

No. 40.

NEVADA SUPERINTENDENCY,
OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Carson City, Nevada, July 15, 1867

SIR: Agreeably to the requirements of the department, I have the honor to submit the following:

The very limited time intervening from the date of my arrival here till that appointed for submitting the annual report to the Indian bureau, will, I trust, be found sufficient excuse for its brevity.

There are now over 10,000 Indians in this superintendency, all of whom are quietly and peaceably disposed, but whose means of subsistence have been greatly restricted from the increasing influx of our white population, who are, step by step, encroaching on the favorite haunts of the Indian tribes in this State.

The streams which formerly afforded them a plentiful supply of fish are now invaded by the miner for milling purposes; the pineries, which formerly afforded them an annual crop of nuts, have been squatted on and are fast giving way before the woodman's axe.

In fact the means of subsistence for this people, which were always scanty, are now almost completely shut off. Indeed, they would choose the latter horn of the dilemma with great unanimity.

In my last annual report I had the honor to refer to the necessity of a liberal appropriation for farming purposes. I would again urge the necessity for such action at the earliest moment possible.

Nothing can be done at present for want of funds, although the Indians are willing to work, and can be easily taught. With means to commence on a scale commensurate with the exigencies of the case, the condition of this people would be

greatly ameliorated.

The Shoshone tribe, inhabiting the eastern portion of the State, have been severely visited by small-pox this spring. Acting Assistant Surgeon Bigger at Fort Ruby, was authorized by this office to vaccinate the Indians in his neighborhood.

No report having reached me from Doctor Bigger, I am unable to state the exact number treated by him. I am happy to state, however, that the disease has almost entirely disappeared.

Herewith is forwarded a report of Agent Campbell, to which your attention is respectfully directed.

There is no doubt but a practical knowledge of agriculture can be easily imparted to the Indians of this State; and the necessity for such instruction is, as I have before hinted, pressing and immediate.

I am clearly of the opinion that the propensity of the Nevada Indians to steal is superinduced solely by cravings of hunger. Protect them against this, and the crime will vanish with the cause that produced it.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient servant,

H. G. PARKER

Superintendent Indian Affairs for Nevada

Hon. N. G. TAYLOR

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington.
