

powered by



A Freely Accessible Repository
of Digitized California
Newspapers from 1846 to the
Present



Sacramento Transcript, Volume 2, Number 23, 20 November 1850 — Condition of Affairs in the Indian Country. [ARTICLE]

Condition of Affairs in the Indian Country.

The news from the scene of Indian difficulties, which we lay before our readers to-day, confirms our opinions with regard to the character of the disturbances in El Dorado and Calaveras counties. To say that no disturbances exist there, as one of our cotemporaries persists in doing, is absolutely absurd. To say that there is such a war as would occur between France and Spain, with magnificent array of armies, with battles occurring every day, in which the military science of experienced generals is taxed to the utmost, is of course what no one pretends. But that the Indians have for a long time back been plundering from immigrants and ranches,—that they are now in possession of large quantities of horses, mules and cattle,—that a short time since they laid aside their assumed friendly demeanor to the whites, and collected themselves into parties for the sake of plundering,—for the sake of shooting down whites when they could be met with, either in small parties or alone, is what we do believe, and what cannot be denied.

It is equally certain that these parties are now infesting the hills and valleys at least between the South Fork of the American and the Mokelumne, and that in conse-

quence, mining operations in that section of the placeres are considerably interrupted.

It is perfect folly in our cotemporary, the Placer Times, because it cannot get the news as soon as we, (and it has not dared deny that it is actuated by this motive,) to declare in the face and eyes of facts,—of official dispatches,—of the plain statements of a plain man, so well known to our community, Col. Rogers, the sturdy Sheriff of El Dorado County; it is perfect folly, we say, to declare that the reports of the present hostile position of the Indians are humbug—that it is all a farce.

It is probable, from all we can learn, that the Indians skilfully avoid meeting the whites in battle. But they will probably fight if they can be found collected with their stock. They are very frequently seen hovering round the different parties under Col. Rogers. They even answer the signal guns of those parties in derision. We had at first supposed that the hostile Indians

were the miserable Diggers; but if we are to believe accounts we receive from independent sources, they are a more sturdy race, Capt. Francisco has been among them and knows their habits. His views substantiate those expressed in the dispatch we publish to-day. He says they seem to be actuated by a desire to plunder. In every skirmish yet the whites have been worsted. The Delaware Indian and Dr. Dixon were chopped all to pieces.

The "Times" in a most singular style brands the troops in service as "an indifferent, lazy, and dissatisfied set." Is Col.

Rogers an indifferent, lazy, good-for-noth...

Rogers an indifferent, lazy, good-for-nothing fellow? Is Capt. Stewart a lazy, dissatisfied man? Is Capt. Munson one of the scurf of the earth? Was the brave Col. McKinney a miserable fellow—before whose corpse the whole communities of Placerville, Ringgold, and Coloma arose to do honor—during whose funeral the town of Coloma was in mourning, and every

store was closed? Are such men as these “ready enough to yield to the inducement of half an ounce a day, plenty to eat, and nothing to do?” Shame on the “Times” for its base, its wilful injustice to these men.

Because it has long since by its conduct rendered itself obnoxious to the citizens of El Dorado County, because it can get but little support there, because people from that county go elsewhere with their news, we did not think it would be so unprincipled as to malign some of the bravest and most noble citizens of the county.

The Indians will probably harrass the whites for some time. It is not to be expected that the Indians will risk a battle. They have already shown what their mode of procedure will be, viz.: to fly continually before the whites, but at the same time to keep together in small parties, and plunder and murder whenever opportunity offers. If a militia force is kept, therefore, it probably can do little else than continue its toilsome searches after the wily foe without effecting anything decisive. This of course will put the State to considerable ex-

pense. We look upon the recommendation of Major Kelly, to build military posts, as plain common sense. But we think that the

plain common sense. But we think that the U. S. troops should be sent up promptly to occupy the posts, to awe the Indians, and

to protect a large portion of the mining interest of the State. It strikes us that such a disposition of the national forces would be far preferable to that by which they lie moulting in inglorious inactivity among the sunny vineyards of Sonoma Valley.

☞ We give below the returns of the election yesterday. The vote polled was very small. It will be seen that Messrs. Berry, Kneeland and Watson are elected ;

	<i>Old Cr't. House.</i>	<i>C'l. Room.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
R. N. Berry,.....	321	459	780
S. Kneeland,.....	236	346	582
J. Watson,.....	258	301	559
C. Rowe,.....	353	200	553
J. A. Cogswell,.....	267	138	405
Johnson Price,.....	140	208	348
D. B. Milne,.....	86	227	313
D. D. Bullock,.....	236	77	313
Col. F. Forman,.....	82	191	273
W. T. Heard,.....	99	166	265
Z. Lake,.....	88	23	111
G. W. Chesley,.....	46	54	100
Dr. Stoddard,.....	32	31	63
E. B. Lundy,.....	5	55	60
E. J. Feeney,.....	37	16	53
— Wadsworth,.....	14	31	45
Scattering,			53