

SURVEY AND SALE OF INDIAN RESERVATIONS IN CALIFORNIA.

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LETTER

FROM THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

RELATIVE TO

*Survey and sale of certain Indian reservations in California, &c.*

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FEBRUARY 5, 1863.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

February 4, 1863.

SIR: I have the honor to enclose herewith a copy of a communication addressed to this department, on the 28th ultimo, by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, representing the necessity that exists for the survey and sale of certain Indian reservations in California, and the establishment of other reservations in said State.

After a careful examination I have arrived at the conclusion that legislation in the premises is necessary, and the subject is respectfully submitted to Congress for such action by that body as may be deemed expedient.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. P. USHER,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*

HON. GALUSHA A. GROW,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
*Office of Indian Affairs, January 28, 1863.*

SIR: I herewith enclose for your consideration the draught of an act which I have prepared with a view to providing for the permanent adjustment of our relations with the Indians of the northern district of California.

As will be seen, the proposed act contemplates the sale of the Nome Lacke and Mendocino reservations; the proceeds of such sale to be applied, first, to the payment of settlers' claims for improvements made prior to the 1st day of January, 1859, upon the Round Valley reservation, (that being the time, as nearly as I have been able to ascertain, when settlers were notified that the

valley was set apart as an Indian reservation,) and, secondly, to such beneficial purposes as the wants of the Indians may require. It also provides that the Round valley reservation shall be enlarged and set apart for the perpetual use of the Indians of the interior of said district; that the title of settlers in Smith River valley shall be extinguished, and said valley set apart as a home for the Indians of the coast; and that \$65,000 shall be appropriated for the purpose of carrying the proposed act into effect.

My information upon the subject is such that I have no doubt that the proposed sale of the two reservations named will, if made, produce an amount sufficient to pay for the improvements in Round valley and probably a small surplus.

To extinguish the valid title of settlers in Smith River valley will require the expenditure of about \$60,000, to which the sum of \$5,000 is added to defray other expenses, which will necessarily be incurred in carrying the proposed act into effect.

For information in detail as to the necessity of legislation similar to that now proposed, I respectfully refer to that part of my recent annual report, and its accompanying papers, relating to California; also to reports from Superintending Agent Hanson, to be found in Senate miscellaneous document No. 79, (2d session 37th Congress, pp. 6 to 12, inclusive.)

The subject of our relations with the Indians of California has been one of great solicitude on my part, and I frankly state that I see no way by which these relations may be satisfactorily adjusted unless it be by legislation similar to that now proposed. If this legislation can be had I have the utmost confidence that a fruitful source of difficulties and vexations in the management of Indian affairs will be thereby removed.

I therefore earnestly solicit for the proposed bill your careful consideration, and, should it meet with your approbation, I respectfully request that it may be laid before Congress, with your recommendation that it shall have the favorable consideration and action of that body.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WM. P. DOLE,  
*Commissioner.*

Hon. J. P. USHER,  
*Secretary of the Interior.*