

ROUND VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION.

MESSAGE

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING.

A communication from the Secretary of the Interior submitting a draught of a bill "to provide for the reduction of the Round Valley Indian Reservation in the State of California, and for other purposes."

DECEMBER 20, 1889.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives :

I transmit herewith a communication of 16th instant, from the Secretary of the Interior, submitting a draught of a bill "to provide for the reduction of the Round Valley Indian Reservation in the State of California, and for other purposes."

I invite your attention to the papers herein referred to, showing the necessity for the proposed legislation, and ask that the bill herewith receive careful and early consideration.

BENJ. HARRISON.

EXECUTIVE MANSION, *December 20, 1889.*

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, December 16, 1889.

The PRESIDENT:

I have the honor to submit herewith a communication of 12th instant, from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, inclosing a draught of a bill to provide for the reduction of the Round Valley Indian Reservation in the State of California, and for other purposes.

The Commissioner's letter shows the action heretofore had in this matter, and refers to certain documents giving a full and complete history of the reservation, and the necessity for the proposed legislation.

I earnestly request that this matter be presented for the favorable consideration and action of Congress.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, December 13, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith draught of "a bill to provide for the reduction of the Round Valley Indian Reservation in the State of California, and for other purposes."

This bill was prepared in this office and transmitted to the Department December 14, 1887.

It was submitted to Congress by President Cleveland January 5, 1888, who earnestly commended the situation and the wrongs of the Indians to the early attention of Congress, and asked for the bill careful and prompt consideration.

It passed the Senate June 25, 1888, but failed to receive consideration in the House of Representatives.

A full and complete history of the reservation, and the efforts made to maintain the rights of the Government and the Indians, will be found in the report of Commissioner Atkins of December 14, 1887, (House Ex. Doc. No. 33, 50th Cong., 1st sess.), and in my Annual Report for 1889 (p. 60).

Particular attention is also invited to the report of the Senate subcommittee on Indian Affairs, which visited the reservation in the summer of 1884. (See Senate Report No. 1522, 48th Cong., 2d sess.).

It is proper to state that in the accompanying draught of the bill the provision made in the first section for allotments of grazing land has been modified so as to authorize the President to make such allotments in quantity and to such classes as he may deem expedient, as in the case of agricultural allotments.

I have the honor to recommend that the bill be submitted to Congress with the earnest recommendation that it receive early, careful, and favorable consideration.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

A BILL TO PROVIDE FOR THE REDUCTION OF THE ROUND VALLEY INDIAN RESERVATION, IN THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the President of the United States be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to cause the agricultural lands in the Round Valley Indian Reservation, in the State of California, to be surveyed into ten-acre tracts, and to allot the same in severalty to the Indians belonging thereon, under the provisions of the act of Congress approved February 8, 1887, entitled "An act to provide for the allotment of lands in severalty to Indians on the various reservations, and to extend the protection of the laws of the United States and the Territories over the Indians, and for other purposes:" *Provided,* That he may cause said agricultural lands to be allotted in such quantities and to such classes as he may deem expedient and for the best interests of said Indians: *And provided further,* That a sufficient quantity of said agricultural lands shall be reserved for agency, school, and mission purposes.

In addition to the allotments of agricultural lands to said Indians in severalty, there shall be reserved a reasonable amount of grazing and timber lands for their use, to be used by said Indians in common, or the President may at any time, in his discretion, cause the same to be allotted in severalty under the provisions of said act of February eight, eighteen hundred and eighty-seven, in such quantities and to such classes as he may deem expedient. Said grazing and timber lands shall be selected by a commission of the disinterested persons, to be selected by the President.

SEC. 2. That said commission shall appraise the value of any and all tracts of agricultural lands within the Round Valley Indian Reservation, with the improvements thereon, which have become the property of individuals by purchase from the State of California or from persons deriving title from said State, and shall also appraise the value of all improvements made by private persons or firms before the third day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, upon any of the lands included in the reservation as established under the act of Congress approved March third, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, other than those actually disposed of by said State of California, and within the lands selected and retained for the Indians under the provisions of this act, and shall report the same to the Secretary of the Interior, who shall cause payment to be made for such appraised lands and the improvements thereon, and also for such improvements as may be located upon the lands selected for the Indians in common, or upon any of the unappraised agricultural lands within the reservation as hereby established to the proper owners thereof, out of the money hereinafter appropriated. Upon payment of the appraised value of such appraised lands and improvements, or upon tender of payment, the title to said lands shall become vested in the United States, and all persons to whom such payment or tender of payment shall be made, and all persons claiming through or under them, shall immediately remove from the reservation as herein established, and upon failure to remove within a period of sixty days after said payment or tender of payment the military forces of the United States, if necessary, may be employed to effect their removal.

SEC. 3. That the remainder of the grazing and timber lands included in the reservation as at present existing shall be surveyed into tracts of six hundred and forty acres each, and the boundary lines of the reserved lands shall be run and properly marked. Upon the completion of said surveys, the said remainder of the grazing and timber lands shall be appraised in tracts of six hundred and forty acres each, by a commission of three disinterested persons to be appointed by the President, which commission shall also appraise all improvements placed upon said tracts before the third day of March, eighteen hundred and seventy-three, and determine the ownership thereof. The said appraisements shall be subject to approval by the Secretary of the Interior.

The said lands when surveyed and appraised, shall be sold at the proper land office of the United States by the register thereof, at public sale, after due notice, to the highest bidder, at a price not less than the appraised value, and not less than one dollar and twenty-five cents per acre. Each purchaser at such sale shall pay the full purchase price at time of purchase.

Any person or persons having appraised improvements upon any of said tracts shall have preference right to purchase the tract or tracts upon which said improvements are located at the appraised value thereof. Upon failure of any such person or persons to purchase a tract upon which his or their improvements are located, said tract and improvements shall be sold at not less than the appraised value, and an amount equal to the appraised value of the improvements shall be paid to the owner or owners of such improvements.

SEC. 4. That the funds arising from the sale of said reservation lands, after paying the expenses of survey, appraisement, and sale, and re-imbursing the United States for payment of lands and improvements, as provided in section two of this act, shall be placed in the Treasury of the United States to the credit of said Indians, and the same shall draw such rate of interest as is now or may be hereafter provided by law, which income shall be annually expended for the benefit of said Indians under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That an amount not exceeding one-tenth of the principal sum may be also expended for their benefit during any fiscal year if deemed necessary by the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 5. That the sum of twenty-five thousand dollars, or so much thereof as may be necessary, be, and the same hereby is, appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the payment of the expenses of the survey, appraisement, and sale of said lands, and for the appraisement of lands and improvements and payment of the same.

SEC. 6. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act are hereby repealed.