

Three days' ride from this agency, for an Indian, would bring him to the lava-beds. It was a time of watchfulness with me, for I meant to detect, if possible, any connection, if there was any, with the belligerents.

One day, I think in February, Captain Joe, one of the faithful leaders on this reserve, brought me a letter to read for him, just received. I opened it and found it signed by the name of Winnemucca, the old war-chief of the Pah-Utes, known to be unfriendly toward the whites. The contents of the letter were as follows:

"Captain Joe: Some Indians have been killed over on Stein River, and I you want to come and bring some of your best men and go see about it."

This seemed to indicate a movement in alliance with the Modocs. As soon as I read the letter to the captain, he asked me if I would write a letter for him. I answered in the affirmative, assuring him I would write what he desired. "Then, agent," dictated the captain, "you write old Winnemucca that I haint lost any Indians and shall not come." With this brief letter terminated all communications relative to the war, on the part of those with whom I have to do; and nothing would produce more anxiety in their minds than the utterance that the Government believed them in any way associated with the war.

One fact I think worthy of note. When I entered this office, in the superintendency of the Walker River and Pyramid Lake reservations, the Indian service was in debt between seven and eight thousand dollars. To-day I have satisfaction to say that, so far as I am aware, the Indian service in this superintendency does not owe one dime.

With gratitude for the generous forbearance of the Department, and humbly urging that sufficient means will be granted to carry forward this enterprise to the desired end,

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. A. BATEMAN,
United States Indian Agent, Nevada.

HON. EDWARD P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

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WHITE RIVER, COLORADO, September 30, 1873.

SIR: Agreeably to instructions, I have the honor to submit my annual report of the agency and the Indians under my charge. The five dwelling-houses at the agency have been put in a comparatively good condition for the winter. Dr. J. D. Bevier, Indian inspector, after making a thorough examination of their condition for permanent use, recommended as slight repairs as possible. He also recommended, and I approve the same, that the new buildings to be erected for the agent and the employés be put up two miles below, down the river, adjoining the best arable land in the valley. I have erected one frame house 22 by 40 feet, 8 feet high, to be used by the Utes as a reception-house, and for the purpose of holding council. It is so constructed that it can be removed without injury to the spot designed for the other buildings.

The mill is again in successful operation, the belting and frame-work having been destroyed by the fire of July 3, 1873, which caught from the furnace.

Dr. Bevier recommended, and I approve the same, that the timber necessary for the erection of the new buildings be got out and thoroughly seasoned the coming year. The pine timber, the most desirable and difficult to be obtained here, will have to be cut fifteen miles up the river and rafted down at high water in the spring. Cottonwood, which must form the principal part of the lumber, is plentiful and near the mill, and will be saved into lumber this winter. We also require miles of fencing for a pasture and for the farming land.

The year has been a very unpropitious one for agricultural pursuits. From fifteen to twenty acres were put under cultivation in the spring, of wheat, oats, potatoes, and garden vegetables. The extreme drought, no rain having fallen from May to September of any account, prevented the crops from maturing on the irrigated lands. The wheat and oats were well irrigated in the early part of the season, and gave for a time better promise than last year, but the extreme drought caused the creek to dry up, and the countless number of grasshoppers that darkened the sky for three weeks in July, eating up every blade of grain and almost every green thing, completed the work of destruction. We succeeded, however, in putting up 100 tons of hay that grew in the low-lands and springy places, where the ravages of the grasshoppers did not prevail to so great an extent. The herd of cattle has increased from 571 to 704 during the past year; although they are not in so fine condition as last year, owing to the scanty pasturage of the summer; yet they are in a fair condition.

The Indians, to the number of 800, have been uniformly on the reservation the entire year, with the exception of small parties, who have received passes, who have, from time to time, gone to Denver. None of them have gone farther north than

Snake River, where a trader by the name of Charles Perkins succeeded in decoying away a small party of them by trading to them whisky, causing much trouble at the agency for the first time since I have been in charge. Chief Jack narrowly escaped with his life, having been shot at three times by Peah, head chief of the tribe, whose special agency is at Denver. During the excitement succeeding the attack of the Rawlins men on a band of Arapahoes, at Pine Grove Meadows, and the Indians having been mistaken for Utes, they remained perfectly passive and quiet. They were guilty of no acts of violence upon the employés, and have maintained a quiet, orderly demeanor when the excitement along the border of the Territories of Colorado and Wyoming was at a fever heat. When I reached Rawlins, July 11, 1873, I found the people of both Territories excited to an extraordinary degree with apprehensions of a general Ute war; and the various conflicting stories and irreconcilable reports that had been put forth by the press were fully credited, which made, for the time being, matters very critical with us here. Douglass and his chiefs knew nothing of the events at Pine Grove Meadows to a certainty, but were told, on what was regarded as the most reliable authority, that they had been the sufferers in the killed and wounded in this affair; yet for at least two weeks they preserved a quiet and calm demeanor; and when he, with thirty of his warriors, went to Snake River, and Mr. James Baker, the old pioneer of the mountains, gave his opinion to them that it must have been Arapahoes and not Utes, without any positive knowledge on his part, they quietly returned to the agency to await further developments. Since that time the Utes have declared to me their gratitude to the Rawlins men for intercepting and driving back this band of Arapahoes, their most inveterate enemies, and when at the time they were attacked by the Rawlins men [they] were on the trail to White River to murder and scalp the squaws and children and steal their stock, as the Sioux did to the Pawnees this summer. At the time they were camped at Pine Grove Meadows the larger portion of the Ute women and children were camped near William's Fork, on the reservation, the warriors away hunting, and they would have fallen an easy prey to these murderous Arapahoes, armed with their Sharp's and Winchester rifles. If these predatory bands of Arapahoes, Sioux, and Cheyennes are to be allowed to make these raids on the friendly Indians, I would suggest that a fort be erected near the northern limit of the reservation; it would serve to protect the friendly and well-disposed Indians from molestation, and likewise cause the Utes to remain within the limits of their reservation.

The sanitary condition of the Indians has been very good, in comparison with last year. Our chief, Sawachewicket, an Indian doctor, and four others are all that have died that I have any knowledge of; and in comparison with last year the mortality has been light. They have been better supplied with clothing, and seem to desire to have things more in accordance with the usages of civilized life. Chief Uncachief asked to have his squaw buried according to our Christian custom, and she was so interred, the employés assisting at the burial.

No complaints or disturbances of any kind have occurred at any time during the past year, with the one exception mentioned above, caused by whisky. I am not aware of a single instance of crime having been perpetrated during the past year within the limits of the reservation. One instance of suicide, which I mentioned in a former report, having occurred, caused by depression and consequent derangement of mind.

In educational matters I have nothing to report. There was some interest manifested during the winter by a few young men; but owing to the fact of not having school-buildings suitable, and the want of interest on the part of the Indians generally, I felt it my duty to discontinue the school for the present, trusting that after we shall have erected suitable buildings it will be re-opened, and some good accomplished through the agency of a school. Only a boarding-school of an industrial character is practicable in the present stage of Ute development.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. S. LITTLEFIELD,

United States Indian Agent, White River Ute Indian Agency, Colorado Territory.

Hon. E. P. SMITH,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

LOS PINOS AGENCY, COL.,
September 26, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith my second annual report of the condition of affairs at this agency.

This report was necessarily delayed a few weeks on account of the pending negotia-