

city; in the country the young man is worse than the heathen, who has at least some form of religion. The church claims to be distanced in the race, and is in danger of becoming smothered. It needs no prophet to foretell that the near future will reveal American institutions struggling for existence under overwhelming disadvantages.

AN OLD RESIDENT.

THE UTE INDIAN TRIBES.

The scheme of capitalists to obtain control of all mineral lands in the Ute Indian reservations in Colorado and Utah has called forth the following protest, which is being circulated and will be presented to the Governor and forwarded to the secretary of the interior:

Hon. John W. Noble, Secretary of the Interior:

We beg respectfully to draw your attention to a deal now pending and awaiting your sanction between the Indians of the Utah and Uncompahgre reservations on the one hand and certain capitalists on the other; also to the certain results of the consummation of the same.

It is in the character of a lease of all the mineral lands of these reservations, covering an area of 10,680 square miles, and for the period of ten years.

This lease has already been signed on the part of the Indians by their chiefs, but your petitioners are confident without sufficient consideration or knowledge of the results of their action, thinking only of their own immediate profits of a royalty of \$1 a ton on all ore exported from the reservation.

We would draw your attention to the fact that the Indians by the terms of this lease, since the land is almost all mineralized to some extent, practically give up all title to the land for a period of ten years.

Also to the fact that this syndicate can and undoubtedly will sub-lease any or all parts of the reservation to other parties, thus to all intents settling the reservation with white men, to the exclusion of the Indians.

Your petitioners would remind you of the present policy of the Federal government, by which the Indians on reservations are encouraged to hold their lands in severalty, and that should you approve of the said lease there is little or no chance for their doing so.

And further, we have reason to believe that if it is the policy of the government to throw open these lands to settlement by the citizens of the commonwealth, the Indians can be induced to take their lands in severalty in a much shorter period of time than ten years, and thus should this lease be approved, other citizens are deprived of the privilege of settling on these lands for the balance of the said ten years.

In view of the above, and in order to best subserve the interests of the Indians, your petitioners pray you will not approve the above-mentioned lease.

It is stated the signatures of the Indians to the proposed lease were secured with the knowledge and approval of the interior department, and that the protest will not avail. Be that as it may, the subject is one that needs thorough ventilation. It is plain that if the mineral land in the extensive tract of country now reserved for occupation by Indians be operated, many thousands of white men will gain access to the reservations under conditions that will be injurious to the native tribes, and will result in

almost total disregard by the government of the treaty stipulations entered into with the Ute tribes. This prospective injustice to the aborigines should call forth such a general protest that the interior department will review any hasty action that may have been taken, and refrain from a further violation of its Indian treaties.

THE COLORADO UTES.

INCIDENTS CONNECTED WITH THEIR TRANSFER TO UTAH.

While a considerable tract of land in western Colorado is nominally, under treaty arrangement, part of the reservations for Ute Indians, yet only a section in the southwestern part of the state is actually included. This condition was reached at the close of the Colorado Ute Indian war, in 1880. Previous to that time there were three large reservations. The Uncompahgre, occupied by the Uncompahgre, White River and Yampa Utes, with Captain Meeker as agent; the Southern Ute, occupied by the Weemanuchie, Muache and Capote Utes, with Colonel Page as agent; and the Uintah, for the Uintah Utes in Utah, Colonel E. B. Crichtlow agent.

When the Colorado war broke out, the White river and Yampa Utes were chiefly engaged, and at its close were forced westward into Utah; while the Uncompahgres were brought there supposedly in accordance with the treaty they had signed.

Col. Henry Page, chief clerk of the Utah Commission, was the government agent for the Southern Colorado Utes in 1880, and in 1881 became one of the government Ute Indian commission. In these positions he was familiar with the events of those times. Today he was asked to relate, in a general way, his experiences and connection with Indian matters in Colorado and Utah, and said:

"Well, to state it plainly, the most trying time of my life, not excepting the war, was during the Indian troubles in Colorado.

"The particular occasion I refer to," continued the colonel, "was just after the massacre of Agent Meeker, at the Uncompahgre Ute reservation. Poor Meeker and the men with him were killed, and his wife and daughter and Mrs. Price, wife of one of the men, taken prisoners and horribly treated. In sixty hours after that massacre and the fight with Major Thornburgh, a lot of young braves were down from there to the Southern Ute reservation, trying to incite Chief Ignacio and his braves to go on the war path. Ignacio had a thousand Indians there, about two hundred of whom were warriors, all of them well armed.

"I had learned of Meeker's death, and with the Indians excited as they were, expected that everything was up. I determined, however, to do my best while a ray of hope remained, for I had never yet deserted my post of duty. There were four men with me at the agency. These I ordered to the settlements, to warn the people, and told them to remain away from the reservation until I sent for them to return. They left as I directed, and in the night I rode twenty miles to Animas, the nearest town, to inform the inhabitants that the Indians might be on them at any time, and to advise them to provide against the danger. I

procured a fresh horse and returned to the agency by daylight next morning.

"There I found things in a pretty awkward fix. The Indians were ready for fight, and I concluded that my time had come. There had been a council of the Indians, and for three days and nights a war dance was carried on. I got Ignacio and the leading men of the tribe, and I can assure you there was a good deal of talking. My best efforts were put forth to dissuade them from engaging in the war. I told them that if they remained at home, in peace, they should not be disturbed, nor should their squaws and papooses; but if they fought they would be sure to be beaten, for the great father had many men, and a lot of Indian men, as well as their women and children, would be killed, and their lands be taken. I also told them that they might kill me, as I was only one against them, but a good many would come to my funeral, and the Indians would not be greatly pleased with the visitors.

"When I had got through talking, I was asked if I was going to bring any troops to the reservation. Now I knew that the reason the Indians gave for killing Meeker was that he had brought in soldiers. The nearest body of troops to me at that time was fifty miles distant, at Pagosa Springs, and there were only fifty of them. They would have had to come through a narrow canyon, in which ten Indians could have easily blocked the way, so I decided that the best thing I could do was to try and keep soldiers out. It was my only chance for peace with Ignacio's tribes, or for my own life.

"I told the Indians that I would not bring any soldiers among them, but if they would stand by me I would stand by them. I was then considerably surprised at the course they took. They promised to do as I had advised them. In fact they agreed to everything. At that time I was imbued with the idea that is far too general now, and that has caused so much trouble between the whites and savages. I thought that the Indians were about the meanest and most treacherous wretches on the face of the earth.

"I regarded their promises as mere pretense. They seemed to me to be too willing to do what I wanted them to. I thought they were like Artemas Ward's mule, who would be good six months to get a square kick at a man. So I suspected that their willingness was only a sign of intended mischief. But I want to say right here that I found my mistake. No Indians could keep their word better than Ignacio and his band, and his sub-chiefs, Buckskin Charlie, Savarro and Auglao. They were honorable and truthful. No white man could do better than they did; and it was not long before white men did worse with them.

"The messengers from the Uncompahgre reservation had to go back without having gained their object. As time went on I supposed everything would be all right in my district, when one day a scout came in with the information that General Ed. Hatch was advancing with a thousand men, and would be at the reservation in about three days. Here was the most critical position I had been placed in, and for a time I did not know what to do. However, I decided to call the