

# Shasta Courier, Volume 3, Number 46, 20 January 1855 — The la4iaiu-~it|erijii of fin, PitUbu\*u. of [ARTICLE]

[Back](#)

## **The Indians---Meeting of Citizens of Pittsburg.**

Pursuant to the adjournment of the meeting held in Pittsburg on the 2d of January, "to take into consideration the starving condition of the Indians in this vicinity," the meeting was called to order on the evening of the 13th January by Mr. Henry Jones, the President. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

On motion, D. C. Johnson, of Stillwater; Geo. Woodman, of Cow Creek; — Lewis, of Churn Town, and James Logan, of Pittsburg, were added to the Committee to draw up resolutions expressive of the opinions and wishes of the people in regard to the present condition of the Indians.

The following resolutions were then reported, which were unanimously adopted:

*Resolved*, That whereas, to our personal knowledge, the Pitt River, McCloud, and other Indians inhabiting this entire section of country, are in a suffering condition for the want of provisions, our streets and doors being continually thronged with the miserable, emaciated forms of these people, begging for food, compelling us either to support the whole tribe or witness cases of actual starvation. We, therefore, deem it our duty to take some action in the case, through which relief may be furnished them temporarily, and likewise to a greater extent than our individual means will permit.

*Resolved*, That relief ought to be furnished these Indians in some manner, from the funds at the disposal of the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the benefit of the California Indians; and as it appears from late information received from the Superintendent, that he has no authority to give them relief in their present location, and as the lateness of the season prevents their

removal to the Nome-Lackee Reservation, we, therefore, believe that a temporary Reservation at least ought to be established in this vicinity. Their condition calls for immediate relief, which could only be afforded by collecting them at some point in this immediate section.

*Resolved*, That whereas, no action has been taken by the Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the relief of these people, although the rigors of winter are but just commencing, promising a still greater degree of suffering among them, we wish to call the attention of the country to the facts.

1st. That an appropriation of three hundred thousand dollars was made by Congress at its last session, to be applied to the benefit of the California Indians.

2d. That there are at this time about one thousand Indians on the Pitt and McCloud Rivers, Cow Creek and their tributaries, whose principle resort for food, game, fish, acorns, &c., have failed, chiefly from the advance of the whites into this country, and consequently they are annually impelled to thefts, robberies and depredations to support life, resulting in open warfare and the enactment of the bloody scenes which have so far attended the settlement of this part of the State; and which must ever be the case until some provision is made for them. — And we know of no principle, either of justice or policy, by which these tribes shall be excluded from the benefits of means designed to alleviate their condition, as well as furnish some security for the peace and property of the whites inhabiting this section of the State in common with other sections.

*Resolved*, That while we desire that these Indians should be relieved at present, in the way and manner provided by law, and the acts of the Superintendent, we hold it impolitic that such enormous expenditures should be squandered in permanent Reservations in the heart of the country, which is populating more rapidly than any other ever did. That such a policy is injurious to the best interests of the State, and productive of no permanent good to the Indians, as

they must eventually again be removed; and we believe that a less sum distributed among them annually, in times of need, in grain, and cultivating their friendship and confidence, would, in two or three years, gain their consent to be removed to a region set apart by nature for their reception, where they may repose undisturbed by white settlements for years to come; the western portion of the great Interior Basin, not exceeding one hundred miles from Fort Reading, and connecting with that point by a good wagon road.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That a Committee of three be appointed to correspond with the Indian Agent, and lay the matter before him, in behalf of these Indians, together with the proceedings of this meeting.

Geo. Woodman, C. K. Street, and D. C. Johnson, were appointed to act on this Committee.

On motion,

*Resolved*, That in case no action is taken for the relief of these tribes, that a Committee of five be appointed to receive donations from individuals for their temporary relief.

Henry Jones, of Pittsburg; Geo. Woodman, of Cow Creek; — Dryden, of Still Water; — Lewis, of Churn Twp, and J. A. Driebelbis, of Pitt River Ferry, were appointed to act on said Committee.

*Resolved*, That J. A. Driebelbis, Esq., is recommended to the Superintendent of Indian Affairs as a fitting person—from his intimate acquaintance with the language and feelings of the Indians—for the appointment of Sub-Agent for this District.

*Resolved*, That the Secretary furnish a copy of the proceedings of this meeting to the Editor of the *Shasta Courier* for publication.

HENRY JONES, President.

H. C. STREET, Secretary.

This article has been automatically clipped from the Shasta Courier 20 January 1855, organised into a single column, then optimised for display on your computer screen. As a result, it may not look

exactly as it did on the original page. The article can be seen in its original form in the [page view](#).