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Mission Indians, of California.

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MISSION INDIANS, OF CALIFORNIA.

DECEMBER 6, 1890.—Committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union and ordered to be printed.

Mr. PERKINS, from the Committee on Indian Affairs, submitted the following

REPORT:

[To accompany S. 2783.]

The Committee on Indian Affairs, having had under consideration the bill (S. 2783) for the relief of the Mission Indians, of California, report the same favorably, and make the Senate report of the Fiftieth Congress a part hereof, as well as communication from the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the superintendent of Indian schools in explanation thereof and as to the necessity therefor.

[Senate Report No. 74, Fiftieth Congress, first session.]

The history of the Mission Indians for a century may be written in four words: Conversion, civilization, neglect, outrage. The conversion and civilization were the work of the mission fathers previous to our acquisition of California; the neglect and outrage have been mainly our own. Justice and humanity alike demand the immediate action of Government to preserve for their occupation the fragments of land not already taken from them. Accompanying this report is a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, giving information of their present condition; also the report of Mrs. Helen Jackson and Mr. Abbot Kinney, giving the results of an investigation into the condition of these Indians and making recommendations of measures to be adopted for their protection and relief.

The bill referred to the committee is substantially the bill passed by the Senate in the Forty-ninth Congress, and, with certain amendments, indicated in the text, is recommended for passage.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
 Washington, January 16, 1888.

DEAR MR. SENATOR: Referring to your verbal inquiry relative to the number and extent of the Mission Indian Reservations in the State of California, and the numbers of the different bands occupying the same, etc., I have to state that there are 19 existing reservations set apart for the use of the Mission Indians, the smallest of which contains 80 acres and the largest 88,475 acres, the total area being some 160,762 acres.

The area of each of these reserves is shown on the "diagram of the Mission Indian Reservations in California," prepared in this office, and is also given below.

The Indians occupying these reservations, according to the last annual report of this Office, number 3,096, divided into four tribes or bands, as follows:

Serranos	481
Dieguenos	855
Coahuila	667
San Luis Rey or San Luisenos	1,093
Total	3,096

They are divided among the several reservations (as near as can be ascertained from the census reports) as follows :

	Acres.	No.	Band.
Agua Caliente, or Warner's Ranch		179	San Luis Rey.
Agua Caliente	60, 870. 85	38	Coahuila.
Cabezone	622. 22	186	Do.
Capitan Grande	17, 340. 51	57	Dieguenos.
Coahuila	16, 680. 52	236	Coahuila.
Coasmit	80. 00		
Inaja	160. 00	59	Dieguenos.
Maronge, or San Gorgonio	88, 475. 32		
Mesa Grande	120. 00	111	Do.
Mission	1, 920 00		
Pala	160. 00	66	San Luis Rey.
Portrero	12, 164. 36	102	Serranos.
San Jacinto	3, 176. 06	176	Do.
San Luis Rey	2, 072. 81	45	San Luis Rey.
Santa Ysabel	14, 705. 53	144	Dieguenos.
Sycuan	640. 00	51	Do.
Temecula	3, 200. 00	157	San Luis Rey.
Torras	639. 00		
Village	640. 00		
Do	642. 40		

Where the tribe is left blank in the above table (6 reservations) it has been impossible from the data at hand to identify the band or tribe occupying the reservation.

The census reports for 1886 show the following villages of Indians not included within reservations, so far as appears from the records :

	No.	Tribe.
La Jolla	136	San Luis Rey.
Rincon	164	Do.
San Ysidro	60	Do.
La Puerta	87	Do.
Pauma	75	Do.
El Monte	60	Coahuila.
San Dieguito	21	Dieguenos.
San Felipe	73	Do.
La Peacha	42	San Luis Rey.
Mesa	23	Dieguenos.
Coyote	87	San Luis Rey.
Ahnanga	18	Do.
La Puerta de la Cruz	26	Do.
San Marguerita	10	Do.
San José	27	Dieguenos.
San Pasqual	48	Do.
Matajuay	35	Do.
Los Conejos	80	Do.
Indians living at and near Pomona	29	Do.
Riverside	88	Coahuila.
San Diego	99	Dieguenos.
San Bernardino	203	Serranos.

Mrs. Jackson, in her report dated July 13, 1883 (S. Ex. Doc. No. 49, Forty-eighth Congress, first session), says :

"These Indians are living for the most part in small and isolated villages; some on reservations set apart for them by executive order, some on Government land, and some upon lands included within the boundaries of confirmed Mexican grants."

While the reservations, as at present existing, contain an area of some 160,000 acres, the agent reports that after a careful examination of the land he does not think there is over 5,000 acres of tillable land.

Much of the best land is included within the limits of private grants. In one case (San Jacinto) suit in ejectment has been brought against the Indians by the owner of the grant, who has obtained judgment in his favor in the lower court, the case being now pending in the supreme court of California on appeal.

In one or more of the larger reservations the odd sections, now included in the reserves, will inure to railroad companies as granted lands when the surveys are extended over the townships.

Much of the land is valueless without irrigation, and the Indians are being de-

prived of their water rights wherever and whenever the interests of the whites demand the appropriation of such rights.

In establishing the reservations, mistakes, either from design or ignorance, were made, so that in many cases the Indian villages were left outside and the mountains included in the lands reserved.

Trespassers have held possession of some of the best portions of the reservations. After years of effort this office succeeded during last year in securing the removal of most of these parties.

Some of them have equitable claims, and suits have been brought by them for the recovery of the lands from which they were ejected.

For many years this office has urged upon Congress the necessity of having the rights of Indians and settlers determined by a commission of competent and disinterested persons, who could go upon the ground and carefully investigate the whole matter, the Indians to be given valid titles to such lands as of right belonged to them, or upon which they might be located by the commission, and all parties to be compensated for improvements taken from them.

Until this is done permanent provision can not be made for these Indians, nor can the disputes continually arising between the Government and intruders be finally and equitably settled.

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

Hon. O. H. PLATT,
United States Senate.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, June 27, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit, herewith, for your information, extract copy from the report of Dr. Daniel Dorchester, superintendent of Indian schools, relative to the condition of the Mission Indians in southern California.

Report upon these Indians was made to the Department December 3, 1889, with the draught of a bill for their relief.

This bill (the sixth section being stricken out) passed the Senate on June 14, 1890, being the fourth time that this or a similar bill has passed that body. (S. 2783).

During the last Congress the House Committee on Indian Affairs found that "the history of the Mission Indians for a century may be written in four words: *Conversion, civilization, neglect, outrage,*" and recommended the passage of the bill as passed by the Senate, with an amendment inserting a new section. (See H. R. Report No. 3282, Fiftieth Congress, first session).

I inclose a copy of said section as prepared for submission with office report of December 3, 1889, and earnestly request that you will give this matter your careful attention, and, if you approve of the measure, as I am convinced you will after examination, that you will use every possible effort to have the bill passed by the House at this session.

It is deemed important that the bill should contain the provisions of the new sixth section, but the suggested amendment should not be allowed to jeopard its passage.

I also beg to call your attention to S. bill 2782, "To provide for the reduction of the Round Valley Indian Reservation, California, and for other purposes," which also passed the Senate on June 14, 1890, and to request that you will use your efforts in its behalf.

The history of the reservation and the necessity for the legislation is very fully set out in H. R. Ex. Doc. No. 33, Fiftieth Congress, first session.

Very respectfully,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

Hon. B. W. PERKINS,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives.
(Through the Secretary of the Interior.)

[Extracts from report of Dr. Daniel Dorchester on Mission Indians, dated June 16, 1890.]

INDIAN BUSINESS.

Never before in any other Indian agency have I heard so many cases of complaint concerning land claims, land extortion, land stealing, shifting of lines, unknown boundaries, invasion of reservations, crowding back the Indians upon the mountains, infringement upon water rights, etc.

Agent Rust was in company with us on our visits to six reservations, and he was continually beset with such matters as I have indicated. Doubtless some of the complaints were puerile, but it seems that there is great indefiniteness in regard to boundaries of reservations, and it is of the highest importance to have them determined as soon as possible. Encroaching white men should be put off from lands belonging to Indians. The stealing of water from the Indians should be stopped; and these Indians should receive their lands in severalty, with good titles, without unnecessary delay. To be kept year after year in uncertain occupancy of land has a very discouraging effect upon good Indians who are ambitious to better their condition. Many are struggling along under this paralyzing influence, and not a few cases are related of worthy Indians driven off from lands they have long cultivated, leaving behind their long-cherished homes, orchards, and vineyards. It is pitiable indeed to hear so many cases of complaint, which are only vaguely answered, with no clear determination of their rights.

LEGAL BUSINESS.

Unfortunately the agency is now without legal counsel or money to hire it, because the Attorney-General, it is said, has discovered that no provision exists for paying for it. Can not this want be supplied? It seems a great necessity while so many legal questions are pending.

I hear so much said in praise of Mr. Lewis's work in looking up titles, settling boundaries, redressing wrongs, etc. I presume I have heard a hundred regrets expressed that his good work was cut short by his removal just at the time when so much permanent good was about to be realized. Unscrupulous sharpers were jubilant when he left, but wise men and good Indians mourned over his departure.

Can not something be done very soon to determine the boundaries of Indian lands and settle some of these numerous and vexing questions? It would greatly accelerate the progress of these worthy Indians in their upward struggles.

The Mission Indians are exceedingly well prepared for severalty and citizenship. Already they are *de jure* citizens, according to the terms of the treaty with Mexico. Could not some experienced person who will be true to the interests of the Indians be sent here very soon to enter upon the work of allotting? Might not such an agent begin his work on a reservation presenting the least difficulties, determine boundaries, and proceed step by step? I need not specify details, but I venture the suggestion.

Since writing the above I have noticed in the papers that a bill has passed the Senate providing for the appointment of a commission to settle the aforementioned questions pending in this reservation. I hope this measure will not fall in the House, as in former years, and I am sure that every fair-minded Representative would cast his vote in favor of it if he could have the interior view of the case, as I have had it, by personal observation and inquiry on the ground.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

DANIEL DORCHESTER,
Superintendent Indian Schools.