

"Mass Meeting of the Citizens of Humboldt County to Consider Indian Matters." Weekly Humboldt Times, January 10, 1863: p. 1, col. 3 & 4.

**Mass Meeting of the Citizens of Humboldt County to Consider Indian Matters.**

At a meeting of the citizens of Humboldt County, convened at the Court House on the 8d day of January 1863, pursuant to a general call for the purpose of making proper representations respecting the Indian War in which this county has been long involved,

On motion of Dr. Jonathan Clark, the Hon. A. J. Hupstis was chosen President of the meeting; and on motion of A. Wiley, R. M. Williams and Isaac Minor were chosen Vice Presidents, and Wm. S. Barnum and Barry Adams, Secretaries.

The President briefly addressed the meeting, opening and enlarging upon the objects for which it had been convened; referring to the hundreds of good citizens, known to most of the meeting, who had fallen victims to the savage barbarity since he had been in the county, briefly announcing the painful fact that now after nearly thirteen years residence, the war is waged by the Indians with more vigor and with greater detriment and peril to the citizens than ever before. That ten years ago a dozen men could drive and apparently subdue the Indians in one or two days in any given locality; but that such has been the increase of weapons of war among them, and skill in using them; that with a regiment of soldiers in the county, and upon its borders, during the last year, the Indians have increased their depredations and now seem bent on utter extermination of the white population or on driving them from this section of the State. That it is a fact which our own self-interest would prompt us to keep from public view were we not forced to do otherwise, that already more than one-half of our territory has become depopulated; some of the citizens having been killed, others wounded and their property destroyed, and the balance compelled to seek safety in removal. He then recommended that a large Committee of our most reliable citizens be appointed to present statistics and draft resolutions setting forth our condition, in a faithful but temperate manner, and urging, and even begging, if need be, that those in authority may give our claims to protection a candid hearing before one of the best portions of the State shall have become wholly untenable.

On motion of the Hon. O. S. Ricks, it was resolved that the citizens present at each precinct in the county choose their Committee-men to draft resolutions expressive of the object this meeting has in view, and present them for action at a future hour—whereupon the names of the following gentlemen were submitted to the meeting to constitute said Committee: The Hon. H. W. Havens and Peter Lottman, Arcata; S. M. Bask, Rev. Mr. Keith and B. Van Nest, Eureka; R. M. Williams and John Wilson, Ukiah; Jesse R. Dunsmuir, Robert Brown, A. B. Cozier and G. W. Tompkins, Eel River; B. T. Denamore and Seth Chism, Hydesville; Wm. H. Simmons, Yager Creek; A. P. Guthrie, Pacific; Joseph Russ, Bear river, and E. Whipple, Lower Mattole.

On motion of A. D. Sevier, the meeting adjourned until 7 o'clock P. M.

Pursuant to adjournment the meeting was called to order by the President. The Committee presented a preamble and resolutions which were argued and amended and adopted as follows:

fishing, shipping, and mining interests, when taken together, only second to the best in the State, and let it be remembered that for all practical purposes of commerce, and family residents it must be lost to California unless this Indian war is brought to a close. Therefore be it

*Resolved*, That owing to the want of proper adaptation of the army rules and regulations, to the successful prosecution of an Indian warfare in this region of country, no body of government troops however good in material, and well officered, can ever succeed in bringing this Indian war to a successful close, without an entire change of tactics, and are acquainted with Indian habits and modes of warfare, which can only be obtained by months of practical experience.

*Resolved*, That our representatives both in the State and National legislatures are urgently requested to do all in their power to effect an entire change in the military policy of the United States government as applied to the Indian wars and difficulties in Humboldt county.

*Resolved*, That our representatives both in the State and National legislatures are earnestly requested to do all in their power to induce the United States government to authorize the raising of a command of five hundred men for service in this military District, to consist of volunteers from this section of our State, to be officered entirely by men elected by such volunteers from their ranks, whose interests, feelings and sympathies will prompt them to put a speedy end to the murderous warfare now being prosecuted by the savages of this region upon the whites, and to be organized and equipped as a body of Sharpshooters.

*Resolved*, That our representatives both in the State and National legislatures are earnestly requested to do all in their power to secure the adoption by the United States Government of a policy of removing prisoners taken in our Indian wars to some reservation south of San Francisco.

*Resolved*, That the peninsula on the north side of Humboldt Bay, is well fitted for a temporary reservation, whereto to keep and maintain Indian prisoners of war, until such time as they can be sent to some reservation at a sufficient distance from their old haunts, to ensure their safe keeping.

*Resolved*, That our Supervisors are earnestly requested to appropriate from the general fund of the county, \$1,000 per month for three months, to be used to furnish, equip and place in the field volunteers, not exceeding fifty men, for the protection of the few stock ranges not yet fully in the possession of the savages.

*Resolved*, That in view of the pressing necessity for taking some immediate steps to stay the advance of the hostile savages, and preserve our county from their ravages, and that abundant justice to the citizens, we, the citizens of Humboldt county in mass meeting assembled, assure the Supervisors that we will fully sustain them in the course marked out by the preceding resolution.

*Resolved*, That George Hanson, Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Northern District of California, by sending some eight hundred Indians, prisoners of war, from the peninsula on the north side of Humboldt Bay, where they could be easily and safely guarded; to Smith River Valley, contrary to the known wishes

was called to order by the President. The Committee presented a preamble and resolutions which were argued and amended and adopted as follows:

WHEREAS, We, the loyal citizens of Humboldt county, loving and supporting our government, and having a right to its protection, find ourselves in the midst of an Indian war, which has been waged against us for years; a war which has become more fierce and desolating from their being well supplied with arms and ammunition, by robbing houses, waylaying and murdering citizens; and by various other means.

And, whereas, the benefits which would have resulted from the removal by the authorities, of these Indians to certain designated reservations upon our borders, in three several instances, and in the last, against the strong and united remonstrance of the citizens and military, have been rendered useless, and worse than useless, by their almost immediate escape and return to their former haunts, more fierce and more distinctive than before.

And, whereas, in the last eighteen months, from certain statistics now before us, it appears that more than thirty of our good citizens have lost their lives by being waylaid while pursuing their vocations, and many more wounded, some of whom are still sick and crippled for life, at least fifty dwelling houses and barns burned, some of which were public houses and valuable, two containing U. S. Post offices, and some of the barns very large and well filled with gathered crops.

And, whereas, as our grazing interests are being ruined, our citizens entirely cut off from the grazing lands of the county, and the losses on stock alone, in the time above specified amounting to at least two hundred thousand dollars, and on other property in general, to at least three hundred thousand dollars more, our commerce with the mining country, almost wholly destroyed, pack trains cut off, mules killed and their cargoes plundered, one of which belonged to the U. S., and the residue to private citizens—our mails frequently interrupted, unable to travel without protection and sometimes wholly destroyed.

And, whereas, the calamities and sufferings, having fallen upon all classes, women and children as well as packers, farmers and herdsmen, have produced a general fear so that more than one-half of our county is depopulated; many having left the county entirely, and other citizens coming into the towns and dense settlements, and the savages following them in their retreat, and waylaying the outskirts of those dense settlements until it is as truthfully said as felt that fear and distrust of safety are everywhere amongst us.

And, whereas, if our lives and the lives of our families, and our interests, which we have labored many years in this county are not sufficient basis on which to claim a prompt protection let it be remembered that our county, though at present somewhat isolated for want of communication, is nevertheless in her agricultural, her grazing, her lumber, her

eight hundred Indians, prisoners of war, from the peninsula on the north side of Humboldt Bay, where they could be easily and safely guarded, to Smith River Valley, contrary to the known wishes and judgment of the whole people of Humboldt county, as well as of the military authorities; and by residing in San Francisco, at a great distance from the scene of his duties, has fully proven that he not only does not know, but cares not to learn how to perform the duties appertaining to the important office he now holds.

Resolved, That our Representatives both in the State and National Legislatures are earnestly requested to use their utmost endeavors to procure the removal of said Hanson from the office he now holds under the United States Government.

The following motions were obtained:

That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the Humboldt Times, and copies sent to the Governor of this State, to our Senators and Representatives in Congress and to our Senators and Representatives in our State Legislature and to Gen. Wright.

That we adjourn sine die.

A. J. HUESTIS, President.

W. S. BARNUM, } Secretaries.  
B. ADAMS, }

"Coffee Mills."—The correspondent of the Philadelphia Press with Gen. McClellan's advance, says:

"In one of the brigades of the Union army they had six guns of a new construction and terribly effective. We have not yet learned their names. The men designate them 'coffee mills.' It is a heavy rifle barrel mounted upon wheels. At the breech is a kind of clock-work machinery, surrounded by a hopper, similar to the hopper of a coffee mill; at the side is a crank.

"One man turns the crank while another supplies the hopper with cartridges, and a third sights the gun. By means of a lever he moves it laterally, or raises or depresses it at pleasure. Its effective range is 1½ miles. It throws 240 balls per minute, of the size of a Minnie ball. When operated with, the rebels were utterly amazed, not knowing what to make of them. One of those guns, properly worked, and well supplied with cartridges, is estimated to be equal to 300 men."

Gen. East.—It is said that Maj. Hanson left on the last steamer for a trip to the East, for the good of his health. It is believed by many that his absence will remain as matter of rejoicing to our people for some time to come, as he was relieved of the further care of some of the money said to have been stolen from him some time ago, just before leaving, for the benefit of some of those who have been working for the government for the last two years. Capt. Smith is said to have made a haul of near a thousand dollars. It is to be hoped the authorities at Washington will become better acquainted with him than they now are, before he returns.—Mendocino Herald.

