



# Reading #1 The Indians Engaged in the Fight

## Unit 1 Lesson 5

DENVER, Col. Oct. 2 – Governor Pitkin, of Colorado, a short time ago received a letter from Agent Meeker, of which the following is a copy:

WHITE RIVER, Sept. 10.

*To Gov. Pitkin:*

*We have plowed 80 acres. The Indians obviously object to any more being done. Shall stop plowing. One of the plowmen was shot last week. I was assaulted Monday in my own house by Chief Johnson, force out of doors and considerable injured. The employees came to the rescue. The Indians laugh at my being forced out of the house. I feel that none of the white people are safe, and I want United States troops to protect me. They are in positive need at this time.*

*N.C. Meeker, Agent*

In reply to the question as to the events which have inspired or induced the uprising Gov. Pitkin said: "This Indian trouble has been brewing all Summer. Since last June Utes have been burning the forest and the grasses along the line of their reservation, a distance of over 300 miles.

Roving\* bands have wandered up and down the entire country, leaving a trail of fire wherever they went....

*".... Meanwhile Father Meeker, the White River agent, had difficulty with certain members of the tribe, and had been rudely handled by Johnson, a leading Chief....*

*"..... [Four White River Utes visited me and] were here for two days. They seemed dissatisfied greatly, and complained because the Government butchered the cattle of the tribe for*





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*consumption\**, instead of allowing the herd to increase and purchasing other cattle for butchering. They also complained that Agent Meeker was [trying] to instruct their young, and they wished no education of their children. They further complained that [Meeker] was making too many improvements, and *cultivating\** too much soil. They opposed not only progression, but everything else. From these complaints.... I was led to believe the White River Utes were hostile.....”

“..... It will be impossible for the Indians and the whites to live in peace hereafter; this attack had no *provocation\**, and the whites now understand that they are *liable\** to be attacked in any part of the State at any time.”

\*roving - going to many different places

\*consumption - to eat

\*cultivating - to prepare and use for growing plants

\*provocation - an action that causes someone to become angry

\*liable - responsible for something

Source: Adapted from an article in the New York Times October 3<sup>rd</sup>, 1879. Retrieved:

<http://query.nytimes.com/mem/archive-free/pdf?res=9B04E3D8103EE73BBC4C51DFB6678382669FDE>

