

No. 46.

BOISÉ CITY, IDAHO TERRITORY,
August 24, 1868.

SIR: In my annual report I would most respectfully state that in accordance with the instructions of the Indian department, dated April 27, 1867, I proceeded to the Nez Percés agency and held a council with the Nez Percés tribe, and explained to them the provisions of the treaty of 1863; the council lasted about three weeks and the tribe was more fully represented than ever before, (Red Heart and Eagle from the Light and their bands being present.) I regret to report that I found much dissatisfaction existing among the Nez Percés because of the tardiness of the government in the payment of their annuities, &c. I found everything in first-rate order at the agency, and have no hesitancy in reporting, what I have from time to time reported, that the agent, James O'Neill, is one of the very best officers in the employ of the government.

The Boisé and Bruneau Shoshones during the past year have been quiet and peaceable; during the fall, winter, and spring they were encamped within a few miles of this (Boisé) city, and have earned a part of their subsistence by performing menial services for the citizens of this place, such as washing, scrubbing, sawing and splitting wood, &c. They are remarkably honest; I have never heard a complaint of theft about them, and never saw or heard of one of them being drunk. From 50 to 80 of their young men have been out with the United States troops acting as guides, scouts, &c., during the year, and the various officers who have had charge of them speak in high praise of their efficiency and bravery. Those Indians have no permanent home, most of their country being occupied by farmers, herders, miners, &c. They are willing and desirous of removing to the Fort Hall reservation, and I again respectfully recommend that the government at an early day make provisions for permanent homes for them. During the extreme severity of the weather in January last (thermometer ranging from five to 20 degrees below zero) I went to the upper end of the Bruneau valley and brought in a small band of Bruneaus, who were in a destitute, freezing, and starving condition.

The Bannocks have generally been quite peaceable, portions of them frequently visiting this city; they too express great anxiety to be permanently located. The Sheep Eaters have also behaved quite well; they are more isolated from the settlement, occupy a more sterile country, and are exceedingly poor; as a consequence, they occasionally make a raid, and steal a few cattle, hogs, or horses for subsistence. They also express a wish to be placed on a permanent reservation; and as all of these tribes are friendly, and to some extent intermarried, and as the Bannocks inhabit the country on which the Fort Hall reservation is located, and they being perfectly willing that the other Indians in southern Idaho should occupy that reservation in common with them, I deem it for the best interests of both the government and the white inhabitants of the Territory, and certainly the Indians, that they all be removed thereon at an early day, and provided with implements of agriculture, cattle, chickens, &c., to enable them to make at least a part of their own living, and schools, &c., that their intellectual and moral condition may be improved instead of being made worse by contact with the most depraved of our own race, as is the case now.

In March last an Indian named Bruneau Jim was killed within half a mile of this city by John Brady, a white man, under the most revolting

circumstances, and while he (Brady) and perhaps others were endeavoring to perpetrate a rape on two squaws. Brady was arrested after great trouble and expense, but such is the prejudice of the community here against Indians that he was indicted for manslaughter only. After two trials, in both of which the juries failed to agree, the court admitted Brady and two principal witnesses to bail on their own recognizances, and they have left the country. I respectfully refer to a copy of the district court records, the evidence, &c., in this case, together with my special report thereon, now on file in the Indian office, and again urge the justice of a law permitting Indians to testify in such cases.

We now have reliable information that Colonel Otis, now in command of this military district, has made a treaty with the hostile Piutes and Snakes of the southwestern portion of this Territory and adjacent portions of Oregon and Nevada. If those Indians could now be taken charge of by the Indian department and removed away from their old haunts, I believe it would be alike beneficial to themselves and the government.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEORGE C. HOUGH,
United States Special Indian Agent.

HON. N. G. TAYLOR,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D. C.

No. 47.

OFFICE SPECIAL AGENCY,
Boisé City, I. T., August 15, 1868.

SIR: I have the honor, in accordance with the requirements of the department, of submitting my first annual report.

During the year the Boisé and Bruneau Shoshones and a portion of the Bannocks have been under my charge. They number as follows:

Boisé Shoshones.....	283
Bruneau Shoshones.....	300
Bannocks.....	100

During the summer of 1867 I removed the Indians to a point on the Boisé river about 35 miles from this place, where they could do some hunting, fishing, and gather some roots and berries; but the season was an unusually poor one for fishing, so they were unable to catch but few, and game was exceedingly scarce as winter approached. Owing to the great elevation, deep snows, and severe cold, I was again compelled to remove them to within six miles of this city. The past winter was one of unusual severity, and as these Indians, particularly the Shoshones, have but few skins or furs, their wickaups being constructed entirely of willows, and brush and wood being scarce and difficult to obtain, together with the fact that the very limited means placed at my disposal compelled me to use the greatest economy in supplying them with blankets, clothing, and even provisions, the Indians suffered very much. These Indians are remarkably industrious, and while camped near this city they earn a portion of their subsistence and clothing by performing menial services for the citizens, such as washing, sawing wood, &c. The Boisé and Bruneau Shoshones have performed excellent services during the year as guides, scouts, &c., against the hostile Snakes, and Piutes.