

IN JACKSON'S HOLE.

All along the *News* has insisted that the trouble in the Jackson's Hole country was the work of whites, and not of Indians; and that when the truth became known it would be found that the savages had been imposed upon until forced into a warlike attitude. As accurate information became available, this view has been confirmed. Still the excitement was kept up by false stories of Indian massacres, etc.; but the only authenticated massacre that has taken place is the killing of some Indian prisoners who tried to escape from their guards. The *News* has published several communications from responsible citizens in the vicinity of the alleged trouble, denouncing the exciting tales as untrue.

Today one gives a more complete statement, from our special correspondent, direct from the scene of operations. The account made by Hon. Thomas E. Ricks will be received by the people as an absolutely accurate statement of affairs there; and his word on the subject will stand among the people who know him against any number of assertions of an opposite condition. The letter containing Mr. Ricks' account is given herewith, as is also one descriptive occurrence at St. Anthony.

REXBURG, Fremont county, Utah, July 31st.—This last two weeks or more we have had a mountain of excitement over the so-called "Indian uprising" in northwestern Wyoming, or as is better known out here, "Jackson's Hole"—that is, if the newspaper dispatches are any criterion to go by. But the fact of the matter is, that nearly every report of this so-called Indian uprising that has been given to the public through the newspapers has been very misleading and in a great many instances entirely devoid of truth.

The nearer a person lives to this so-called Indian uprising, the less cause he finds there is for excitement, and by the time he gets to the actual place of the Indian uprising he finds that this mountain of excitement has dwindled down to an insignificant mole hill.

As an evidence of this fact I here-with give an interview your correspondent had with Elder Thomas E. Ricks, president of Bannock Stake, who returned last evening from a six days' trip to the settlements of Teton Basin, where he and his counselors have been holding ward conferences—one of the settlements, South Park, being in Jackson's Hole, and consequently he is in a position to know whereof he speaks.

"Well, president, I see you have got back all safe and sound, with your scalp in its right place?"

"Didn't expect to get back any other way."

"How are the Indians up that way (Teton Basin)?"

"There are none within a hundred miles of there."

"I suppose the people out there are considerably excited?"

"No, sir; no excitement at all to speak of. In fact, I had to come back to Rexburg, and pick up the newspaper to find out that there was an Indian scare up there."

"But, president, the dispatches that have appeared in the newspapers these last two weeks, represent that the people out there are greatly alarmed for their safety."

"Yes, I know they do, but then these dispatches are not true; that is, nine out of every ten of them; and the people, with very, very few exceptions, feel no alarm whatever for their safety. In fact, they know that they have no cause to fear."

"As far as you were able to ascertain what is the real cause of the trouble, and what is the present state of affairs?"

"The real cause of the trouble as far as I was able to ascertain—and I will say that I took great pains to get at the truth—is this: There were some Indians out there hunting and killing game,—as is their yearly custom,—they claiming that they have the right to do so under their treaty stipulations with the general government, while a few of the white settlers up there claim that they were killing in violation of the state law. Some of the Indians were arrested and fined; not being able to pay the amount of the fine, they were held as prisoners. While in custody of the constable and his deputies they made a break for their liberty, when they were at once shot to death. This killing of Indians, made their red brethren and relations feel like wreaking vengeance, not upon the entire white settlers, but upon those who had done the killing, and I believe that all that the Indians desire is even-handed justice. All these wild rumors and reports that have gone out about the Indians, pillaging, burning, and destroying the property of the settlers, of their shooting and indiscriminate killing of the white people, have no foundation in fact. The reports are not true. And what is still more, I do not believe that the Indians intend to commit any depredations from the fact, that they could easily have killed every man, woman and child out there long ago. The fact that they have not done so is evidence sufficient for me that they don't intend to. If the troops who are now on their way out there will act humane and wise—and I believe they will—I am satisfied that they will experience no difficulty in getting the Indians to return to their reservations."

"You are aware, president, that I desire these facts for publication?"

"Yes, sir; and I am glad of it, for it is about time something was done to contradict the false reports that have gone out and allay the excitement that has been worked up thereby. You may say still further, that there is a great deal more game killed by the white people—tourists that go through there, and some of the settlers out there—than there is by Indians."

I give you this interview, Mr. Editor, without any further comment, as I do not believe any is necessary.

IN LOCO.

ST. ANTHONY, Ida., Aug. 1, 1895.—There is very little new in the Indian situation. Something of a scare was created in this place night before last when it was learned that fifty or more Indians had been seen crossing the river at a point near the head-gate of the St. Anthony, Union canal, about

two miles from town. Four or five men went out scouting to try and locate them but did not succeed, as the Indians had very likely traveled fast enough to keep out of their way.

A citizens' meeting was held that night at 10 o'clock at which it was learned that St. Anthony was supplied with arms and ammunition to the extent of two rifles, three shotguns and probably 100 rounds of cartridges. C. H. Moon, the founder of St. Anthony, and F. L. Watkins were sent to head off the infantry troops and present a written request for assistance either in arms or a detail of soldiers. The real reason why this request was sent to troops was that on the evening in question a man had moved his family out of Marysville and stated that the people there anticipated an attack. The evening before a great many Indians were seen in the vicinity of Marysville and a watch was placed on their movements. After a while shooting was heard in the distance and the Indians who were watched started on a run in that direction. As the whites could not tell just what the cause of the firing was, they sent out scouting parties with the understanding that all should meet at 4 o'clock at a designated place.

All were there at the appointed time except Bishop Wilson and Captain Harill, two well known and estimable gentlemen. As they did not return to Marysville that night a small party was sent in search of the missing men. They did not find them, but instead they found a band of reuskins dancing around and firing into the cabin where all were to meet the night before. As the searching party was too small to compete with the Indians they withdrew to Marysville and reported to the citizens. There were not enough men in the settlement to meet the Indians successfully, so they waited in the hope that they would hear from the missing men. A couple of young men from St. Anthony who were at Marysville the same evening corroborated the statement made by the man who came down, and further stated that up till the time they left nothing had been heard from Wilson, and as late as this morning—two days later—no further word has been received. The infantry troops will probably go that way into the Hole.

Elder Hickman, of the Evanston (Wyo.) *News-Register*, came near meeting death by drowning near here evening before last. His party was camped at the head-gate, and Mr. Hickman went in bathing. As he could not swim he soon got beyond his depth and by the suction of the water going through the head-gate was carried some distance down the canal. As it was raining a little at the time and everybody in the tents it is a wonder that he was seen in time to get him out. Someone happened to be on the bank of the canal and as Mr. Hickman was floating past pulled him ashore. He is now getting along as well as could be expected.

A rumor is out to the effect that the cavalry troops and Indians met in the Trail Creek Pass yesterday and had a fight. Nothing authentic; as it is only said a courier down from there made the statement.

F. L. WATKINS.