

MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

COMMUNICATING

A report from the Secretary of the Interior, relative to the colonization of the California Indians.

FEBRUARY 7, 1855.—Read, referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States :

I communicate to Congress, herewith, a letter and accompanying papers from the Secretary of the Interior, dated the 5th instant, on the subject of the colonization of the Indians in the State of California, and recommend that the appropriation therein asked for may be made.

FRANKLIN PIERCE.

WASHINGTON, February 7, 1855.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 5, 1855.

SIR : I have the honor to transmit to you, herewith, a copy of a communication from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of the 31st ultimo, accompanied by a copy of a report to him from the superintendent of Indian affairs in California, dated the 18th December last, on the subject of the colonization of the Indians in that State.

The act of March 3, 1853, authorized the President of the United States to make *five* military reservations from the public domain in California, or the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, bordering on that State, for Indian purposes ; said reservations to contain not more than 25,000 acres each. The act of July 31, 1854, limited these reservations to *three* in number, each to contain not less than 5,000, nor more than 10,000 acres.

For reasons stated in the report of the superintendent, it is suggested that the restrictions imposed by the act of 31st July last, be removed, and the provisions of the law of March 3, 1853, restored.

I concur in the propriety of these modifications of existing laws, except as to the location of one of the additional reservations east of the Sierra

Nevada, which I think, with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, is impolitic.

If you approve the present propositions, I recommend that the attention of Congress be called to the subject, and that the sum one of hundred and fifty thousand dollars (\$150,000) be asked for the year ending June 30, 1856, for the two additional reservations.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. McCLELLAND,

Secretary.

To the PRESIDENT.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Office Indian Affairs, January 31, 1855.

SIR: I have the honor to remark, in regard to the reservations for the colonization of the Indians in California, that by an act of Congress, approved the 3d of March, 1853, it was provided that the President may make five military reservations from the public domain in the State of California, or the Territories of Utah and New Mexico, for Indian purposes, not to contain more than 25,000 acres each; that by an act approved the 31st July, 1854, it was provided that the reservations for the above purpose should be limited to three in number, each to contain not less than 5,000 nor more than 10,000 acres.

By the report of the superintendent of Indian affairs in that State, a copy of which is herewith transmitted, it will be seen that he is of opinion that the restrictions imposed by the last quoted act should be removed, from considerations of economy and philanthropy, and that the plan be enlarged and the provisions of the law of 1853 restored, thus increasing, as is demanded by the large numbers flocking to the reserves in operation, the means of improving, sustaining, and civilizing these people.

Should you approve of the plan suggested by the superintendent of thus increasing the number of reservations to five, as originally contemplated, I would respectfully recommend that it be laid before the President for his consideration, and, if approved, that an appropriation of \$150,000 for the additional two be asked of Congress for the year terminating the 30th of June, 1856, which is, in my opinion, sufficient.

It will be perceived that Mr. Henly recommends that one of these proposed reservations shall be located east of the Sierra Nevada mountains, beyond the limits of California, the justice of which I cannot admit. The people of New Mexico, in which Territory it is thus proposed to establish a portion of the California Indians, and finally all of them, are subjected to annoyances enough from those already among them, and I cannot see why California should be relieved at her expense.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE W. MANYPENNY,

Commissioner.

Hon. R. McCLELLAND,

Secretary of the Interior.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
San Francisco, California, December 18, 1851.

SIR: Referring to my estimate of the 14th September for the current expenses of the Indian department within this superintendency, for the year commencing 1st July, 1855, I beg leave now to make a supplemental estimate for two additional reservations:

For two interpreters, one for each reservation, at \$150 per month.....	\$3,600 00
For two physicians, one for each reservation, at \$150 per month.....	3,600 00
For two sub-agents, one for each reservation, at \$1,500 per annum.....	3,000 00
For twenty laborers, ten for each reservation, at \$75 per month.....	18,000 00
For two blacksmiths, one for each reservation, at \$100 per month.....	2,400 00
For two carpenters, one for each reservation, at \$100 per month.....	2,400 00
For travelling expenses of superintendent and attendants..	3,000 00
For general incidental and contingent expenses, to include presents to Indians and visitors to superintendent.....	5,000 00
For compensation of agents to visit the various tribes and negotiate for their removal to the reserves.....	5,000 00
For the purchase of oxen, mules, agricultural implements, lumber for building, and provisions for the first six months, for each, \$40,000.....	80,000 00
For the purchase of 500 head of breeding cattle for each reservation, at \$40 per head.....	40,000 00
For subsistence, clothing, blankets, and removal of Indians.....	34,000 00

It will be observed that in the foregoing estimates I have reduced the compensation of the interpreters, physicians, carpenters, blacksmiths, and laborers. I was governed in my former estimates somewhat by the prices paid by my predecessor, but experience has shown me that I can procure the service at lower rates. I am confident of being able to make some retrenchment upon the present estimates. I make this estimate in accordance with my own views of the importance of the subject, in conformity with the wishes of our congressional delegation, and at the earnest solicitation of a large number of our citizens, who have great anxiety that the Indians shall, at as early a day as possible, be withdrawn from their present contact with the white inhabitants, and placed in a position where they can be provided for according to the present intentions of the government.

The reasons in favor of increasing the number of reserves will be obvious upon a little investigation. The State is nearly one thousand miles in length, and from two to three hundred in breadth. The Indians (their number is not known, but certainly fifty and possibly one hundred thousand) are scattered in small tribes over its entire area. The reluctance of the Indian to remove far from his old home is well

known; whilst he will go willingly to a reserve within the region whereupon he has hunted and fished, nothing but force can take him beyond that. The expenses, too, of removing the Indians to five instead of three reservations would be greatly diminished, and the whole work of colonizing the Indians of California would be completed in a much shorter period.

The above estimates will establish the reservations, and put them in successful operation. This, it will be observed, will be needed but for one year, for the succeeding year the appropriation need not be more than half that amount, and afterwards the appropriation may still be reduced, until the reserves shall become self-sustaining establishments.

The location of the reserves should, in my opinion, be: 1st, the Tejon for the south; 2d, the Noome Lacke for the valley of the Sacramento; 3d, for the coast Indians, the location should be between the Klamath and the head waters of the Russian river; 4th, in the vicinity of Noble's Pass; the 5th, east of the Sierra Nevada mountains, about the 35° of latitude, and beyond the limits of the States; to which place it should, in my opinion, be the ultimate object of the government to remove all the tribes, and thus finally to rid the State entirely of this class of population, and place them in a country where it is probable that even the restless spirit of immigration would not soon reach or disturb them.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. J. HENLY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs.

HON. GEO. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.