

GRIEVANCES OF THE UTE INDIANS.

MEMORIAL
OF THE
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF COLORADO,
CALLING

The attention of Congress to the grievances of the Ute Indians.

FEBRUARY 14, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :

Your memorialists, the council and house of representatives of the Territory of Colorado, would respectfully call the attention of your honorable body to the following facts :

It is now considerably over two years since the "Brunot treaty of 1873" was signed by the Ute Indians, and nearly two years since the same was ratified by the Senate. Yet, notwithstanding the solemn promise of the United States that the sum of \$25,000 should annually be expended for their benefit, in consideration of their having ceded to the United States a certain portion of their reservation, not one dollar has been appropriated for that purpose. Under these circumstances the Utes have become exceedingly irritated. They complain bitterly of the want of good faith on the part of the Government. They say that they have been cheated out of their lands; that they have fulfilled their part of the treaty, yet they have received nothing. They claim that they have been put off, time and again, with false promises, and say that they will no longer submit to what they consider a grievous outrage upon their rights. Already some of the younger braves have committed various depredations. Houses have been burned, crops destroyed, lives threatened, and the head chiefs themselves, although hitherto friendly in the extreme, have openly declared their avowed purpose of driving out the entire white population early in the spring, if by that time they have not received that which they were promised.

That they will attempt to accomplish this object, if they are not either held in check by the presence of troops, or else satisfied in their claims, cannot be doubted. Nor can it be doubted that they will be resisted in the attempt, and thus a collision is imminent, which would inevitably result in a bloody and costly Indian war; in the loss of many lives; in the embittered hostility of a powerful tribe at present friendly, and in a most disastrous blow to the development of the new and rich mining districts in the southwestern portion of our Territory.

In justice, therefore, to the Utes, who have faithfully kept their portion of the contract, and have ever endeavored to live on friendly terms with the whites; in justice to the citizens of the United States residing in that section of Colorado, whose lives and property are imperiled, and, finally, in justice to our common country, whose honor should be maintained inviolate, even in so small a matter as a treaty with a tribe of savages, we would entreat your honorable body to take this subject under your immediate consideration, and to take care that the contract on the part of the United States is fulfilled to the letter at as early a day as is possible. And we would finally say that by such action you will avert the impending outbreak, renew the good feeling that has so long existed between the Utes and the whites, and receive the grateful thanks of a numerous population.

ALFRED BUTTERS,
Speaker of the House of Representatives of Colorado Territory.
ADAIR WILSON,
President of the Council Legislature of Colorado Territory.

Approved January 28, 1876.

JOHN L. ROUTT,
Governor of Colorado Territory.

I hereby certify that the within memorial No. 1, entitled "A memorial to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled, calling attention to the grievances of the Ute Indians," originated in the house of representatives.

JOSEPH T. BOYD,
Chief Clerk.

I hereby certify that we, the house committee on enrollment, have examined the within house memorial No. 1, and find the same to be correct.

I. N. PEYTON,
Chairman of House Committee on Enrollment.

We hereby certify that we have examined the within house memorial No. 1, and find the same to be correct.

FRANK BINGHAM,
Chairman of House Joint Committee.
A. D. WILSON,
Chairman of Council Joint Committee.

TERRITORY OF COLORADO, *Secretary's Office, ss :*

I, John Taffe, secretary of the Territory of Colorado, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of house joint memorial No. 1, now on file in this office.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and caused the great seal of the Territory to be affixed at the city of Denver this 4th day of February, A. D. 1876.

[SEAL.]

JOHN TAFFE,
Secretary of Territory.