

Paiutes

Yakima-Unfiled

Idaho-Bruneau

Civ 13451 13452 13459 13490 13277 1881

Department of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs, Wash. Aug 4, 1881

The Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior Sir:

I have the honor to be in receipt ~~60~~ by Departmental reference of yesterday for immediate report; of the following touching the presence in Owyhee county, Idaho of Indians said to belong to Duck Valley Reservation, in that Territory 1st report dated 26th ult of the Governor of Idaho as to his visit to Bruneau Valley to ascertain the extent and nature of reported incursions of Indians in that section of Idaho. X X X X

The governor's report of 26th ulto is substantially that an Indian named Bruneau John with a band numbering in all about 20 Indians, was in Bruneau Valley; Bruneau John alleging that he was off his reservation by permission of his agent (John How) because "the supplies of food and clothing furnished were inadequate to properly feed and clothe the Indians."

John also gave as his reason for leaving the reserve, that it was an unsuitable and uncongenial place for them, by reason of the long, cold winter and that owing to this food and the deep snows, and early frosts prevailing there farming could not be successfully carried on, and further that "as his ancestors were born and had lived and died in the Bruneau he wished to return there to live and die."

The Governor says "John has always been regarded as a good Indian, with a disposition to live at peace with the whites. In 1868 he served as a scout for Gen. Crook and during the annock war of 1878 he rendered valuable service to the settlers in Bruneau and other portions of ~~Owyhee~~ Owyhee county by giving timely warning of the approach of the hostile Bannocks. The act of his no doubt saved many lives and as it

fair dealing demands that the Indians referred to are permitted to avail themselves of their rights under the law to take unappropriated public land for a home.

I have the honor therefore to recommend non compliance with the request of the governor and that the Hon. Secretary of War be requested to direct that the military authorities who appear to be on the ground make a thorough investigation as to the practicability of settlement by these Indians in the localities desired by them (Bruneau and Catherine Creeks) and whether they are in condition to avail themselves of the Indian Homestead Law of March, 1875 and that hereafter <sup>such</sup> each further action be taken as the case may seem to demand.

...Agent How also states that there are not more than ten settlers in Bruneau valley.

E.L. Stevens

Acting commissioner

Stock.

dollar per head per annum for whatever number he may have. No round up of his cattle has been made this year, and the number is not yet definitely known, but is believed not to exceed three hundred head.

These are the only parties willing to pay though there are many more outside cattle on our range. In general however they belong to settlers living in the vicinity who claim that their cattle stray across the line and are unwilling to pay their pasture. All we can do in such cases is to drive the stock off whenever found on the reservation. As soon as the grass is fairly started in the spring I intend to make a general roundup of all Department cattle, brand all that are not ~~now~~ now plainly branded, and make a careful ~~count~~ count to ascertain the ~~exact~~ exact number of hand.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur U.S. Indian Agent.

of the children. The present number of pupils taxes to the utmost the time of the two teachers to give the time to each pupil needed for his proper advancement but by constant labor they are able to accomplish it.

The sanitary condition of the agent is shown by the report of the physician.

The Piutes are quiet and apparently contented. They seldom give trouble or call for discipline. Nearly all are living in tents made after the pattern of the skin lodges of the tribes east of the Rocky Mountains, and notwithstanding the thinness of the materials a fire in the center renders them comfortable even in extreme cold weather.

Steps were taken in the fall to provide for them shelters made of lumber but they preferred the tents and have remained in them to the present p. 690

time. Some fifteen of their children are in ~~the~~ school and exhibit remarkable intelligence and quickness of apprehension.

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Your obedient servant

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