

and to answer all questions about other portions of the reservation, giving them the most reliable information possible. The party will remain at the agency over night.

Very respectfully,

JAMES F. RANDDETT,
Lieut. Col. U. S. A.
Acting Indian Agent.

Soon afterwards, Wayman, the head farmer, who has charge of all the improvements made his appearance and invited us to take a drive with him along the new canal, which is in course of construction. We found in Mr. Wyman, an earnest and conscientious worker. The canal, we went to inspect, is taken from the Uintah river and covers a large portion of the high bench land, lying between the Uintah and Duchesne rivers. It is on the lower part of this bench that the Indian farms, above described are situated. The ditch in question is now about nine miles long and when finished, will probably be twenty miles long. At present it is not a very large canal and can supply only a small portion of the lands which it covers. The intention is to enlarge it as necessity requires.

The following day, Mr. Muse invited us to inspect the school of the agency and such buildings as are connected with it. They are brick and frame structures, well built, with plenty of light, fresh air and scrupulous cleanliness. There are at present about eighty pupils, of all ages and both sexes. Two lady teachers conduct the elementary English branches. There are besides a gentleman teacher, for manual training, and the principal. The school sometimes counts as many as one hundred and fifty pupils, which is perhaps one-third of the children of school age on the reservation. Connected with the school are a number of other buildings for the convenience of teachers and pupils, all kept in the best possible condition.

The question of the possible opening of the Reservation was fully discussed with Colonel Randlett, as it was on that point that we based our presence on the reserve and asked to be permitted to gather the information desired by the State board of land commissioners. Colonel Randlett talked very freely on this matter and desired it to be distinctly understood that, although his sympathies might be with his own race in general and in the poor home seeker in particular, still, as the acknowledged "Soldier Father" of the Indians (this is the title by which he is known among them), he felt it his bounden duty to protect their rights against any and all interlopers and intruders who might seek to steal land or mines from the nation's wards under his charge. He had talked seriously and earnestly to all the principal and influential men among the Uintahs, and had advised them to sell the western half of their reservation, retaining the eastern half, which contains most of the valuable farming lands in the reservation, much more than sufficient to give each and every Indian, who desires it, a good home. He further stated that he believed the major portion of the Indians were favorable to this proposition and that the commission, appointed to renew the negotiations for the opening of the reservation, expect-

ed to arrive by the end of October would find the Indians more tractable than their predecessors had done. This same view is taken by most of the white government employees of the reservation and also by several old Mormon friends of the Indians, who are able to talk to them in their own language and have thus been able to sound their views. The only difficulty that we conceive will be the "consideration." The Indians and some of their would be friends have exaggerated ideas, as to the mineral wealth in these mountain lands, which the Indians are advised to sell to the government. It is on this rock that the negotiations may again suffer shipwreck. If these friends of the Indians, in their zeal to benefit them, would only consider that the supposed rich mines, on the reserve, are merely hypothetical, not one having so far been proved, they might be less disposed to insist on exorbitant and impracticable terms. It is true that a certain mineral commonly called elaterite, or mineral rubber, more correctly "wurtelite" has been found on the southwestern part of the reservation. This mineral belongs to the class of hydrocarbons in which are usually grouped gilsonite and the other asphaltums. Its supposed value consists in that it is believed to be capable of being used in connection with vegetable caoutchouc in the manufacture of rubber goods. In this connection a great deal has been claimed for this mineral, with how much truth the future alone can disclose. The veins so far discovered are small, their depth is altogether problematical, and no experiments, on a working scale, have been made with this substance, so far as we know. We have never seen these veins or deposits; but know the sources from which we obtain our information, to be perfectly reliable. Outside from this elastic bitumen, it is not positively known that any other mineral exists on that portion of the reservation, which it is proposed to open to the public.

In leaving the reservation, we went up the Duchesne river, and through the two Strawberry valleys, but out of deference to the wishes of the colonel, we never left the traveled road until we were outside the limits of the reservation.

It is supposed by some, who pretend to be informed, that natural boundaries will be selected for the remaining reservation. In this connection it is asserted that Rock Creek on the west, and the Duchesne on the west and south, will be the dividing line. The Uintah reservation as it exists today, is about sixty-five miles long from east to west, and about forty miles wide from north to south, containing in round numbers about two millions of acres. There are about one hundred and fifty thousand acres of good agricultural land, lying in the locality between the Uintah and Duchesne rivers, cut off from Lake Fork by high, broken ridges. One-third of this is embraced in the high bench, already mentioned, one-third in a lower bench, surrounding the upper bench like a terrace, the other third, being bottom land along Uintah and Duchesne rivers.

There are about 75,000 acres of agricultural land, on the different branches

of Lake Fork, consisting of bottom and bench lands, some very good, but on the whole not as level as the foregoing. This makes in all one quarter of a million of acres of farming land, contained in that portion of the reservation the Indians propose to keep. The other three quarters of a million consist of high, mountain grazing lands, some of which is excellent and embracing fine bodies of timber but there are also some low, worthless, and lower, "bad lands." On the upper Duchesne and lower Strawberry rivers are perhaps twenty-five thousand acres of good farming lands, consisting of benches and bottoms. On the south side of the Duchesne to Green river are perhaps one hundred thousand acres more, making one hundred and twenty-five thousand acres in all, or one-eighth of that portion of the reservation the Indians propose to sell; the other seven-eighths consist of first class grazing lands for both summer and winter use, embracing the two Strawberry valleys, the larger of which has an area of about twenty-five thousand acres and the smaller about seven thousand acres. All these figures, it must be understood, are approximate. In this connection we would mention that the south boundary of the reserve, as established by the earlier survey of Dubois and the last survey of Oakes, embraces a small, narrow valley, which drains directly into Green river. The executive order, which created the reservation, was made and based on the treaty with the Indians of 1863, which declared that all the water sheds, drained by the Uintah river and its tributaries, should constitute the reservation. The survey, embracing the above valley, is therefore to that extent erroneous and unjust to the citizens of this State. Should a straight north and south line be agreed upon, to divide the reservation, which has been talked of to some extent, it would be well for the State to insist that this south boundary be re-surveyed, in accordance with the provisions of the treaty. The valley in question embraces about twenty thousand acres of good farming land, which can be readily irrigated from Strawberry creek or Duchesne river.

The following are some of the elevations of the country embraced in the reservation:

Main Strawberry valley, 7,500 feet above sea level.

Little Strawberry valley, 7,250 feet above sea level.

Upper Duchesne valley, 7,000 feet above sea level.

Mouth of Rock Creek, 6,000 feet above sea level.

White Rock agency, 6,175 feet above sea level.

Mouth of Strawberry creek, 5,500 feet above sea level.

Mouth of Lake fork, 5,250 feet above sea level.

Mouth of Uintah river, 5,000 feet above sea level.

These figures show elevations almost identical with those of Sanpete and Castle valleys. These last named valleys are about sixty miles further south. But this is more than compensated by the protecting influences of the mountains surrounding the Uintah valley country. The above figures also show the great fall or slope of the