

everything they had. Capt. Morrison hearing the report of several guns, and believing them to be in trouble ahead, sent an emigrant by the name of Felix Martin, who had a fast horse, ahead to ascertain what was going on; the report of his pistol was heard, but he did not return. The train got in close order, every man prepared himself for fight, and moved on cautiously; when they got opposite the point of rocks they discovered blood in the road, but did not see an Indian till a shower of arrows came among them, wounding one man; the fire was returned, the Indians fell back; the train was moved on briskly to a large flat, out of the reach of arrows, either from the rocks or tules. Here the Captain corralled his stock and wagons; the Indians advanced, surrounding them; kept them one day and a half in the same place without water; and the train would undoubtedly have suffered much, and perhaps all have been murdered, had it not been for Capt. Ben Wright's Company making their appearance on the second day, which caused the Indians to retreat to the lake shore, where they formed the line of battle, advancing and retreating alternately. Capt. Wright advanced with thirty-two men, mounted and well armed, charged, and killed thirty; the balance got into their canoes and made their escape in the lake.

The day following, I came up with a family train of sixteen wagons, and assisted to bury my friend Mr. Coats, Long, Ownsby, and a number of other bodies which we found near the same place. We have found and buried twenty-six bodies in the vicinity of Rhett, (or, as it is sometimes called, Tule Lake.) A number of men have been wounded, and a large number of stock taken by the Indians, this season, on this new route.

Capt. Wright's Company have had another battle with the Lake Indians, and succeeded in killing forty-three; three of his men were wounded—two seriously—but they are now recovering.

I would give you the full particulars in relation to our Indian difficulties in this part of California, but I deem it unnecessary to weary your patience with a lengthy communication.

The within facts I have briefly stated to you, in order that you may have an idea of what we have been doing in this part of the country, and hope when the accounts for money expended in protecting this northern frontier is brought before the Legislature, you will favor our cause with your influence in having those liberally paid for the time they have spent in protecting life and property, and the money refunded which has been expended in assisting emigrants and keeping a standing force on the road between Yreka and the Sierra Nevada mountains.

The companies which have been on the road have made out the number of days each man has been actually engaged, and leave the matter entirely to the liberality of the Legislature to allow what they think to be right and just under the circumstances. If nothing be allowed, a few of us will suffer seriously, as we have furnished considerable money to keep up Captain Wright's party.

By your using your influence in our behalf, you shall be kindly remembered by the people in the northern part of California.

Yours, most respectfully,

CHAS. McDERMIT.