

Shasta Courier, Volume 3, Number 44, 6 January 1855 — Lo! the Poor Indian! [ARTICLE]

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Lo! the Poor Indian!

By the perusal of the annexed proceedings of citizens of Pittsburg, it will be perceived that a meeting is to be held in that place on the 15th inst., to devise means whereby the present lamentable condition of the Indians in that district may be somewhat alleviated. At present they are starving—poor souls!—starving, with three hundred thousand dollars in the hands of Col. Henley, and wagon loads of provisions suitable for them, lying without purchasers all over the State. Col. Henley has been advised of their unhappy condition, but in response to a letter appealing to him for assistance, addressing John Dreibelbis, he says:

“My authority, however, goes no further than to remove and subsist Indians on Reservations selected for that purpose. I have no authority to feed them in their present location.”

We have never been able to procure a copy of the law under which Col. H. is acting, but we are fully satisfied, from his own language, that he has the necessary “authority to feed them in their present location.” It is perfectly competent for the Superintendent of Indian Affairs to expend the public funds in the removal of the Indians from the mountains to the Reservations.

So much he acknowledges. Now we presume that the mode of their removal is a matter left by the law to the discretion of himself and sub-agents. It would be folly to establish Reservations without Indians to put upon them, and it

is perfectly certain that the Indians will not go upon them unless seduced by presents, promises, and kind treatment. It then of course becomes the duty of the Agents to hold out inducements that will prove effective, and as no efforts to that end can be made without an expenditure of the public funds, it must strike every mind, that such expenditure is perfectly legal. This being taken for granted, then, that Col. Henley, and his sub-agents, have the authority to expend the public funds in removing the Indians, it should, and doubtless has, become a subject of inquiry with them, as to the *most effective mode* of accomplishing this object. Now those persons best acquainted with the Pitt River Indians will say, and do say, that their present unhappy condition presents the best possible opportunity for the Indian Agency to gain their confidence. Supply them with a few thousand dollars' worth of barley at the present time, and they will believe that you mean them well, and are their friends, and then you may lead them as you will. Thus several years time may be saved in their removal, and the Reservation in Colusa made a blessing alike to them and the whites:—

At a meeting of the citizens of Pittsburg, held pursuant to notice, on the evening of January 2d, for the purpose of taking into consideration the starving condition of the Indians in this vicinity, and devising some means for their relief, Mr. Henry Jones was chosen Chairman, and Mr. U. C. Street, Secretary. After discussing the subject at some length, during which facts were elicited showing that a very aggravated degree of suffering exists among these Indians for the want of food, and of the natural consequences which, to the whites, must result therefrom, it was,

Resolved, That the Chairman appoint three

individuals as a Committee to draw up resolutions, expressive of the voice of the people, as to what should be done in order to furnish relief to these Indians of a permanent nature.

The Chairman appointed to serve on said Committee, C. R. Street, Calvin S. Newton, and J. A. Dreibelbis.

Resolved, That the object of this meeting is postponed until the evening of the 15th of January, in order that time may be had to notify the settlers on Still Water, North Cow Creek, Oak Run, Clover Creek, and Churn Town, who have the same interest with ourselves, and give them time to send delegates; also, that some news may, during the interval, be received from the Superintendent, or the Sub-Agents, enabling the meeting to act in the matter more understandingly.

Resolved, That the proceedings of this meeting be published in the *Shasta Courier*.

Adjourned. HENRY JONES, President.

U. C. STREET, Secretary.

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