

Editorial Correspondence.

SAN FRANCISCO, Feb. 14th, 1864.

DEAR TIMES:—No doubt you are much surprised at not hearing from me before this, in relation to the progress of our Indian affairs, as well as other matters of importance which have transpired since my last. I heard, with much concern, the increased hostilities and extended operations of the Indians, and have employed my time in talking and thinking of little else for the last few weeks. Day after day have I talked with the Governor and General Wright about the matter, and urged upon them the immediate necessity of prompt action. The Governor has, upon all occasions, manifested the deepest concern for our safety, and has willingly conformed to every thing we have asked him to do. On the 3d inst. he had a long interview with Gen. Wright which resulted in the promise of one more company of the 3d infantry. This I well knew would not be sufficient, and in order to draw more public attention to our situation, on the 4th inst I introduced the following preamble and resolutions, in the House:

WHEREAS, a devastating and relentless Indian war has been and still is being waged in certain counties in the northern portion of this State, the extent of which has never been fully known to the people in other parts of the State, nor properly considered by those whose duty it is to afford us protection at a time when a small force, judiciously managed, could have so disposed of these Indians as to have effectually prevented the present lamentable condition of the counties of Humboldt, Klamath and Trinity; and whereas, in the counties above named there are no less than fifteen hundred Indian warriors, many of whom are well armed with rifles, shot guns and revolvers, and as they are almost daily adding to their stock of arms and ammunition by murdering defenseless miners, farmers, and traders, and are successfully encouraging a general uprising of Indians whom the whites had hoped would remain quiet for the present; and as the people of the entire counties of Humboldt, Klamath and Trinity are, to a great extent, at the mercy of the savages—the military force at present in that district being entirely inadequate for the protection of the citizens;—and owing to the peculiar natural advantages which the Indians in that district possess over the whites, in the adaptation of that mountainous region to the prosecution of their cowardly mode of warfare, it becomes necessary to operate against them in the Winter season, and as they have already destroyed about one-eighth of the taxable property of

and as they have already destroyed about one-eighth of the taxable property of Humboldt county and entirely depopulated large portions of Trinity and Klamath counties, having murdered no less than seventy-five valuable citizens, and in some cases women and children in so doing; and, whereas, it is well known that the Indians are preparing for a war of extermination and extended operations in the Spring which they will be able to carry on to a frightful extent if they are not checked immediately; therefore

Resolved by the Assembly, the Senate concurring, That his Excellency the Governor be requested to use his best endeavors to have a sufficient number of troops sent to the scene of hostilities immediately as will give security to what few lives and little property that may be left, and, if possible, avert a more extended field of blood and rapine which the savages are preparing for, and prevent, if possible, other counties, which are now considered out of danger, from being overrun by hostile savages; and be it further

Resolved, That if the military commander of this division cannot furnish the requisite number of troops to restore this valuable portion of our State to the peaceable possession of the whites, and throw a proper safeguard around them for the future, then his Excellency is hereby requested to lay our grievances before the Secretary of War, through our Representatives in Congress, to the end, in future we may receive that protection to which we are entitled.

The resolutions met with little opposition by a few Indian sympathizers, and military pets—the former claiming that the rights of the Indians must be respected and the latter that the resolutions implied censure of the military authorities. After a debate of some two hours the resolutions passed the House by a vote of 65 to 1. On Saturday morning they passed the Senate, with but little discussion and went to the Governor. On the 7th inst I received the following letter from Gen. Wright:

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF PACIFIC,
Sacramento, Feb'y 7th, 1864.

MR. A. WILEY—Dear Sir:—A steamer will be started to go to Humboldt as soon as possible. I send up Col. Black with 250 good men to take the field and make a vigorous campaign and clean sweep of those rascally Indians. I think with this force, and the troops now in the District, that the Colonel will have an ample force to do the work.

I have no fault to find with Lt. Whipple. I have found him active, zealous and energetic; but inasmuch as I was sending a large force of the 6th Inf. I deemed it proper to give the command to Col. Black, an officer of much experience and great energy.

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The steamer will be loaded with Commissary and Quartermaster stores, and everything else necessary for operations.

So soon as I learn, I will let you know the day the steamer sails.

Very resp'y, your ob't serv't,
G. WRIGHT,
Brig. Gen'l Com'g.

Hon. A. WILEY,
Assembly, Cal.

The Governor and General Wright each have the fullest confidence in Col. Black, and seem to think that with the force now under his command that something can and will be done. The fear I have is that the force is still insufficient, a fact which I think the Colonel will soon learn and ask for more troops; there is one thing sure, if the force is too weak more troops will have to come from some quarter.

It was painfully amusing to observe

the ignorance of many public men, both in and out of the Legislature concerning the condition of our Indian affairs. Several came to my seat after the preamble and resolutions had passed, and wondered how it could be possible that such a state of things should exist and so little be known or cared about it. If I had room in this letter for the debate you would readily see how little of our sufferings have been understood by the public at large. Various causes have tended to thus persistently hide our wrongs from the public gaze, none of which it is necessary or fit for me now to speak. The old adage that "time makes all things even" will restore our desolated country to the peaceable possession of the whites, but it can never restore life nor property.

The news from the East is unimportant. All local and Legislative news you will glean from the papers.

Yours, W.

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