RCIA 1881.

Portion of Report of Berry on Removal of Utes from Colorado.
20. In the latter part of May, the Ute Commissioners, Messrs. J.J. Russell, Otto Mears, and Judge T.A. MacNorris, arrived at Los Pinos Agency for the purpose of locating and removing the Indians belonging to the said agency, and arrangements having been completed June 10, in accordance with instructions I accompanied them with a delegation of chiefs on a journey to the Grand River and vicinity, in which country it was the intention of the department to locate the Uncompahgre Utes, provided it was suitable. After arriving there, and making due examination of the land, it was found to be unsatisfactory for this purpose. We then travelled through the country from the Grand River to the Unitah Agency, remained there a few days, and then visited the country in the vicinity of the Green, White, and Dushane Rivers, where, upon careful examination, it was found to be the only and most desirable location for the Uncompahgre Utes. Upon the approval by the department of this selection of land for the Indians, due steps were taken to inform the Indians of their future location and home, to which some of them demurred, desiring they might be located in the Uncompahgre Valley, below Ouray's Ranch, upon the Uncompahgre and Grand Rivers, although at no time offering any serious objections for refusing to go.

After preparations were commenced by Ute commissioners towards the erection of a temporary agency buildings at new location upon Green River, and the time had arrived for a removal to commence, in accordance with instructions I called the Indians together in council, August 22, and instructed them as to their duties under the late agreement between them and the United States; that they should make preparations and be ready to start on the journey to new agency by the 25th; that I would issue to them three weeks supply of subsistence to sustain them while enroute; that the agency and certain public property would be removed to the new agency on the Green River, Utah, at once upon their departure; that the department had made arrangement to pay those who had made improvements in the Uncompahgre Valley immediately upon their arrival; and that they would find the country they were going to a much better home than where they now were, and that I should leave for the new agency as soon as possible. Upon hearing these instructions for removal, they declined to remove to the Green River Country, giving as their reasons that nothing had been paid those who had made improvements, and it should be paid to them before leaving, as it had been promised them by the commissioners, and that they had learned the country about Green River was such that their stock could not live. I gave them until the next day to consider the matter, and report to be the result of their deliberations. They came in the following day as agreed and still declined to go. This refusal to comply with my request resulted in their being turned over by the department to the charge of General R.S. Mackenzie, commanding the military in this vicinity, who, upon learning of the duty devolving upon him, decided to give the Indians every possible opportunity to avoid trouble, and in view of this concluded to give them a hearing. I therefore called the principal chiefs into the agency and accompanied them to General Mackenzie's headquarters at the cantonment, where, after learning that they were under his charge, and hearing from him good and friendly advice as to their peaceable compliance with their agreement, they concluded at once to remove. This convinces me that they had no very serious intention of obviating the wishes of the department or the provisions of the agreement. From the fact that certain unprincipled whites in the vicinity of the reservation and passing through the same, had poisoned the minds of the Indians against removing by misrepresenting in every way possible the action of the department and their agent, it is not to be wondered that the Indian, naturally suspicious as he is, should endeavor to remain in the valley or country to which they were so fondly attached. The Indians having decided to remove, General Mackenzie truend them over to my charge again on the 26th of August.

August 27, rations for three weeks were issued to the Indians, who at once commenced their journey towards their new location all apparently cheerful and happy—General Mackenzie, rendering them every assistance
desired; he caused a large boat to be placed on the Green and Grand Rivers, with orders that they be safely put across together with all their property and stock.

After the departure of the Indians, preparations were then made, and every assistance rendered Maj. E.B. Townsend, special Indian agent, under whose direct supervision all the public property at the agency deemed of no advantage to remove to new agency, was to be sold at public auction, August 29. August 29, 30 and 31 were occupied in assisting at auction sale of the public property, after which all public property, records etc for the new agency were packed and shipped by wagons to the railroad at Gunnison, from which point they will go by rail to Salt Lake City and thence by wagon again to the new agency.

September 3, I started from Los Pinos Agency, Colorado, enroute to this city, where I arrived on the 9th instant. A large amount of goods and supplies for shipment to the new agency are now here, and will be sent forward in a few days in order to meet the wants of the Indians who are expected to arrive about the 20th of September. The estimated distance from Salt Lake City to the new agency is 210 miles, chiefly over a mountainous road.

End of Quote From Report.