no money to pay that expense, I have become personally responsible for the expense of removing them by land to Round valley, which will be from one to two thousand dollars.

All the crops are better than have been harvested in any former year; but owing to the loss of some two or three thousand bushels of wheat by fire, at Round valley, which I have already informed you I believed to have been set on fire by a squaw-man and kidnapper, and the removal of the Indians from Butte county, it will require additional purchases of wheat and cattle.

More than one-half of the cattle purchased for that reservation have arrived or are now arriving. The remainder will soon follow; but, should rain set in early, I have agreed to extend the time.

No bids were accepted for Mendocino, and only a small one for Smith river, the bids being considered too high.

Complaints are being made as usual from Humboldt bay, that small parties of Indians are leaving Smith river and returning to that place. I have made particular inquiries about it, and find it to be untrue. The Indians all remain, and appear quite contented and happy at the prospect of an abundant harvest and additional houses to live in through the winter. The clothing has all been shipped and will soon be issued to the Indians, but will be entirely inadequate for their real wants.

Owing to the lack of teams at Smith river, and having to hire at very high prices, I made a purchase of nineteen large likely young American mares, and eleven colts, in Oregon, where they were much cheaper than in California, involving an expense of over three thousand dollars, so that the reservation for the present is amply provided with teams. A like number and quality is now needed for Round valley, which, with their increase, will serve for horse teams abundantly.

In Round valley I made a purchase of three improvements; two adjoining our farming lands, and one near the mill site. The latter had been a great harbor for kidnappers and squaw-men, and this purchase breaks up that troublesome nest entirely; and the two adjoining our farms will put us at once in possession of some three hundred acres of good arable and pasture lands. It is very desirable that a sum be appropriated to pay for all the improvements in the valley; and if all can be paid for on as good terms as I procured these, a much smaller sum is wanted to purchase the whole than my former estimate, \$50,000. In making an estimate for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1865, I have aimed at a reasonable minimum, viz:

For indebtedness over the present appropriation.....	\$6,000
For clothing, subsistence, tools, &c.....	65,000
For removal of Indians.....	15,000
For salary of superintending agent.....	3,000
For salary of two supervisors, (if only two reservations, as recommended).....	3,600
For salary of clerk to superintending agent.....	1,500
For salary of two physicians, (\$1,500 each).....	3,000
For salary of two blacksmiths, (\$900 each).....	1,800
For salary of two carpenters, (\$900 each).....	1,800
For salary of twelve laborers, (\$600 each).....	7,200
For salary of twelve female teachers, (\$240 each).....	2,880

142,580

In addition to this, about \$60,000 for the purchase of Smith river, and \$40,000 for the Round valley improvements, if Nome-Lackee and Mendocino are not sold and the proceeds applied.

The extraordinary rise in the price of every description of clothing and other supplies, and depreciation of the legal currency, render the estimate necessarily larger than it would be otherwise.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HANSON,

Superintending Agent Indian Affairs, Northern District, California.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 29.

NEW YORK, *February 24, 1863.*

DEAR SIR: I did not receive yours of the 18th until the 20th, and too late for me to sail by the present or steamer of the 21st; consequently I concluded to stop over till the 1st of March, or go by stage overland. I called this morning for you at the St. Nicholas, Metropolitan, and Astor House, but could hear no account of you; hence I write again, thinking it probable your delicate condition of health may have prevented your arrival last evening. When I wrote to you last, I informed you I had been examining goods and pricing them, and came to the conclusion it would be very bad policy to purchase here at present prices. Remember, our appropriation will be very small; consequently we cannot at present prices here realize more than about one-third as many goods as at former rates; again, those I have talked to seem to prefer not crediting the government but a very short time, even at those prices—certainly not until July next. Hence, I reason as follows, viz: the present cold weather is too far advanced to benefit the Indians with clothing now, and the prospects are that goods will be much lower before another winter sets in—at any rate, certainly not any higher, for I see cotton in Liverpool has fallen, and the prospects of a *large increase* of the staple in South Sea islands and the Indies, to say nothing of our southern States, to me gives assurance of a great reduction in goods. At any rate, I think we should postpone until the summer months; or I can have time to re-examine prices in San Francisco, when, and from whence, I can send you a bill of such things as are most needed.

I thank you kindly for the information from Round valley. I received a copy of the testimony in printed form sent by our California delegation jointly, Messrs. Phelps, Lord and Sargent, last evening, and have read it very carefully; and while I am compelled to express my surprise at the concessions made by Mr. Short, the supervisor, and his son, whose testimony seems to show they had a previous knowledge of the intended outrages and murders committed against the Indians, yet I can plainly see the examination had was a one-sided affair, and very different from what I had always been told by the employés and several others, especially in regard to the killing of the Indians and kidnapping of children. I see all the witnesses confess the murder in August, and no doubt most of them were concerned in the outrage. If the Shorts knew of the outrage to be perpetrated and did not try to prevent it, I shall, by your permission, discharge them all; but the supervisor certainly, in August, wrote to me complaining of the outrages, and said, "their only excuse for killing the Indians was, they were afraid they would leave the reservation some night and run off with some of their stock, &c."

The fact of the United States having cattle, hogs, horses and mules, and the Indians never killing or stealing any of them, is sufficient proof to me they are grossly persecuted by the settlers, nearly all of whom I know to be sworn enemies to the Indians, and also to their government and the Indian employé. Mr. Short I appointed supervisor at the instance and particular request of his

excellency Mr. Lincoln, who knew him long and well, and said he was a good man for that position, and I would on his account dislike his removal. Nevertheless I feel sure the President would not wish me to retain his best friend to the injury of the service.

As to the fence allow me to say, the part that was open was at the base of the mountain, on the back of the farm, where the water from the cañon washed it away. I was there in the latter part of the spring, and gave Mr. Short particular instructions to repair it in time, as there were plenty of rails already made, and he said he would do so; but he said that "no cattle or hogs ranged on the back part of the farm," and the bluffs were abrupt, and no danger of stock interfering with the crop; neither do any of the witnesses say the stock got in at that place. The truth is, they have been trying to have General Wright rescind his order declaring martial law, and authorizing their removal from the valley. These orders were made at my request, enclosing to the general the letters of the witnesses, James Short, James Robinson, and Dr. Melindy, making the complaint.

If further explanation be necessary, please inform me before I leave for California, and also in regard to the removal of the Shorts, and all who had a knowledge of the intended outrage in August last.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

G. M. HANSON,
Superintending Agent.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 30.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, NORTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, April 25, 1863.

SIR: After leaving New York I heard of the defeat of the bill in the House providing for the sale of the Nome-Lackee and Mendocino Indian reservations, and for the payment out of the proceeds thereof of the settlers in Round valley, for their improvements made on the lands set apart for an Indian reservation.

Since my return home a letter has arrived from Supervisor Short, of said valley, informing me that one Bowers had been killed by an Indian with an axe, and that said Bowers had killed two Indians on the two previous days, while coercing them to go with him in search of a squaw, by whom he had a half-breed child.

I merely name this as another instance of accumulated testimony, showing the impossibility of ever living and prospering in peace while the races are permitted to remain together.

Mr. Short also informs me that the military have taken two or three as hostages, (of the same tribe of Bowers's murderer,) until he, the murderer, is delivered, saying, "If the guilty one is not found the hostage will be hanged." I have written to forbid it, and will go in person next week, as soon as I can complete my first quarter's returns.

I am now greatly perplexed to know what course is best for me to pursue in view of success in Round valley. The supervisor says, "the troops that were sent there are diseasing all the Indians," and that he "is heartily sick of them."

Now, question: Had I not better try and purchase their crops and part of their stock, and agree to pay them a certain rent until Congress appropriates to pay for their improvements, and in this way get clear of both the settlers and troops?

If any other place could be had to suit, I would at once remove the Indians, but this I cannot find anywhere on United States land.

Hoping to be instructed in this matter very soon, I am, very truly, your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HANSON,
Superintending Agent, &c.

HON. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 31.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, NORTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, June 17, 1863.

SIR: Your letters of the 25th ultimo, acknowledging the receipt of my accounts for second quarter of 1862, (former returns lost with Golden Gate,) also your letter of same date acknowledging receipt of mine of 25th April, in regard to the difficulties existing in Round valley, have been received; in which letter you say, "*it is very difficult for this office to give you any definite instructions as to the best course to be pursued,*" &c., "*and hence it will be necessary to depend much upon your own judgment.*"

The idea suggested in my letter of 25th April, of renting the improvements and paying for the planted crops of the settlers in said valley, I submitted to them in a *public address*, calling all the settlers together in the valley for that and other purposes, at the time of my late visit there. I took that occasion to express my astonishment and unqualified disapprobation of the wanton, unprovoked, and premeditated massacre of the 23 or 24 Wylackies, that had doubtless come to the reservation to find protection against white men who had been pursuing them in the mountains, otherwise to labor through the harvest for a subsistence; and especially did I condemn every *employé* who had a knowledge of the intended massacre, and either winked at the same or clandestinely aided in its consummation. (The guilty will all be discharged as soon as I can supply their places.)

Some of them viewed my proposition for renting and paying them for their planted crops very favorably; others did not.

The Hat Creek and Con-Cow tribes, numbering now only some 350, who had left the Round Valley reservation last October, and whom I had placed under the care of an employé on the Sacramento river, on the lands of Major J. Bidwell, are still at that point, and have been provided for through the winter, incurring a debt of less than two thousand dollars. This was done by allowing the Indians to work on farms and public roads for a remuneration when opportunities of such kinds offered, thereby economizing all they possibly could. If I can make no purchase of crops in Round valley for these tribes, they must remain for a time, as the Indians who raise new crops in the valley would see the injustice at once of the Hat Creeks and Con-Cows returning and devouring the substance of their hard labor.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

G. M. HANSON.

HON. WILLIAM P. DOLE, *Commissioner, &c.*

No. 32.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS, NORTHERN DISTRICT CALIFORNIA,
San Francisco, July 18, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report for the quarter ending June 30, 1863.

Having now made a tour to all the Indian reservations in the northern district of this State, I am happy to say, truly, that the prospect of an abundant crop is very flattering indeed, especially so at Round and Smith River valleys. At the latter place I spent some thirteen days, during which time I canvassed well the acts of the supervisor and other employés in the service, also the condition of the Indians as to the health and want of clothing, &c., and have arrived at the following conclusion, viz., that, notwithstanding more has been done, and the management generally has been far better at this reservation than at either of the others, it was quite apparent that more married men should be brought into the service as soon as possible, and those who are unmarried discharged. Hence I employed three men with their wives, who have already commenced their services. Two of them are good carpenters as well as good farmers, and the other is a good farmer and miller.

The unsettled condition of three-fourths or more of the Indians, who have been compelled to lie on the cold, damp ground ever since their removal from Klamath and Humboldt counties, has caused disease, and death in many instances, to avoid which I have rented one of the saw-mills in the valley, with which the Indians and one or two white men, with our own teams, can, in a short time, make sufficient lumber to build some houses, and keep them more comfortable through the next winter. I give one-half of the lumber cut for the use of the mill; this is high rent, but it saves paying out money. I have sent the supervisor (Mr. Bryson) and another man off to Oregon to purchase some team-horses, as we have been compelled to hire teams at high rates this year, as well as last. I send to Oregon for the reason that horses are much cheaper there than in California. I have ascertained that only 130 out of 840 Indians which were removed to Smith River reservation from Humboldt bay last September ever returned; and that little band, with their chief, Las-ac, left the first night after they landed in the valley. Las-ac, I hear, has since been killed.

I am now constructing a hospital at Smith River valley, and as soon as it is finished, will make an effort, by the close attention of the physician, to banish the most loathsome of diseases from among the Indians; but while the more degraded men of the white race are permitted to live in reach of, and come in contact with them, I almost despair of success.

The Indians on all the reservations continue to labor faithfully. I have seen as high as 363 of them all in the field at once, laboring, all of whom drew rations as laborers; nearly or quite one-half of that number were squaws and children, who, having no hoes or other farming tools, substituted their fingers. They are very destitute of clothing, only an occasional Indian wearing a whole garment, and not a whole blanket could be found among 100 Indians; and their constant inquiry was: "When Captain Lincoln, big chief, send Indians plenty blankets?"

I believe the change of supervisors at the Mendocino and Round Valley reservations is already having a salutary effect; and I now think that the growing crops on these two reservations, when harvested, will furnish an abundance of bread material and vegetables for all the Indians now on these two reservations until another crop can be harvested. Hence, in view of further economy, I beg leave to submit to your department what I consider an important suggestion, viz: after the produce on the Mendocino reservation is harvested, to transport the most of it, and *all* the mountain Indians, together with the farming

tools, teams, &c., to Round valley, leaving one employé with the coast Indians until they consume the balance of the crops, and then remove them to Smith River reservation, where there will be quite a surplus of products from the present crops, perhaps more than enough to supply them. By pursuing this course, the Mendocino employés could all be discharged and the reservation abandoned, as was the Nome-Lackee, and the public buildings left in charge of some persons, to whom the land could be rented until authorized to be sold. This would greatly strengthen the Round valley teams, and add to the supply of tools.

When I came into office I took the responsibility to abandon Nome-Lackee reservation without consulting your department, for the following reasons: it had not been fenced, and could not be except at great cost, and without fencing no crops could be raised; as none had been during the two years previous, on account of the settlers' stock of all kinds that overran the lands. Mendocino reservation has but few Indians compared with either Round valley or Smith river; and as the distance between Mendocino and Round valley is only some fifty-five or sixty miles, all the transportation can be done by our own teams and by the Indians. By the abandonment of this reservation, over six or seven thousand dollars will be saved annually, and the Indians taken away from a population of whites who are more degraded than the Indians themselves. True, they would be removed to reservations infested with the same class, but not to such an extent.

There would be a saving also of ten, or perhaps twenty times as much more to the public treasury, as the necessity of keeping a company of United States troops at that place, Fort Bragg, would be entirely done away with.

I give this as my opinion after due consideration, believing that the fewer reservations we have the better they can be conducted; and it will be attended with a saving of thousands of treasure to the government.

Hoping to hear from you on this subject, I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HANSON,

Superintending Agent Indian Affairs, Northern District California.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

No. 33.

OFFICE INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, California, August 4, 1863.

SIR: On July 25 I was telegraphed to by one of my employés at Chico, about 250 miles north of this place, also by Major Bidwell, (special agent for that county,) that "two children in that neighborhood had been killed by Indians, and that my immediate presence was important."

I set out, and by steamer, railroad, and stage, I arrived at Chico about 10 p. m. the following day, and on my way found posters like the one enclosed at almost every house on the way.

I attended the meeting in company with Major Bidwell and others, and on our arrival at Pence's ranch found about 300 of the most infuriated men I ever met. They organized a meeting, and introduced and soon passed a resolution that the superintending agent should be requested to remove every Indian in the county of Butte within thirty days, to the reservation, and any left after that time should be killed. I was called upon the stand to respond. I did so, by urging them not to act so rashly, or be inconsiderate, and tried to convince them that the murder of those children could be traced to an outrage committed upon that same tribe of Indians a few days previously, wherein some bad white

men had hanged five of their tribe to a tree without any proof whatever against them. The men had lost some horses, and hanged the first Indians they met with.

I told them I would endeavor to remove the tribe whose Indians had committed the offences, if they could be got from the mountains, but to remove all the valley Indians, and provide for them on the reservations, without more means than I had at my command, was out of the question. The valley Indians on the Sacramento and Feather rivers, and in that vicinity, will number from one to two thousand; many of them are laboring for farmers, and in that way are far better provided for than those I have on the reservation. True, the most of them are a nuisance in the country; but they are very inoffensive creatures, and if let alone will harm no one; but I found the enraged citizens of Butte were determined to carry into execution their threats.

Just before my arrival they tied two up to a tree, and shot and scalped them; no proof against them whatever. Since I left there I received from my employé the enclosed letter, giving another horrid account.

General Wright, in answer to a telegraphic despatch from me at Chico, sent a detachment of cavalry to aid me in protecting those Indians, and in collecting and removing others to the reservation. Those I will have to remove to Smith River valley for safety, as many of them have been to Round valley, and returned to their old haunts. I shall inform you further on this subject.

I have the honor to be, your obedient servant,

G. M. HANSON,
Superintending Agent.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE.
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

DEAR SIR: Five of our Indians were killed and robbed in Missouri Bend, about eight miles from here, under the following circumstances:

I had three boys of the Con-Cow tribe, named Dick, Pike and Charley, with one squaw and a little girl about ten years of age, at Mr. Isaac Allen's, our former senator to the legislature; the boys working at a threshing machine, receiving a dollar per day. Last Saturday I sent for them to come in that evening; but they were delayed, and did not start until Monday morning.

I sent them a passport, and they were furnished with others by Mr. Allen. They were seen on the road with their passports in their hat-bands. Not coming here, I supposed they had gone to Reefer's, but last night learned that five Indians were killed on a slough, and their bodies were in an old cabin. I went to Mr. Allen's this morning, and found a note from him stating that he had been to the cabin, and identified the bodies as those of the Indians that worked for him.

They were turned off from the road down the slough, and there captured and killed.

Two of the boys have been with me all winter; the others came in about a month ago. More harmless persons do not exist, and a more cowardly murder was never perpetrated. I shall use all means to ascertain the parties, but their arrest would require a strong military force, as that is the most inflammatory district we have.

Sixty Indians have been brought to me to-day from Con-Cow valley by Mr. Wells.

I think it advisable that you return here before the expiration of thirty days, but will write you as occasion demands.

Yours, truly,

J. F. EDDY.

G. M. HANSON, Esq.

P. S.—Should any emergency arise, I will telegraph you.

J. F. E.

P. S.—Mr. Eddy is the man I have had in charge of the Indians, who left Round valley last fall, and has done a good part by them near Chico ever since. I will remove them soon.

GEO. M. HANSON,
Superintending Agent.

No. 34.

ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION,
California, August 21, 1863.

SIR: On the 13th instant I date my arrival at this reservation, since which time I have been employed issuing the Indian goods sent from New York, and purchasing some hogs, cattle, wheat, potatoes, &c., for some 600 additional Indians which I am compelled to remove from Butte county to this place, by the copy of a letter which I enclose herewith from Captain Starr, in charge of a detachment of cavalry which I requested General Wright to order to Chico, in Butte county, from Sacramento city, for the purpose of protecting the Indians I had collected at that point, and also to aid in collecting others who were charged as guilty of outrages on white settlers.

You will see at once the urgent necessity of their immediate removal, and consequently the importance of providing at this time for their subsistence through the approaching winter. Should I not remove those Indians immediately, there can be no doubt but an effort to carry out the resolutions so unanimously adopted at the large meeting held at "Pierce's ranch," a copy of the notice of which I enclose you, will be made, and the consequence would be a bloody affair.

Two hundred and twenty head of the cattle which I purchased of Hamblin, as per sealed proposals which I enclose you, have arrived at this place. I regret exceedingly the instructions to purchase in this way, for it cannot be doubted, from former purchases I have made *privately*, when compared, but the latter plan is far preferable to the former; and I would most respectfully suggest that in future the superintending agent be allowed the privilege of purchasing all supplies for the service in the northern district on the best terms he can make, whether private or by sealed proposals.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

GEORGE M. HANSON,
Superintending Agent Northern District California.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

CHICO, BUTTE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA,
August 10, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3d instant. Have just returned from an expedition out on the Humboldt road. Found a few friendly Indians, whom we brought in, but no hostile ones.

Have between five and six hundred Indians here now. The citizens of Butte county are very bitter against the Indians. Enclosed find resolutions passed at a mass meeting. Wish for instructions as to what course I shall take if the Indians are not removed within the specified time, provided they should attempt

to carry out their resolutions. The Indians that committed the depredations are what is called the Mill Creek tribe; they are supposed to be on Deer creek now, where I propose going in a few days.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

AUGUSTUS W. STARR,
*Captain Commanding Company F, 2d Cavalry,
 California Volunteers.*

Col. R. C. DRUM,
Assistant Adjutant General, San Francisco.

No. 35.

ROUND VALLEY RESERVATION,
California, August 22, 1863.

SIR: Some two or three weeks since, and about eight or ten days previous to my late arrival in this valley, about 30 tons of hay and a barn belonging to one of the settlers of the valley were consumed by fire, and doubtless the mischief was the work of an incendiary. There was an investigation of the affair had by Captain Douglas, who commands the troops at this place, and the crime was fixed upon some five or six Indians of the Uka tribe, all of whom had been living with settlers of the valley, except one who lived upon that part of the valley occupied and cultivated as an Indian reservation. The principal testimony was that of two squaws living with white men, who testified to threats having been made by those Indians to that end. The result of the examination held by the captain was, as I understand, that the Indians were guilty, and consequently all of the accused were hanged by his order.

I am sure Captain Douglas has acted in this affair with the purest motives in view of preserving the peace and quiet of the valley, but that no blame should attach to either the supervisor or myself, as neither of us was consulted in regard to the case. I have thought best to lay the matter before you.

In connexion with this affair, I exceedingly regret having to inform you that about midnight last night some incendiary set fire to and destroyed some 2,000 or more bushels of government wheat, which constitutes two-thirds of our entire crop of that grain, compelling me to make additional purchases of wheat or other grain for the subsistence of the Indians who labored faithfully to produce so valuable a crop, and for the payment thereof I am constrained to ask for at least \$6,000 for their immediate relief, and for the six hundred I have already informed you I am compelled to bring to this reservation from Butte county, or allow them to be massacred by the white settlers.

A fellow distinguished for kidnapping Indian children has been arrested, examined and acquitted for burning this wheat, although the circumstances are strong against him, and nearly every one in the valley believes him guilty. He had been previously notified by Captain Douglas to leave the valley, and it is believed he committed the crime to be avenged.

I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

G. M. HANSON,
Superintending Agent Northern District California.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.