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SURRENDER OF PIUTES.

Graphic Description of the Subduing of Piute Indians in Lake County by General Crook.

(PAUL DE LANEY IN PORTLAND JOURNAL.)

Before General Crook's arrival at Old Camp Warner and his subsequent removal of his command to Fort Warner in Lake County, the Piutes and their allies, consisting of marauding bands from different other tribes, had been carrying things their own way throughout the Southern Oregon country. The commanding officer who had preceded him was brave enough and kept his men on the alert, but he was unfortunate in finding the Indians. They were generally broken up in small marauding squads, knew the country well, and after raiding a settlement or immigrant train fled across the desert like Arabs and hid in some small valley rich with grass and surrounded by rock-ribbed mountains that were divided from the next range by a wide expanse of desert. When tired of their retreat they would break forth again and another Indian raid, leaving crime and death in its trail, would be reported at military headquarters. The soldiers would rush out to the pursuit, but the Indians had already generally made their escape, even beyond finding their trail.

CROOK INSPIRED CONFIDENCE.

General Crook's arrival at Old Camp Warner, fresh from his successful Indian campaigns in the Middle West, immediately inspired new confidence in the men at that place. In fact, he had been sent out from Fort Boise immediately upon his arrival there with a small company, which was to escort him to his new command at Fort Warner, and on his way he had not been idle. He had made a circuit from his main course more than once on the way to attack Indians who had committed depredations in the settlements. The fact that with his small command he had done more Indian fighting on his way from Boise to Old Camp Warner than the large command stationed at the latter place had done in more than a year, led the men to believe that there was now going to be something doing. His first act was to build a rock hill across the lake, cross over and establish a well-equipped fort at Fort Warner site, previously selected by the government. In the meantime he kept small scouting parties out in every direction watching for the Indians and gathering information as to their strength, place of rendezvous and such other knowledge as he deemed valuable. His complete reorganization of the forces gave new life to the whole command.

THE INDIANS FELT IT.

Even the Indians knew that a change had taken place in their enemy's camp. They lost their braggadocio spirit in a measure, and their raids were less frequent and more guarded. They seemed to realize that the end was close at hand. When Crook had completed his fort and the buildings about the place he prepared for unceasing action. He had engaged the services of Indian scouts and these had not been idle. They informed him of the movements of the Indians, the number and their many places of rendezvous. He sent out detachments of soldiers and kept the various bands of Indians on the go. They were practically squads of

brigands and never strong enough to give the soldiers a standing fight. But Crook's pursuit of them was unrelenting. He would not give them time to rest or recuperate at any place. As soon as they would find what they deemed a safe retreat his men were upon them and they were kept upon the run.

THEY DECIDED TO MAKE A STAND.

The various bands of marauders began to get together for mutual protection. Their provisions were running low, their horses were being reduced to skeletons by constant riding and no feed or rest. They had one resort which the white men had not yet discovered. This was a secluded valley where two rivers came together near the foothills of Stein's Mountain, far away from the soldiers and the fort. Here they had long kept their wives and children, while they raided the desert. Chased from one point to another on the desert by Crook's men, they began to gather at this point. Here they began a council of war and decided to make a final stand—not where they were, however, but at some other point on the desert, while their wives and children remained here in security. A number of their leaders were still on the plains, dodging the soldiers, and it was decided to wait until all were in before the place to make the final stand should be determined upon.

CROOK LOCATED THEM.

Crook's scouts located the Indians in their retreat in the Stein's Mountain country. They immediately made the report and Crook ordered preparations for the march. He led the command in person and marched night and day to the place. Fortune favored the troops, too, and the fates seemed to be against the Indians. A heavy head rise in the river completely hemmed in the Indians, and upon the arrival of the soldiers they found them at their mercy. Crook had been trying to get them to engage his men in fight for a long time, but they had evaded him. Their manner of attacking immigrant trains and small settlements and then hiding themselves until they appeared in some other depredation had angered him very much. But he did not lose his spirit of humanity. When he had surrounded them so that there was no chance to escape he offered them terms of surrender. But the Indians prepared for battle and the great battle of Dunder and Blixen followed.

It is well known how it terminated. It was but little short of a massacre. After the Indians had been routed they plunged into the stream and many of them perished there. When the smoke of the battle cleared away only a few women and children were left, who were taken as captives. Some of the warriors escaped to the other side, but a majority of them had lost their lives.

SCOUTS SENT OUT.

Upon Cook's return to Fort Warner he sent out his most trusted scouts to find the scattering bands of Indians and invite them to come in and surrender. An Indian half-breed finally located the bulk of the remaining Piutes and their allies and his work that followed was regarded as the most daring and most valuable of the time. It closed the Piute War. He located the band composed of the fragments of the various marauders of the desert. They had just been routed at Dunder and Blixen, and many of them had witnessed the slaughter. They knew that the half-



GENERAL FRANCIS V. GREENE, NEW YORK'S NEW POLICE COMMISSIONER.

General Greene is a graduate of West Point and has seen service on the western frontier, in Cuba and in the Philippines. For gallant and distinguished service at Manila he was made brigadier general. He is the author of several books on military subjects.

breed scout was against them at that place. They were sore with grief and mad with revenge. Notwithstanding this fact the scout rode into their midst. He talked with them calmly as he delivered Cook's message, while they fairly scowled and made threatening gestures. His bravery probably saved his life and brought them to terms. He showed them the utter uselessness of contending against the great white chief; they and their wives and children and their horses were starving. There was ample food at the fort for all. If they would come in and surrender they would be fed and clothed and taken care of by the great father, while if they refused they would be hunted and killed like coyotes, should they escape from starving until overtaken by the soldiers.

A GREAT FEAST.

The scout returned to the fort and reported that the Indians were coming and that they were starving. General Crook prepared to receive them. He had camp prepared for them some distance from the fort and several fat bullocks brought out for them, besides sending out other provisions from the fort. They fled across the old stone bridge at the lake, a haggard, dejected looking band of Indians. The men were nearly all mounted while most of the women and children were on foot. Their clothing was ragged, their moccasins worn through and but few of the men remained armed. Their cheeks were hollow and their limbs were emaciated.

When they formally made their surrender General Cook pointed to the bullocks and told them to help themselves. This was received with great joy. They butchered the animals in their own way and their hunger was such that they did not wait altogether until the meat was cooked, but ate it like animals while it was still raw and the blood dripping from it. The general was alarmed for fear that they would kill themselves, but condoned the gluttonous feast under the excuse that should they die they would die happy.

SENT TO THE RESERVATION.

The Indians were kept there and fed until arrangements could be made for their transfer to the reservation.

In a few days they began to recuperate and under the supply of food from the government, such as they had never had before, they thought the "Great Chief" was all right. After their transfer to the reservation old Fort Warner was abandoned as a military post and General Crook's work was finished in the field of Oregon. He was sent to Vancouver, where he remained in charge for some time and afterwards followed out the assignments of war with an honored career.

Indian raids ceased in that portion of Oregon and peace has since reigned throughout that portion of the Indian Empire. Where General Crook's men scouted and fought Indians are now prosperous ranchers, and old Fort Warner is itself one of the most prosperous in the country.

Big Timber Grab.

Last Monday 30,400 acres of timber land lying in Lake, Klamath and Crook Counties was filed on by parties who hold lieu land script. It is said that this script was issued some time ago by the Secretary of the Interior in lieu of forest reserve land in California; that this forest reserve land has had all the timber cut from it, save one or two seed trees per acre, and the saplings. Now these people come to Oregon and gobble up the best timber land to be found, will cut the timber from that, and then apply to the government for another exchange. Fine laws we have that will allow the lands divested of its timber without remuneration, thus depriving honest citizens from filing on the land. There is said to be hundreds of people awaiting for the snow to go off a little so they can file on the land that is included in the above scrip lands, and will be greatly disappointed when they learn of this wholesale grab.

Governor Chamberlain has ordered a special election for Monday, June 1, to select a Congressman to fill the vacancy made by the death of Thomas H. Tongue. The Sheriffs of the several counties will now notify the judges of election to hold a special election. Printed notices for the same must be issued. Nominations for Congressmen must be filed with the Secretary of State not less than 45 days prior to the election.

"WISDOM" OF CO. COURT.

Wealthy Taxpayer Saved 50 Cents At Cost of \$500 to Poor Scalp Gatherer in Lake County

The taxpayers of Lake County have not saved a single dollar "through the wisdom of the County Court in refusing to issue warrants for scalps caught in the County" after the State refused to pay her part of the bounty, "that some hard working citizen did not wrongfully lose through that same "wisdom." The State of Oregon never "refused to pay her part of the bounty."

The Governor is not the State, and those who "placed so much reliance in the State" were not deceived nor wronged by the State. The feeling that "a great injustice has been done" is very strong, but does not apply to the State. The State will do justice when the obstructionist is removed. Hundreds of scalps taken in Lake County, which the law expressly provided should be accepted and paid for, were refused, through an imperial order of the Lake County Court, contrary to law, thereby entailing heavy losses upon poor persons, who had "placed reliance" in the County court to do justice and obey the law. This confidence they found to be misplaced and have found, to their great surprise that, in their immediate household, "things are not always what they seem, nor what they should be." Can any virtuous citizen be proud of money saved to the taxpayers of the County "through the wisdom of the County Court" that with holds from honest men the legal wages of honest toils the people did. Trust the Legislature to do justice by making appropriation of money to pay that part of the scalp bounty, for which "the state was legally and morally liable," and their expectations were realized. The same statute by which the State became "loyally and morally liable," bound the County, through its proper officers, upon proper proofs, to accept and pay for every scalp presented, and the people with equal confidence, relied upon the justice of the County Court, which forgot justice, and displayed only "wisdom." "Wisdom" thus saves a wealthy taxpayer fifty cents, which he was "legally and morally liable for," and loses a poor scalp catcher five hundred dollars, to which he was "legally and morally" entitled for work done. For a saving accomplished in this way, it is expected "tax-payers will generally feel thankful." There are people in Lake County, and tax-payers, who are not deceived by injustice, mis-called "wisdom," and who will not "feel thankful" that fifty cents has been saved to them at cost of many hundreds of dollars to others, who lived a hard life, and did the public a real service, in earning the money unlawfully withheld from them, when discretion was not left in any Court to refuse payment in any other contingency than a failure to make proper proof on presentation of the scalps. The County was as firmly and legally bound to accept and pay for all scalps legally presented, as the State was to reimburse the County, and both obligations even as emphatic as the statute could make them. The State never sought to avoid its obligations, and will pay every dollar. The County did refuse to pay, and now, never will pay. The facts in this case are too plain to be put out of sight by—"wisdom."

M.