ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
TO THE
SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
FOR THE
YEAR 1877.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1877.
once, and much of success and satisfaction. I have met with firm support and bitter opposition. I have found just and true friends, and malicious enemies. My course and system at San Carlos have been both praised and blamed, lauded and cursed. I have neither sought the one nor avoided the other, and when my worthy successor shall have relieved me from the last responsibility connected with that agency, I shall rest content. As agent for the San Carlos Indians I have sought to do my duty well. I claim nothing more than duty well done. Had I done less, I would have been unworthy of my position and trust. Whatever may be the feelings of others, I am to-day proud of my work and record at San Carlos, and with extreme satisfaction I shall transfer to my trusted successor one of the most important positions on the Pacific slope.

I shall ever feel indebted to Mr. M. A. Sweeney for his faithful services throughout my administration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN P. CLUM,
Late United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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HOOPA VALLEY INDIAN AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,
August 24, 1877.

SIR: In compliance with circular-letter dated Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C., July 10, 1877, I have the honor to report that the late agent, J. L. Broaddus, was relieved May 9, 1877, and the reservation turned over to me in compliance with letter of instructions from E. C. Watkins, United States Indian Inspector.

The reservation was and is now in a most dilapidated condition. The grind-mill has been allowed to fall to pieces, and is useless. The saw-mill is much out of order. The fences are greatly out of repair. Houses have fallen down for want of attention and repair. The stock, consisting of horses, mules, and cattle, have been taken to Round Valley; such farming implements and tools as were not taken there were sold to citizens at a mere nominal sum, viz., hay from 50 cents to $1.50 per ton, while the contract for the military post is $44 per ton; wagons, threshing-machines, reapers, mowers, &c., in like proportion.

There are on the reservation about 427 Indians, as follows: men, 131; women, 167; children, 129. The Redwood Indians, numbering about 40, left the reservation some time ago, in consequence of the report that they were to be taken to Round Valley. The captain of the band informed me a few days since, that they intended returning this fall.

There are about 800 or 900 acres of good wheat-land, yet not an acre under cultivation; also a large amount of fine grazing-land. I have no doubt but that this reservation could be made self-sustaining in a very few years; it would be now, had it been properly managed. The Indians are peaceable and well-disposed, and many of them are industrious and willing to work. They complain bitterly about their stock and farming-implements being taken away and sold to white men. I think if the stock is returned, and farming-implements and grain supplied, we will be able to get in a good fall crop; this will have to be done at once to insure success.

I recommend that Congress be asked for a liberal appropriation, that the reservation be improved and placed in a good state of cultivation, farming-implements be supplied, the buildings, mills, &c., be put in proper condition, and then with proper management I have no doubt of its being a success.

I regret exceedingly that I cannot give a more favorable report; but can attribute its dismantled and dilapidated condition to no other cause than misrepresentation, mismanagement, and inefficiency of the agents who have been in charge for the past six years.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

RICH. C. PARKER,
Captain Twelfth Infantry, Acting Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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SAN BERNARDINO, CAL., August 15, 1877.

SIR: In submitting to you a report upon the condition and wants of the Mission Indians of California, and in making some suggestions with respect to the manner in which the Government may best fulfill what I understand to be its intention of placing them permanently in possession of lands which they may cultivate as their own, I desire to say that the time I have spent among them since my appointment as agent is so short that I can give the Department but few facts concerning these Indians not already to be found in reports and communications on file in your office. For the most part, the information contained in such reports is verified by my observation.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. TAYLOR,
Late United States Indian Agent.
The Mission Indians now number at most but a few thousand. I judge, from what I can learn, that the estimate of 4,000 or 5,000 is fully up to their real numbers. Not much more than a quarter of a century ago they were reported to have been five or six times as numerous. The diseases introduced among them with the white settlement of California, particularly small-pox, which has sometimes swept away entire communities at one visitation, have been the most effective agencies of their destruction. The restrictions upon their customary methods of living, and the limitation of the territory from which they drew their support, have done the rest. The present greatest curse to the race is bad whisky and the unscrupulous traders of it. A continuation for twenty-five years longer of the treatment which they have received in the twenty-five years that are past will so far complete the extermination of the Mission Indians that the only remnant will be found in strolling bands of vagrants and beggars, which will become a pest and nuisance to the white population. On the other hand, it is possible for the Government to preserve from destruction those who yet remain, to train them to habits of complete self-support, and ultimately, perhaps, to fit them for incorporation into the body of American citizenship, well prepared to discharge the duties and bear the burdens of citizens.

The Mission Indians have thus far always supported themselves without aid from the Government, and would not now need much care or attention but for one great and important fact upon which the duty of the Government arises and is established. That fact is, that the lands they have been accustomed to cultivate are nearly all taken from them for white settlements, so that they all become subject to the whims and interests of their successors in possession. The Government has formerly made and relinquished some excellent reservations of public lands on which they might have been located, and it still retains some small and inadequate reservations of comparatively little use and value. The Government still retains plenty of land which might be set apart for them, but none of their lands should be disposed of; or it is, in other words, mere desert, whose ultimate reclamation, if at all possible, is at least doubtful, and will be very expensive. In none of the rich valleys which they formerly occupied and cultivated do these Indians now own any land or possess the right to any water. They were long ago driven from the best places, and their last and present places of resort are now threatened, and, if it be feared, cannot be preserved to them except in a few instances.

The Mission Indians may be divided, with respect to their condition and manner of living, into three classes. The first division may be defined as those who stay on or about the ranches or farms of white men, living by daily labor upon the farms, receiving, when they work, about one dollar per day. Most of the larger ranchmen have about them one or several families, whom they permit to build their slight houses on the corners of the ranch, or on grounds adjoining, and in addition allow the use of water sufficient to irrigate a garden, which such Indians often cultivate. These Indians do most of the ordinary work of the ranches, except when harvest-time, sheep-shearing, or some special season requires the employment of other help. They live more or less comfortably, as the proprietor of the ranch to which they are attached is a humane and just man, or hard-hearted and a cheat. They are not legal tenants; they cannot make legal contracts, or collect their wages by a suit at law, if for no other reason, because they have not the means to procure such suits. The interests of the ranchman generally dictate treatment at least fair enough to prevent his Indians from moving away from him. This class of Indians is pretty large. They have no difficulty in securing enough food and comfortable clothing, and some of them have learned to be thrifty and prudent.

The second class is made of those who live in small communities, cultivating lands they have held for a long time and have been accustomed to call their own. At each village are gathered many families as the natural supply of water will make comfortable. They desire above all else to be left in possession of these little villages, which are situated where a spring or small stream of water exists, scattered through a large tract of otherwise desert country. Thus they have a village at Potrero, twenty-five miles from here. Twenty miles in another direction is another village; fifteen miles farther another village, and so on. Till recently all these places were on unsurveyed public lands, and unclaimed. Now white men have set up claims of more or less valid character upon almost every acre of these lands, and they are liable to be taken away unless there is prompt and energetic action by the Government. Each Indian family at these villages has a house and cultivates a patch of ground, varying from one acre to four or five. A field of five acres cultivated by one family is rarely found. Fruit-trees and well-kept vines are not unusual. The Indian men plant their fields in the spring, give them a more or less thrifty cultivation till a season comes when they can get temporary employment on ranches, and then they leave their homes in charge of the squaws and old men, and go out to labor, as much as the young men in Canada flock over into "the States" in haying-time to work for the New England and New York farmers. A much greater number of the Mission Indians were formerly included in this class, and oftentimes the Indians described in the first class owned and cultivated the very lands where they are now only tolerated as day-laborers. They are very much attached to their homes. One Indian that I know has maintained a home in the Potrero, and for many years worked most of the time twenty miles away. He is as little willing to give up his Potrero house and field as any of his neighbors who live there com-
stantly. But now his home is threatened by a land-grabber who wants it for nothing. This second class of Indians are the ones now most especially needing the energetic care of the Government. The land-grabbers are after them, and an agent with seven-league boots could scarcely travel from village to village so fast as those Americans who are seeking a few acres of ground with a spring upon it, or moist lands where wheat and potatoes grow without irrigation, that may be preempted or taken up under the desert-land act. That such lands have been held by Indians and cultivated by Indians counts for nothing more than if they had been only homes for grasshoppers and coyotes. This seems to me a great and unpardonable vice in the law, that it treats as unoccupied, and subject to pre-emption, lands which have been in fact occupied and cultivated precisely as white men occupy and cultivate, and that, too, for more than one generation of living men. But for that vice of the law the Mission Indians would now be secure in their old possessions, and where their improvements and water-rights were wasted they would be bought and paid for instead of taken for nothing in the name of law. I cannot learn at all accurately the number of this class of Indians, but do not suppose they can be more than one-third of all.

The third class is rather small, and includes those that hang upon the outskirts of towns, pass wastefully through the streets, seldom asking for anything, but silently begging with their longing, pathetic eyes. At times, when they can get whisky, the men are besotted brutes, and the women are generally prostitutes, though the family life is still strong enough to keep squaw and pappoose with the husband. With this class are some unmarried women who are prostitutes. This, which I will call the vagrant class, is not so large as I was prepared to find it; and I believe, from observation and from general report, that vagrancy is not a state into which the Mission Indians naturally or willingly fall. Except in the third class, I believe prostitution is almost or quite unknown, and that the virtue of women is quite as highly esteemed and as much practiced as among the most enlightened peoples. The Government, in treating practically the questions presented by the condition of the Mission Indians, will at first take little account of this third class, since nothing can be done for them till reservations have been provided on which they can be placed, by compulsion, if necessary. In making a permanent arrangement of reservations, however, the number of this class must be taken into consideration.

The desire of all these Indians in the second class is to be let alone in possession of what they now occupy, and without action by Congress the power of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the President can go further in their behalf than to secure them in the holding of these lands in all cases where the law will permit. Each case must be considered and acted upon in its own, and when found necessary they will be so reported for action. A few years ago the claims of white men to Indian lands were so few that wise and firm executive action might have secured homes for all the Indians without aid of Congress; but it is useless in this case to take a gloomy survey of lost opportunities.

The first purpose of the Department is now to secure the Mission Indians permanent homes, with land and water enough, that each one who will go upon a reservation may have to cultivate a piece of ground as large as he may desire. This is nearly all the Government aid that will ever be asked or needed for these Indians; though, this purpose being accomplished, a small annual expenditure will be desirable to instruct rather than aid them in the way of self-support; and the question of assisting in the maintenance of schools may very likely arise. Assuming that the Government is to make the needed reservations, the question of how it shall be done becomes simply a practical business problem to be met in a practical business-like way, just as business men solve the problems and perplexities of their private affairs. How much land do the Indians require? Should they be placed upon one large reservation, or several small ones? Should lands, unoccupied by them at present, be purchased, or should attempts be made to keep them on the lands they now occupy? These and a multitude of similar questions will arise in the practical administration of any law or instructions of the Department looking to the accomplishment of the object in view, and they must all be decided in accord with the general rule that the business must be done so as to secure the best results with the least money. Nearly all these questions will be practical, arising as the business proceeds, and they cannot be raised or answered in advance. Therefore, no law of Congress and no instructions from the Indian Office can provide against them, and it thus happens that it is impossible to make explicit and detailed recommendations as to the basis of action.

For example, I think it may be practical and most advantageous for the Government to insist on retaking the Potrero, Henia and Agua Caliente, and attempt to gather a large number of Indians upon them. This being under consideration, the practical questions come up as to the extent of rights that white squatters have acquired, the cost of extinguishing those rights, the capacity of the Potrero for an increased development of water, the feasibility of carrying the White Water River upon the Caliente reservation, and after all, the cost and prospective success in comparison with a new purchase or some other alternative. But an agent does not dare to make a specific recommendation, nor can he decide what would be best, for he is dealing with nothing but contingencies and hypotheses, and, having the responsibility of dealing with absolute facts, he might discover obstacles to carrying out his theoretical plan that he had never dreamed of.

The economical and satisfactory completion of the work desired by the Department requires,
it seems to me, that the plan of operation should be generally outlined, and then the execution of this general scheme and the determination of its details should proceed together. When the Government begins the actual work of securing homes for these Indians, its purpose must be executed through some agency having a wide discretion and considerable power for action directly intrusted to it. For every reason I am led to the conclusion that the object of the Government can best be attained in the following manner, which I respectfully submit to your consideration:

Congress to appropriate a sufficient sum, not less than one hundred and fifty thousand dollars, for securing permanent reservations for the Mission Indians of California, and assisting them to settle thereon. This amount to be expended by a commission of five persons, of whom four shall be residents of California, the commission to serve without pay except traveling and other expenses. The commission would, no doubt, be appointed by the President, and their power could be as much restricted as Congress and the Department might deem necessary.

The general outline of their work should be defined, but in all matters of detail and actual business they should be left free, and given discretion and power to decide promptly and act finally. If the commission were chosen so as to include four men of wealth and good repute, residents of Southern California, and a fifth member were added, being selected perhaps from among the trusted officers of the Indian Office, having the entire confidence of the Government, the expenditure would not be wisely made, and would be kept free from the taint of jobbery; and I do not believe that large transactions in this business, by or upon the recommendation of over so honest and conscientious an agent, would be allowed to escape charges of fraud. The commission would visit the different Indian settlements, learn the Indians' desires and wants, examine reservations already made, settle questions of disputed rights or provide for their settlement, take measures for increasing and economizing water at such places as they might think judicious; and, by showing the possession of power to do something besides 'writing to Washington,' they would immediately command confidence and respect, which are now sadly diminished for Government commissions and agents from whose visitations the Indians cannot see that they have derived any benefit.

Martinez lives on lands not yet reserved, which white men are endeavoring to claim. He thinks if I am a 'strong' and 'true' agent I will give him a 'paper' to show those white men and warn them off. If I decline to deceive him with a useless order, or if I give him an order which he finds the white men do not respect, he thinks I am not 'strong' and 'true,' but he will always believe me a mere pretender unless I should be fortunate enough to secure the reservation of the Rincon before white settlers gain legal title to it. The 'strength,' as the Indian terms it, which no agent has, the commission would possess and use, and would, therefore, accomplish in a short time what I really believe can never be done if every proposition must be referred to Washington before action can be taken upon it. I will add that I am assured there are many men who would be willing to accept service on the commission, men just, honest, and, if not sentimental, at least practical, friends of the Indians.

The most northerly bands of the Mission Indians, I have reason to hope, may be provided for without great expense by a readjustment of reservation limits and some outlay in developing the water supply. What disposition may be made of the more southerly bands I am not yet able to suggest, but as soon as I can obtain the necessary information, by personal visits and otherwise, I shall report as fully as possible what facts I obtain and such conclusions as I may have reached. I have not a doubt but such a commission as I have suggested would find a practical and satisfactory method of dealing with them all, and, by an expenditure not greater than I have indicated, secure homes for all.

For the use of the more southerly of the Indians, propositions have been made to sell certain ranches to the Government. Should such a purchase become necessary, I have no doubt the commission, with cash in hand, would save many thousands of dollars over what the same lands could be obtained for by a contingent bargain this year to be executed next. There are many considerations, however, which I think would determine the Government to make several small reservations in place of one large one. The opportunity of securing land enough in one body with sufficient water for all may not arise, and the need of the white settlers to employ Indians, and the benefit of such labor to the Indians, admonishes that the reservations be located with a view to rendering communication between the Indians and those who would employ them not too difficult, for they will not, probably, be able to gain a livelihood entirely upon any reservations that can be made, but must depend to some extent, as heretofore, upon daily labor for a part of each year on the ranches of white farmers, who would also get on badly if deprived of the privilege of employing laborers from among the Indians.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. E. COLBURN,
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.
Office United States Indian Agency,
Round Valley Reservation, Mendocino County, California,
August 31, 1877.

SIR: In compliance with the regulations of the Indian Department, I have the honor of submitting the following, as my fifth annual report as agent of this reservation.

LOCATION.

This reservation is in the northeastern portion of Mendocino County, with the following metes and bounds, viz:

"Beginning for the same at a point in section 36 of township 23, range 12 west, Mount Diablo meridian, where the township line crosses Eel River, being at a point about eighty (80) rods west of the southeast corner of said township and section; thence, following the courses of Eel River and said stream in the center thereof, to a point where the same is intersected by the stream known as William's Creek, or Blind Mountain Creek; thence, following up the center of said creek to its extreme northern source, on the ridge dividing the waters of said creek from the waters of Hull's Creek, a tributary stream of the north fork of Eel River, at the foot of Blind Mountain, crossing said dividing ridge at a point on a line where a small white oak tree and a cluster of arbor-vite trees are branded with the letters U.S.R.; thence in a direct line to the center of said Hull's Creek; thence following down the center of the same to its intersection with the north fork of Eel River; thence down the center of said north fork to its intersection with the main fork; thence following up the main fork of the Eel River, in the center thereof, where the township line between townships 22 and 23 north, range 13 west, would intersect said river, if produced; thence east along said township line through ranges 13 and 12 to the place of beginning.

"U. S. Grant."

The above is copied from the executive order of U.S. Grant, May 18, 1875. This reservation was established, as at present constituted, by act of Congress March 3, 1873; northern boundary established by Commissioners B. R. Cowen, J. P. C. Shanks, and Charles Marsh, in June, 1873, and surveyed by order of the surveyor general, December, 1876, by Deputy Surveyor J. A. Benson. There are 102,118.10 acres in this new reservation, only about 4,600 acres of this amount in Round Valley, and 1,000 of that yet held by settlers, and now in litigation, leaving but about 3,000 acres for all uses for the Indians; the rest is only suitable for range and native food for Indians; however, it is all held and occupied by white men.

There are at this time, as near as we can possibly ascertain, 950 Indians on this reservation, divided as follows:

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<tr>
<th>Indian Group</th>
<th>Males under 5 years</th>
<th>Males between 5 and 20</th>
<th>Males over 20</th>
<th>Females under 5 years</th>
<th>Females between 5 and 20</th>
<th>Females over 20</th>
<th>Total</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Potter Valley Indians</td>
<td>17</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>137</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>154</td>
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<td>Ukie Indians</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>51</td>
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<td>Pit River Indians</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>23</td>
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<td>Red Wood Indians</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>13</td>
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<td>Wylake Indians</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Concow Indians</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Little Lake Indians</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>41</td>
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<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>20</strong></td>
<td><strong>60</strong></td>
<td><strong>323</strong></td>
<td><strong>48</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>45</strong></td>
<td><strong>533</strong></td>
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In addition to those immediately on the reservation, there are about 100 near Healdsburg. The majority of the citizens in that vicinity are exceedingly anxious to have them taken to this reservation. The same applies to the citizens of adjacent counties, in which there are several hundred Indians. Mr. Elias E. Brown, of Hat Creek, Lassen County, California, informed me by letter of June 9, 1877, that the Indians in that vicinity were becoming very troublesome. They say, "The sheep and cattle owned by white men eat all their native food so they cannot make a living, and they will all starve to death, so they might as well fight," &c. They are the Hat Creek, Fall River, Dixie, Valley, and Pit River Indians.

A DIFFERENT POLICY DEMANDED.

The reservation system, as now conducted, must ultimately fail; no agent can keep Indians on a reservation while small bands are allowed to rove at will in the vicinity. The Indians should all be on reservations, or all set at liberty; they want to go and see their relations who are living in some other county; they have heard some of them are sick, they must go,
My deliberate judgment is, that the Canada system would far better suit the Indians of California than the present one, and it would certainly better their condition, and be a great saving to the Government.

While the southern farming portion of this State has suffered with drought, rain was quite sufficient in this and adjoining counties. Our yield of grain, corn, and all kinds of vegetables has exceeded that of any previous year. The following are the productions of the reservation farm and garden, as near as can be estimated: Wheat, 1,000 bushels; corn, 2,500 bushels; oats, 3,000 bushels; barley, 2,000 bushels; potatoes, 250 bushels; onions, 10 bushels; beans, 50 bushels; melons, 200 in number; pumpkins, 25,000 pounds; apples, 800 bushels; carrots, 100 bushels; cabbage, 2,000 pounds; beets, 3,000 pounds; tomatoes, 1,000 pounds; hay, 550 tons.

INDIAN GARDENS.

The Indians have cultivated 300 acres in vegetables of a general character, which has yielded beyond the expectation of any one; but it is impossible to form an estimate, owing to the fact that the Indians used from their gardens as soon as possible. The Indians are much scattered, but, thanks to the Giver of all good, every need has been most graciously supplied.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Three wells have been dug and walled up; eighteen new houses built for Indians, 12 by 14 feet, and 12 by 16 feet; one store, box style, one window in each; all have plank floors, and good brick chimneys; two dwelling-houses and one school-house have been sided up with weather-boards; one dwelling-house built for school-teacher, 21 by 23 feet, with six rooms, three of which are lined with heavy wall-paper; this house is one and a half stories high, sided up with weather-boards, and has a good substantial brick chimney. We have also built a dwelling-house for the sawyer, at the saw-mill, 16 by 21 feet, with shed-room, box style. We have built one hop-house, main-building 24 by 48 feet, and 50 feet high, brick line in center, with a partition-wall through center, making four rooms, 24 by 24 feet; two shed rooms or wings, 24 by 48 feet, with a good shingle roof on all; it is the best building of the kind in this county.

We have planted 30 acres in hops, from which we hope to realize enough to pay all expenses this season; we have built a substantial press for the purpose of pressing the hops into suitable cakes for convenient transportation.

We have built a new mill-house for grist-mill, 30 by 70 feet, with 22-feet posts, and four floors; also an engine-room, 20 by 20 feet, 12 feet high. A new granary has been attached to the mill-building, 60 by 30 feet, with 12-feet posts; there is a passage-way 6 feet wide, with a track the entire length, to convey the wheat to the mill-house; there are bins on each side of said passage-way 12 by 12 feet, and 12 feet high, to store grain and flour in. The mill building rests upon a solid and substantial stone foundation; the roof is covered with shingles and painted with fire-proof paint; all the machinery is of the best quality, and much new machinery has been added of the latest and most approved kind. I am fully satisfied it is second to no mill property in this county, and well calculated to meet all the demands upon it. Many other improvements have been made, and much more could have been done if we could have had a carpenter and more funds.

EDUCATIONAL.

Up to July 1, we had but one school and one teacher. As it was impossible for one teacher to do justice to 70 or 80 pupils, by authority of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs an additional teacher was employed July 1st. We have had since that time two schools, both of which have been well attended and are in a prosperous condition. The Indians are beginning to realize the advantages of an education, and their rapid improvement has surpassed the expectations of their most sanguine friends.

SANITARY.

It is gratifying to me to inform you that the sanitary condition of the Indians is good, and continually improving; the sanitary monthly reports, which have been correctly kept, show 47 births and 31 deaths during the past year. This is one of the results of the Christian peace policy.

RELIGIOUS INSTRUCTION.

We have two Sabbath-schools, with a full set of officers and teachers. The Indians of all ages are gathered, as far as moral suasion avails, and are faithfully instructed every Sabbath; preaching at both school-houses every Sabbath, and three evening meetings each week. The Methodist Episcopal Church, under whose religious care this agency is intrusted, appointed a missionary to look after the moral and religious interests of our Indians. Four hundred dollars missionary money was appropriated to aid his support. He has been very faithful in his work. The Church is more fully aroused to a sense of duty and responsibility than ever before. I trust a reaction may take place, and even better results be realized in the future.
INDIAN INDUSTRY.

We have three Indian men capable of running either of our steam-engines; two are now acting as engineers, one at the saw-mill and the other with the steam-thresher. There are several good carpenters, capable of doing any kind of common work. Many of the Indians understand every variety of farm work, and compete successfully with white men in sheepshearing and many other kinds of labor; they are willing to work, and are under the best discipline. A gentleman came here from a distance of fifty miles to get Indians to pick hops. He said he had some Indians, that did not belong to this reservation, engaged in picking hops, but they received a stick with notches in it and a feather tied to it, inviting them to a dance, so hop-fields and all engagements were abandoned; and this gentleman had to look to reservation Indians to help him in his need.

MISCELLANEOUS.

This reservation was established in 1856, and by an act of Congress March 3, 1873, was established in its present form. The Indians were encouraged to believe that they would soon have this as their permanent home, and have land given them for their individual homes. Four years have passed away. Messrs. Thomson, Bourne, and Eberly hold their former homes under a claim of swamp and overflowed land, and the stockmen hold the range as they did in 1872. With this range for sheep, together with our hops, mills, etc., this reservation would be self-sustaining; but the Indians failing to get the land and range promised them, and Congress cutting down the appropriations annually, they are fast losing confidence in promises, and, as a faithful result, a reaction has taken place. Scores are lost to the church—lost all their interest therein—and I fear will be forever lost.

A failure on the part of the Government to keep faith with the Indians is the cause of most of our troubles with them. The wisest man that ever lived has said, "Hope deferred maketh the heart sick." It is as true today as when first spoken.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. L. BURCHARD

United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

TULE RIVER INDIAN AGENCY, CALIFORNIA,

August 20, 1877.

Still I have the honor to submit my annual report of this agency.

The first and most important event to notice is the removal of the agency from the rented farm, which has long been occupied, at an enormous rental, to a permanent reservation. The transfer was effected early in December last, and after a trial of three-fourths of a year I am glad to state my unqualified approval of the arrangement. Almost anything would have been preferable to the continued occupancy of a rented reservation, especially considering its small area and proximity to the destructive influence of the liquor traffic. With such surroundings and controlling influences it is not surprising that two decades should pass without witnessing a greater improvement in these Indians. Moral improvement under such circumstances with any people is entirely Utopian. A large majority of the Indians are well satisfied with the removal, and are laboring with commendable zeal in making permanent improvements and gathering around them the comforts of home. No savage yells are now heard at night from drunken Indians, and no padlocks and chains required to restrain men and women made furious with rum.

A few Indians are still at the Madden farm, and indulge the hope that the Government will yet purchase it for a permanent residence. By their own statements to me I am satisfied they have been induced to believe this from the representation of parties wishing to share in large profits made by illicit trade, or the sale of real estate connected with and adjacent to the Madden farm. Twice I have sent Government teams to bring these families to the reservation, but they refused to come, stating as a reason for such refusal that Mr. Madden's agent had given them permission to remain. Stockmen are also endeavoring to dissuade these families from moving to the reservation, by telling them that it is entirely worthless and unsuitable for them, so as to have the privilege, without let or hindrance, of using it as a summer range for their flocks and herds. It is not strange, with all these influences, that a few families should hesitate to leave the place once promised them as a home, and to which they have, by long years of residence, become so warmly attached. Their minds, however, are becoming gradually disabused, and all will, without doubt, move here before the coming winter.

This reservation is located on the waters of South Tulare River, in Tulare County, and embraced in the original executive order, 91,837 acres.

During the past year some 1,250 acres, belonging to citizens on the northern boundary, were reported to the Department with a view of securing an appraisement, and the location of
the agency and a portion of the Indians on that part of the reservation. The Department did not deem it advisable to ask Congress to make an appropriation for the purchase of said lands at the figures reported by me as the probable value, but have in view, as I understand, their exclusion from the reservation. Although this leaves no arable land, only small tracts on the waters of the South Tulo River, and embraced in the first survey, it is perhaps the best policy to pursue. There is scarcely a probability of any increase in the number of Indians to be gathered on the reservation, but an almost certainty of continued decrease.

The arable land is so situated that, with moderate expense in the construction of flumes and irrigating ditches, an abundance of water can be procured to insure crops every year. After becoming better acquainted with this tract of country, I have a more favorable opinion of it as a reservation, and deem it quite sufficient to furnish homes for all the Indians that will probably ever be gathered upon it. The allotment of land in several parts of the reservation, where the judgment of the true course to be pursued. This, so far as I have been able to do, has been highly satisfactory, and proven a great incentive to habits of industry. To be able to say "my house," and "my land," begets a feeling of independence, and stimulates to increased effort and activity. I think all of the Indians under my care can be supplied with small tracts of land, within the bounds of this reservation, where they can make homes and become entirely independent of governmental assistance within two years from this writing. All the care they will need after that will be some one to protect them in their rights and conduct their school.

This reservation was designed for the occupancy of six different tribes of Indians, living in this and adjoining counties. Only two of the tribes are now represented here, the Tules and Tijos. These have so intermarried that their tribal relation is no longer recognized. Their number, according to the census taken last month, 254, a decrease since my last annual letter of 49. Sixteen of this number have died, and 33 have gone away from the reservation, some on account of the transfer of the agency, and others from a desire to live in different parts of the country; all, I am satisfied, growing out of the long unsettled state of this reservation.

SANITARY.

The sanitary condition of these Indians is similar to that of other years. There have been 10 deaths during the last twelve months, all of chronic diseases. A fearful mortality has prevailed among most of the little bands living off the reservation. At Fish Rice's farm, near Visalia, there were last year 65 Indians, principally Kaweahs and Wuchummes; now there are but 16 by actual count, three-fourths having died the past year. Nearly the same mortality has prevailed among the Mono Indians on Owens River.

The King's River Indians, living north of this place some 90 miles, and numbering 250, are the only apparently healthy aborigines in all this country. I visited them last spring and found them in a comfortable condition. Quite a number of them had taken homes and were making improvements that were really commendable. Some expressed a desire to have their children attend school, but were unwilling to leave their present home and move to the reservation. I found among these Indians no trace of the Mexican element, which undoubtedly accounts for their good sanitary condition.

AGRICULTURE.

The agricultural interests have suffered from excessive drought. Nothing was raised on the agency farm. Indians who had irrigating facilities have produced very fair crops. They will realize about 250 bushels of wheat, 250 bushels corn, 100 bushels potatoes, 20 bushels beans, 6 tons melons, 5 tons pumpkins, and 10 tons of hay.

EDUCATIONAL.

A day-school has been maintained eight and one-half months during the year, with an average enrollment of 35 pupils. All the classes have made commendable progress, and have evinced a greater desire to thoroughly understand the principles involved in the several studies.

MISSIONARY WORK.

I think it can be truthfully stated that some advance in a religious point of view has been made. The Sabbath-school and other religious services have usually been well attended. While none have taken a decided religious stand, more interest appears to be manifested by some upon this question, and a good degree of intelligent inquiry is made by them in regard to a better way of living. There is a great deal to be done in this department, yet we see enough to encourage us to unceasing labor, believing that in due time we shall reap if we faint not.

CIVILIZATION.

The work of civilization with all Indians is a slow process. Where bad influence and example have been introduced in the outset the work is rendered much more difficult. These Indians, from their first acquaintance with the white man, until within a few years past, have only known the degradation of civilization. So far as the moral phase of the question...
was concerned, as presented first to them, very little elevating or refining was discernible. Association with the vile and drunken had imprinted lessons upon their character not easily effaced. Nothing but persistent effort and the wholesome restraints of law are adequate to the task of leading such a people into the light, and nothing but the hearty acceptance of the principles of our Christian civilization will make them desirable citizens.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. G. BELKNAP.
United States Indian Agent.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Los Pinos Indian Agency,
Colorado, October 29, 1877.

Sir: On the 1st day of October, 1876, I entered upon the discharge of my duties as Indian agent, relieving the Rev. H. P. Bond, and consequently this annual report for the year ending September 1, 1877, is the first one exhibited by me, and covers only a period of eleven months.

My first impressions were that I had a very troublesome class of Indians to deal with, for at the time of my arrival at the agency the stock of provisions for issue, excepting only beef, was well-nigh exhausted, and I was met with a shower of complaints on that score. But before long the arrival of fresh supplies served to pacify the Indians, and, if we exclude the Ucapanho Park grievance, of which more is said farther on, I may safely state that no complaints of any serious import have reached me since that time.

Owing to the fact that the contractor had failed in business, the agency buildings had not been completed, and were in a most unsatisfactory condition. Much of the time of the agency carpenter is occupied in patching them up so as to render them habitable. The buildings, so called, are in fact only so many miserably-constructed adobe huts; inconvenient, unsafe, and dirty to the last degree. Authority, however, has been granted to construct a residence for the agent, and two shops, one for the carpenter and the other for the blacksmith, and the completion of these buildings will, without doubt, not only lend much to the appearance of the agency, but also add materially to the comfort and convenience of the agent and employees. It would be well, in my opinion, to erect a school-house at this agency, for, even if the experiment of educating the Utes should prove to be of no avail, the building could, nevertheless, be advantageously used for other purposes, and no money would be lost to the government thereby. The present store-house is quite unsuited for the purposes for which it is designed. It is much too small, and is in constant danger of falling to the ground.

Ouray, the head chief of the Utes, who is unquestionably the most intelligent as well as the most progressive Indian of the whole tribe, now occupies a regular dwelling-house. This house (together with other buildings for his use) has been completed only within a short time, and is the most complete and substantial residence within the agency limits. The whole of the work was executed by the agency carpenter and other employees, and in its erection there was no expenditure made of public money.

Touching the matter of the education of the Utes, I regret to have to report that no progress has been made in this direction during the year. While I have grave doubts as to the practicability of establishing and maintaining a school which would be really beneficial to the Indians, still I should certainly have tried the experiment had there been any building suitable for school purposes. A mere day-school would, I am convinced, be of but little benefit to them. If, indeed, it would not be worse than useless, when the labor and expense entailed are taken into consideration. In order to advance the education of the children they should be entirely removed from the influences with which they are surrounded in the wigwam, and be gradually weaned to the manners and customs of civilization by being brought in constant association with white people. With the establishment of a boarding-school something in this way might possibly be accomplished, for there are many bright children among the Utes who would seemingly make apt scholars. Some few of the better-informed chiefs and headmen are in favor of education, but the great majority are either indifferent or else strenuously opposed to what they consider a harmful innovation.

The prejudice against the performance of manual labor which exists among Indians as a class is, perhaps, in no instance so strongly marked as in the Ute. He considers it a disgrace to labor, and ridicules the very idea of his ever being required to do anything of the kind. The child who has been trained under the influences of civilization and taught to regard labor as an honorable pursuit is seldom or never proof against the sneers and taunts of his Indian associates, and is pretty sure to yield to the common prejudice, and before arriving at manhood exhibit as strong an aversion to toil as the most ignorant of them.

The Utes are in the habit of going out on brief hunting expeditions over their extensive reservation, between "issue days," and in this way contribute very materially toward the support of themselves and their families. The practice, however, of issuing rations every seven days instead of every ten days, as was formerly the custom, will undoubtedly interfere with these expeditions, and the Indians will, consequently, become still more dependent upon the Government for their support than they already are. I believe that it would be well to return to the old rule of issuing rations every ten days.
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