

INDIAN MATTERS IN SANPETE.

Correspondence Between Gen. Morrow and Dr. Dodge

HEADQUARTERS, Military Dist.
of Utah, Mount Pleasant,
September 7th, 1872.

Dr. Geo. W. Dodge, Special Indian Agent, Salt Lake.

Dear Sir—All the facts I have been able to collect, and they are many, point conclusively to the Utes, from the Uintah and White River agencies, as having been the principal, if not the exclusive, agents in committing the depredations in Sanpete and the adjoining counties. These Indians came to the settlements early last spring, and remained in them until I arrived with troops. Their conduct towards the citizens was arrogant, domineering, and dictatorial. Indeed, it assumed finally the air of a conqueror towards a subjugated community. They entered private dwellings at all hours of the day and night, and compelled the women to cook meals for them "at all hours," often prescribing the dishes they wished served. In addition to this they were impudent beggars. I am not sure but it would be more proper to say they were impudent robbers, for their demands for food and presents were usually made with weapons in their hands to compel obedience to their exactions. After plundering the people in their homes, they entered upon a systematic course of horse and cattle stealing, which resulted in the loss, to the inhabitants of Sanpete alone, of more than 200 head of horses and as many head of cattle. To prevent this, an attempt was made to guard the herds more closely. This was not to be submitted to by the Indians, who killed two of the herders, and wounded several others. This state of things had gone on until one of the highways of travel between Sanpete county and the settlements on Utah Lake had to be abandoned, and people went armed to their fields and about their villages. Patrols were established, and when Col. Hough, of my command, arrived at Mount Pleasant, he found almost a reign of terror among the people, who welcomed his soldiers as deliverers. I think I may say with truthfulness, that there is not another American community in the nation which would have endured half the outrages these people endured, before rising up as one man to drive out the savage invaders at the point of the bayonet. On any principle of self-defense, they would have been justified in doing this.

Now, sir, I have given you a plain statement of facts, and I desire to invite your attention, and through you the attention of the Indian Department, to the justice and propriety of making this people some recompense for their losses. This may be done, I believe, from the appropriation made by Congress for these tribes. It is only an act of simple justice to the poor people who have suffered so severely that it should be done. It is some time since I had occasion to examine the subject, but I believe there is a law of Congress, of 1834, which authorizes compensation to be made in cases like the present, and prescribes the manner in which it shall be done. If this course is pursued now, it will not only be proper in itself, as an act of justice to the people, but it will also teach the Indians that they cannot commit depredations with impunity.

I am, sir,

Your obedient servant,
HENRY A. MORROW,
Lt. Col. U. S. Army,
Commanding.

OFFICE U. S. S. IND. AGT.,
Salt Lake City, Utah,
Sept. 16th, 1872.
Lieut. Col. H. A. Morrow, Comdg.
Military Dist., Utah.

Dear Sir:—Your letter of date "Mount Pleasant, Sept. 7th, 1872," is before me and contents carefully considered. Bodily ill and official duties have prevented an earlier reply. I fully concur with you in all the statements you have therein made. I have for a long time been satisfied that the Indians of the Uintah and White River reservations were the *principals* or largely concerned in the depredations in Sanpete and adjoining counties this summer. I feared such results in their first appearance in May last.

Both myself and the Hon. Sec. of Interior, who was in Salt Lake about that time, deemed it of the greatest im-

portance that they should be returned to their respective reservations as soon as possible. Certain charges made to him against the Uintah agent, caused him to order me to visit the camps of these Indians as soon as practicable, and ascertain the cause of their leaving their agencies, and to request them to return. I held a council with them the 5th and 6th of June, at Fairview, Sanpete county, at which they gave the following as the reason for leaving their agencies:

1st—To visit their friends, the Mormons, to exchange friendly greetings, and trade with other Indians; to worship the Great Spirit near the resting place of their fathers; and to receive compensation for the use of their lands, now occupied by Mormons and miners.

2. The Uintah Indians urged still farther that they had no means of subsistence at the Agency.

3. That the Agent and his employees treated them harshly, even preventing them from laboring when they asked the privilege.

4. That the Agent did not give them the goods and provisions that government provided for them.

5. That the government had not carried out the promises made to them in the Spanish Fork treaty.

I made a minute of all the proceedings of this council, and assured the Indians that their statement of grievances would be forwarded to Washington as soon as I returned to Salt Lake; and that I would furnish them provisions to enable them to return at once to their agencies. I gave my official order to Amasa Tucker, Bishop of Fairview, to issue to them 4,000 pounds of flour and 2,500 pounds of beef. The Indians assured me that they had not finally abandoned the agencies. They only wished the assurance that they would be kindly treated and fairly dealt with and they would return, though they desired to visit for a few months before they returned. I could not consent to this, but promised to do all in my power to have their wants supplied in the future. I also issued a quantity of ammunition and a few articles of clothing. Having done all that was immediately necessary for them, I left, hoping they would return to their Agencies and give the government and settlements no farther trouble this season. However, on my return to Salt Lake, about the middle of June, I found they were still in Sanpete Valley, and that they did not intend to return to their Agencies until Autumn. I therefore sent an official order to them, through Bishop Tucker, to return to their Agencies at once, renewing my assurance that government would do everything consistent with right to redress their grievances. This order was issued June 20th. The Indians declined to obey.

The first day of July a council was held in my office in Salt Lake City, composed of Gen. B. R. Cowen, Asst. Sec. Int., Hon. John S. Delano, Chief Clerk Int., Hon. J. N. Turney, Civil Comr. Ind. Affairs, Geo. L. Woods, Governor of Utah Territory, Hon. J. B. McKean, Chief Justice, and Hon. C. M. Hawley, Associate Justice U. S. Court, Utah Ter., Lieut. Col. H. A. Morrow, Commanding Military District of Utah, and myself, at which the condition of Indian affairs in this Territory was fully discussed; the result of which was, the issuing of instructions to me to proceed at once to the Indian camps and make provision for their "immediate return to their Agencies, peaceably if possible, otherwise to call on the military to force them back." The next morning (July 2d) I started again for the scene of trouble, and succeeded in holding a council at Nephi, on the 5th, with Tabby and Douglas, with several of their counsellors, at which I was assisted by Judge George Bean, of Provo. Every argument that I urged to induce them to return to their agencies was stoutly resisted, they stating, in addition to the reasons already assigned, that, as the Spanish Fork Treaty was never ratified, therefore, the land of Utah, occupied by them before the coming of the white man, was theirs, and that the white man was only occupying the same by their permission. They also urged that they had, the night previous, received a revelation from the Great Spirit, that they might remain away from their agencies two months longer, when the "Voice from the West" would appear to them, and give instructions about their future course. Of course I could not admit these reasons, and to conclude the matter at once, I gave them ten days to prepare to comply with my request, giving them 1,500 pounds of flour and two beaves at the same time. I also promis-

ed to subsist them at the Agency until the agent could stock the same with his winter's supplies. They agreed to these terms. I at once returned to Salt Lake City, and contracted with Mr. Chas. Popper to send forward 100 beef cattle and 50,000 pounds of flour. All the cattle were at Heber City, the point agreed upon with the Indians, within one week from this time; also 6,000 pounds of flour. Soon after 10,000 pounds more were in readiness for distribution. On the 14th of July I visited the Indian camp again at Fountain Green, that I might make every provision for their return trip. This time I was accompanied by Capt. Nugent, of your command, agent Littlefield, of the White River agency, and Judge Bean of Provo. The 15th the Indians met us in council, when they manifested decided hostility to any arrangement whatever for returning to their agencies. The Indians returned to their camps very angry. The 16th we met a large band of Elk Mountain Utes, Navajoes and Kapotas, who were so insolent that I found it necessary to issue an official order forbidding the citizens furnishing them any supplies whatever, hoping they would thus be compelled to leave, but not! They all interpreted the presence of a military officer with me, as a declaration of war against them and they determined to resist. We turned back from here, feeling that we had no alternative but to turn them over to the military. At Fountain Green I was overtaken by a telegram from Bishop Seeley, of Mount Pleasant, stating that Tabby and Douglas had concluded to start at once for their agencies. This fourth promise they did not carry out.

The most of these bands became more and more insubordinate, until the chiefs gave notice that they could no longer control their people. Telegrams to this effect were immediately sent by the Bishop to Mayor Wells, to you and to myself. There was, evidently, but one course to pursue, which was to call for the military to protect the citizens, and compel the Indians to obedience. I at once took the necessary steps to hasten the preparations for this new departure, telegraphing to the Hon. Secretary of the Interior to call on the War Department for the necessary order for employing troops; also making a requisition upon Gov. Woods for the same, and communicating my action in the premises to you at the same time. The results are well known to you. The promptness on the part of Government, and your own decisive and politic course, have brought the Indians to accept the terms of the government without bloodshed. I can but congratulate you, sir, the government, the citizens and myself, on the success of your expedition and negotiations. I beg you to accept my grateful acknowledgment for so cheerfully undertaking, and so successfully carrying out, that part of the programme belonging to me. I should not have imposed this upon you, but for my serious illness at the time. I most heartily join you in recommending that a deputation of the most able of these Indians be allowed to visit Washington, for the purpose of laying their grievances before the President and Indian Bureau. I trust this will be granted, and that the President will permit persons who comprehend the condition of Indian affairs here to accompany them.

Your reference to the great losses on the part of the citizens of the disturbed district, is eminently just, and I shall do everything in my power to bring such relief to the sufferers as the law will allow. Those who have met with losses should lose no time in laying before the agent all the facts in the case. They should not only give their own names clearly; the number of horses or other stock they each have lost; the amount and kind of other property stolen or destroyed, but should obtain the certificate of two or more responsible persons, of known veracity, who are not party concerned, to the effect that their claims are just and true, and that they have sustained such losses at the hands of certain Indians, giving their individual names, and the names of their tribes or bands; as government requires specific and not general statements in such cases. Simple justice requires that they should receive back their property in good condition, or its value. It is also simple justice, that the government should only be required to pay the losses that are clearly proven to come under the laws made and provided for such cases. Where there are annuities due such Indians as have committed these depredations, sound policy would dictate that the portion of goods properly due the de-

predators, should be taken to pay such losses, and thus they be taught that they cannot commit such acts with impunity.

No efforts will be spared on my part to make good our mutual promises to the Indians and citizens. Though still needing rest, I am ready to move as soon as your forces can accompany me, to make an effort to recover the stolen horses, and to apprehend and bring to justice the thieves.

I have carried this reply to your letter much beyond what I desired. However, the peculiarity of the circumstances seem to necessitate all I have written. I trust the publication of your letter with my reply, will remove from the minds of the people any impression they may have entertained, either of neglect on the one hand, or too great severity on the other hand, on the part of the Indian Agent of this district, or of any other government official, who has acted a prominent part in these matters. The Agent has not been indifferent, nor idle, but has worked indefatigably. *No! let me not say that.* He has worked to weariness and sickness, and worked when weary and sick, as you very well know. If peace and prosperity is the result, his joy will abundantly compensate for all this.

I remain, dear sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,
Geo. W. Dodge,
U. S. Special Indian Agent.

Correspondence.

LAIE, Oahu, Hawaiian Islands,
Aug. 19, 1872.

Editor Deseret News:

Our little circle of foreign friends was increased the other day by the arrival of Brother West from Utah. Although we get news regularly from home by mail, yet it seems good to meet with a brother or friend from Salt Lake and spend a little time in social chat and call to mind the circumstances that surround the Saints and the plain dealings of God with his people. Brother West feels well and seems to enjoy his pose well.

Our prospects here are still bright. Our native elders work zealously for the cause of truth and numbers are being added to the church, and if the Lord will help us to make Saints of them we shall feel rewarded for our many long years of toil among them.

We received the other day a letter from our native brethren who are on the Navigator Islands. They speak of the church there being alive and are very anxious to hear from their brethren in Zion, as they have heard that there is a great deal of trouble there. It is strange that a little bad news from Zion will fly to the most remote parts of the earth, while favorable news is seldom repeated a second time. There is as yet no mail carried to those Islands and it makes it difficult to correspond with them.

I also learn of some people on the Society Group of Islands who claim to be "Mormons" and it is said they hold meetings regularly. So it seems that the good seed sown there in early days fell on good ground.

Our plantation is looking fine this season. The weather has been very favorable for crops.

As I came down last spring I brought a mower with me from San Francisco and have started haymaking on Laie. It is of course a new-ho (nubou) and attracts considerable attention. It bids fair to be a profitable addition to our works, and in this way we give a greater variety of labor, and our plantation has the appearance of a Yankee farm, and in fact we have very few idle persons in our settlement.

A short time since our school had a vacation, when fifteen little boys came to me and wanted to work for us during their rest from school. I employed them and the little fellows worked over one month and did remarkably well. We are pleased to see them forming industrial habits so early in life.

The foreign brethren spend the most of their time with me on the farm. Brother King made a short visit to the Island of Hawaii this summer, and Brother Hawkins was down on the Island of Kauai last winter.

We are at work every day, and the health of the people is good. The small-pox, that created some excitement a few months ago, has very nearly died out.

With kind love to yourself and family, in which the brethren and sisters join me, I remain your brother in the truth,

GEO. NEBEKER.