

No. 41

CARSON CITY, *July* 1, 1867

SIR: Since the date of my last annual report the condition of Indian affairs within this State remains to a great extent unchanged.

From the Bannacks of the north I have no information except common rumor, which represents a far better state of affairs in that region than existed one year ago. Depredations have nearly ceased.

From what I can learn through the Pi-Utes the combination which I spoke of in my last annual report (under the head of Bannacks) are, no doubt, desirous of peace, and willing to accept almost any conditions, provided they could be assured that peace was the object of the government.

Being a very suspicious and superstitious people they believe the government desires their extermination, and that any effort made to bring about a peace is done for the purpose of accomplishing that end.

I believe that a peace can be made with them with the aid of the Pi-Utes. During the past year they have confined their operations mostly to southern Idaho.

The conduct of the Indians generally throughout the Stste has been commendable and praiseworthy, notwithstanding the gross outrages that have been committed upon them by white men in different parts of the country, one of which I will refer to particularly. It occurred in Mammoth mining district, Nye county, in August last, about which time I received a communication signed by the most influential citizens of the place stating that a desperado named Grayson had knocked down with his pistol several peaceable and inoffensive Pi-Utes, and compelled them to pay him \$30 for an ox which he accused them of killing, and that they (the citizens) were cognizant of the fact that the ox died from some natural cause.

They desired that I should see that justice was done.

I regret to say that not having a single dollar to defray travelling expenses, I was obliged to let the matter pass unnoticed. Such acts by our people are generally the cause of Indian wars; and in no case should they be allowed to pass without the offender being brought to a strict accountability before the law. White men are too apt to act upon the hypothesis that an Indian has no rights which the white man is bound to respect.

Since I discharged the farmer at the Walker River Indian reserve, in November last, no person has been employed there. I have made it my abode during the year past, and when absent have left the property in care of R.A. Washington, the interpreter.

During the year past the Pi-Ute and Washoe Indians have been favored with good health and an abundant supply of food.

There will be a large field of pine nuts this autumn, which will enable these Indians, with the money they earn during the summer, to pass the coming winter comfortably.

There has been no land cultivated this season on either the Walker River or Pyramid Lake reserves. At the latter, however, the Indians have been industriously engaged in fencing the arable land, nearly all of which they have enclosed.

They are now waiting anxiously the time when they shall receive assistance from the government, that will enable them to cultivate the soil.

I have no other recommendations to offer than those contained in my last annual report, except in relation to the reduction of the Pyramid and Walker River reserves. At present they contain a large area of mineral land which is of no value to the Indians. Miners will not be debarred from working thereon. Already mines have been discovered, but none of which will pay to work at present. Future discoveries, however, may prove

better; if so, then there would be no boundary to warn them "thus far thou shalt come and no further."

I would propose that the reserves be resurveyed in such a manner as to exclude all mineral lands and the greater portion of both Pyramid and Walker lakes, and include within the reserves so much of the lakes as is necessary for fishing purposes, immediately adjacent to the mouths of the Truckee and Walker rivers, together with all of the arable land not contained within the limits of those reserves.

On the 20th of April last I left the Walker River Indian reserve, in company with Mr. H. A. Thomas, for the purpose of visiting the Shoshone Indians in the southeastern part of the State.

Our outfit consisted of a saddle horse apiece and one pack animal loaded with provisions and blankets.

I found a majority of the Indians in that section camped in the vicinity of the mining towns.

At Belmont, which is situated about one hundred miles southeast of Austin, I saw three hundred Shoshone Indians.

They have but a limited knowledge of the Indian Bureau -- never having received any presents or promises -- and I thought it best as I had nothing to give to hold no official intercourse with them, but confine myself to observing their condition.

Physically and mentally, they are much inferior to the Pi-Utes; and I regret to remark on the absence of that rigid morality and virtue which characterize the latter. I found a majority of them working for wages, and that the white men generally concur in giving them a good name for honesty and industry.

At Belmont I fell in company with Mr. H. Butterfield, special Indian agent who afterwards accompanied me in my travels. From Belmont we pursued an easterly course for a distance of ninety miles, which brought us to the base of what the Indians call in their language "Big Pine Mountains." The name is

applied to the mountains from the unusual circumstance of their being covered with pine and fir timber suitable for making lumber.

On the eastern slope of this range we found located upon a fine mountain stream a camp of thirty Indians. We were considerably surprised to find them, many of whom had never seen a white man before, engaged in cultivating the soil.

They had from three to four acres planted with squashes, beans, corn etc. The ground was under good cultivation, and the facilities for irrigating were perfect.

They told Mr. Butterfield (who speaks the Shoshone language fluently) that they had planted there for several years; and had obtained the seed from Indians who live in the vicinity of the southern Mormon settlement. I gave them an assortment of garden seed which I fortunately had with me, consisting of carrot, turnip, sweet corn, watermelon, etc., and assisted them to plant some of each of the different kinds.

I also gave them a shovel, with which they were highly pleased, as sharp sticks were their only implements.

They were nearly naked, and appeared to be in a half-starved condition, which I am inclined to believe accounts for their industry. The agricultural land that came under my observation is very limited, and generally in bodies of less than fifty acres. I saw non suitable, either in quality or quantity, for an Indian reserve. The country possesses superior advantages for stock raising but is almost entirely devoid of wild game.

The chief dependence of the Indians for food is upon the pine nut tree. They seem to realize the benefits to be derived by the presence of the white man, and encourage in many ways the development of the country.

Nearly all of the rich mines in the southeastern portion of the State were discovered and made known to the whites by them.

An Indian in the camp last mentioned having some quartz that showed indications of silver, offered to take us to the lode, which was about 20 miles distant, for a blanket. The next day, while on our way to examine the mine, our guide pointed out to us the bones of his brother, who had died from starvation three years before. He also gave us further evidence of the poverty of the country by capturing a snake which he cooked and ate with evident relish.

The lode proved worthless. At that place I separated from Mr. Butterfield, he starting for Pahranaagat, 60 miles in a southeasterly direction, and I on my return to the Walker reserve, 230 miles distant, where I arrived on the 14th of June.

I noticed, while travelling among the "pine nut timber," that the prospects for a large yield of nuts this autumn were good.

I estimate the number of miles travelled on the trip at 800, the number of Shoshone Indians seen at 450, none of which have ever received any benefits from the government.

They properly belong to the "Western Shoshone band," but have no knowledge of any treaty obligations existing between them and the government.

I would advise that clothing to the value of \$1000 and a few garden tools be taken into that country and issued to those Indians.

Most respectfully, your obedient servant,

FRANKLIN CAMPBELL,

*United States Indian Agent*

Hon. H. G. Parker,

*Supt. Indian Affairs, Carson City, Nevada.*