

Navigation..Priest Rapids..Columbia.

1859..

From the mouth of the Des Chutes to old Fort Walla walla, small sailing craft plying.

From the Des Chutes, navigation is had to the foot of Priest Rapids. Priest's Rapids about eighty miles above old Walla Walla and it is thought by many that steamers can soon stem these rapids and ascend even to the Kettle falls at Fort Colville.

The estimated distance from Des Chutes to the mouth of Fort Walla Walla a distance of 119 miles has been navigated for the last three years by small sailing craft of from 25 to 60 tons. From March to November there is a strong wind blowing up the Columbia almost daily and from November to March the wind blows down stream so that sailing vessels with their cargoes taking advantage of the up wind winds navigate the river to old Walla Walla without difficulty and discharging their cargoes descend the river with the current.

But at times it so occurs that the winds give out at the foot of some of the rapids and the boatmen are often compelled to await a favorable wind thus rendering the navigation a little uncertain as regards time; and in order to overcome this difficulty it was decided to test the navigation of the river by steam. So in the month of October, 1858 the ~~United States~~ ordered a small steamer, the Colonel Wright, was launched at the Des Chutes to run to old Walla Walla. This experiment to navigate the upper Columbia both by sailing craft and steam vessels is due the energy of Captain Thomas Jordan U.S. Army and Mr. R.R. Thompson, one of the sterling and enterprising business men of the west who determined to put on the first line of sail vessels to supply the wants of the new military post at Walla Walla.

The principal rapids in trip : Five Mile rapids, five miles from the Des Chutes, John Day Rapids, just below mouth of John Day river, and

Indian Rapids three miles above the mouth of John Day's
river; Squally rapids, eight miles above the mouth of the John
Day, Rock Rapids, below the mouth of Rock Creek, Canoe Rapids
Encampment rapids, six miles above Castle rock and the Umatilla rapids
at the mouth of the Umatilla river.

Senate . 35th congress 2d session ex doc no. 32, Wright's topographic
report.

Eastern Washington. Indian names. (Place names.)

Col. Wright's campaign, topographical memoir..page 12

..we struck the Toukannon, (11 miles from Reed creek) above its junction with the Snake river, finding an excellent wagon road.

The Toukannon rises in the prairie hills and flowing west and northwest through a prairie valley half a mile wide and bounded by prairie hills discharges itself in the Snake river three miles above the mouth of the Pelouse.

It receives one tributary from the east-northeast called by the Nez Perce the Pah-tah-hat. The Toukannon, as also the Touchet is an Indian name, ..

2

Suspicion, animosity, hatred, fighting among yourselves, will eventually destroy you as a people. You are a good people. There isn't a finer group of people in the US than the Yakimas. These are times you need to stand together. You need to stand together to protect your own resources. Protect your water and land because your land and water are your future." "As of the plan, I think it is a reasonably good plan, a plan you can accept without fear. I hope you will give it your consideration so that we can get the money out to the people."

Both Foster and LeCrone urged pleasant reception for Emmons. Foster said "traditionally you have been hospitable people etc. etc....."

Touched on Ahtanum water suit. Followed it closely and that area office had provided personell and deata up to present time. Govt. has acquired one of most capable attorneys on water rights cases, Veeder. and felt ~~he~~ verdict, if ever, will be favorable. Not only important to the Yakimas but has much bearing on pending suits throghout the US.

Projects which Yakimas could sponsor: White Swan irrigation project and Mabton flood control project. Going to take enthusiasm and action on your part. You have no more valuable asset than your water. Value of land predicated on water. To your advantage to get the ball rolling and get some action started.

Ft. Hall grazing program: Your open range has low carrying capacity because of poor quality of grass on 2-300,000 acres. You could reseed and increase the carrying capacity many times over. Ft. Hall Agency expresses is using crescent crested wheat grass and intermediate wheat grass and getting excellent results. You people should get equal results. Cattlemen and councilmen ought to investigate the program. We're all interested in the natural resources that haven't been developed. Good things cost in money and effort. When you look to the future you will see that you will make money in the long run.

(3)

Klickitat- Fish conservation project. He is not for this one too. Fish ladders have been built as far as the boundaries of the reservation to permit fish to come up the Klickitat a ladder is needed at Castile Falls. It's even more important since Celilo is inundated. There aren't any fish there to amount to anything. Don't know how much it would improve the run. Common sense would say it will increase fish and mean much to the Indians.

LeCrone: This is special meeting for two reasons: (1) we have plan 3 sent out by the Washington office with the recommendation for your very careful consideration. (2) expecting very special guest who will come to the Yakima reservation to talk to the Yakima people at this Yakima Longhouse for the first time. Emmons is now on his way and will be here tomorrow to greet you personally. I know you will want to make him feel at home and gave him good time. Introduce Foster: He is a heart as big as a melon. Lot of wisdom.

Other dignitaries: Paul Weibell, tribal claims attorney; Ma James B. Hovis, associate attorney; Clyde Bussey, asst. area director in charge of tribal program and Nepo Strongheart, California, courtesy card in Yakima tribe. Advisor to movies about Indians. Introduce Millie too.

Dalles Dam settlement

Must reach accept. terms between Indians and govt.

Dalles Dam settlement - plan 3 - Indians leaders have worked it out. Dist. of Dalles Dam money.

In trust by govt. comp. for loss of fishery
\$15,000,000 in trust
4,500 enrolled Ind. from dam.

Forts..Fort Taylor

Topographical Memoir, Col. Wright's campaign.

Page 12..

..Finding the crossing at the mouth of the Toukannon good, wood and grass in a bundance on its banks, my preference was given to it which Captain Keyes the next day, upon a personal examination confirmed and which he selected as the site of "Fort Taylor" so called in honor of the lamented Captain Taylor who fell in Steptoe's battle of May 17, 1858.

The command resting in camp on the banks of the Toukannon during the morning of the 11th when a more detailed reconnaissance was made of the ground below and a good wagon road opened down the Toukannon to its mouth, under the general direction of Lieutenants Morgan and Kip 3rd artillery and every preparation made to commence our work on the Snake river.

The command move to the banks of the Snake river on the afternoon of the 11th where they remained engaged in building Fort Taylor and awaiting supplies and reinforcements until the morning of the 27th.

The work was built of the basaltic rock formed on the banks of the river with hexagonal bastions of alder at the two diagonal corners and under the direction of Major Wyse, 3d artillery, who with his company worked assiduously till it was completed. He was assisted

from time to time by detachment of the other companies of the 3d artillery working under charge of the company officers of that regiment. It was sufficiently large to be garrisoned by one company, and to contain all the stores left by our command.

The valley of the Toukannon at its mouth is half a mile wide and bounded by the high basaltic bluffs that we named Taylor and Gastin the one to the west being called Taylor. The Snake river at the point is 275 yards wide...

..while camping here we were enabled to determine quite accurately the position of Fort Taylor and, by direction of Colonel Wright we laid out a reservation of 640 acres up the valley of the Toukannon which the accompanying plan will illustrate

Palouse... Chief. 1858..

Col. Wright's memoir

..As I reported in my communication of yesterday the capture of 800 horses on the 8th instant I have now to add that this large band of horses composed the entire wealth of the Pelouse chief, Tilco-ax. This man has ever been hostile; for the last two years he has been constantly sending his young men into the Walla Walla valley and stealing horses and cattle from the settlers and from the government..

He boldly acknowledged these facts when he met Col. Steptoe in May last. Retributive justice has not overtaken him; the blow has been severe but well merited.

Camp on Spokane river W.T. 16 miles above the falls: Sept. 10, 1858...

..Headquarters, Camp at the Coeur d'Alene Mission W.T. Sept 15, 1858:

The hostile Spokanes have, many of them, gone beyond the mountains and will not return this winter. The Pelouses with their chiefs Kamiaken and Til-co-ax are not far off but it is doubtful whether they will voluntarily come in. If they do not I shall pursue them as soon as I can settle with the Coeur d'Alenes.

(Wright's return trip, 1858...

(Far north..) We were met on the road today by Schly-ot-se, a chief of a band of friendly Pelouse Indians who with two of his men accompanied us to our camp.

Pelouse..Indian policy..

Topographical memoirs; Page 40..(weizet)

Among the runners that then coursed over the country was a small band of Indians living on the border and banks of Snake river and called the Pelouse, a tribe formed of the renegades of each and every tribe. They enjoy a most unenviable reputation for lying and thieving--their best traits-- With such men for newsmongers and such men for councillors it is not surprising to know that they were misled and misinformed regarding the true character of the late war and the causes for which it was waged.

They had been told its primary and principal object was for the extermination of the Indian and to put the white man in possession of his women, his wives and his lands, his all. The spark of war is thus fanned into flame and in addition to the natural instinct and feeling of hostility that the red men in all regions and times bears for the white man these men felt new causes and new reasons urging and impelling them to war; and they now awaited only a favorable occasion to give vent to their pent up feelings.

Regarding himself as the rightful possessor of the soil, he had determined not to be dispossessed of it without an equivalent. So the war feeling

of 1855 was not ended in 1858. Many may join issue but let them remember that at the end of the winter campaign of 1856 there was a mutual withdrawing of troops and Indians from the field.

In 1857 no troops were sent into the field. The emigrant routes were all blocked up in consequence of difficulties in the interior and thus no passage of persons was had through the Indian country. The command under Col. Steptoe then had entered the country in 1858 was the first military force that tried the field since the apparent cessation of hostilities.

But they entered with no hostile intention; on the contrary Col. Steptoe the warm friend of the Indian had started with a view of adjusting amicably all the differences that existed among the Indians and whites that then had place at Fort Colville; to punish those who had run off cattle from Walla Walla, and at the same time to produce a morale effect upon the Indian tribes by moving a military column through the country and give his men at the same time a field experience and hence the march.

But he knew not, nor was prepared for the development of the temper of the Indians that at that time reigned. An immense hidden magazine lay ready to be sprung for his destruction and his arrival was to be the torch that should be applied for its explosion. The Indians had determined upon the massacre of his party, if possible and made their arrangements accordingly. The Pelouse had not been idle during the whole of this time, but continued the circulation of false reports and his arrival but confirmed and verified their predictions. , and lies now became in the eyes of the ~~headmen of the nation~~ ~~headmen of the nation~~ and Coeur d'Alenes truths of the first magnitude. ~~m.~~

Pelouses. Haggling..

Col. Wright's Topographical Memoir, 1858..

..And on reaching the Lahtoo....

we remained in camp on the 20~~th~~ 23rd to hold conversations with the Coeur d'Alenes, Spokanes and a few Pelouses who had come in with them. These men were under Vincent Garry Potlatken Big Star Skolhalt and a few other of their principal chiefs.

It was on this day that Owhi, a Yakima chief came into our camp and who being made prisoner, at a later day in the campaign while attempting to escape was shot near the Trucamon (cop) river.

His son Traltian and a number of Pelouses at this same camp expiated their many crimes upon a gallows erected for the purpose

At... The Coeur d'Alenes and Spokanes having been now subdued and the Pelouse having scattered and fled to the mountains we had no right to doubt to gather the small fragments of the Pelouse that live along the Snake river and impose upon them such conditions as their crimes merited.

..return trip. Col. Wright..

Travelling eighteen miles we camped on the Pelouse about eight miles above our camp of the 27th of August finding good grass, wood and water.

Here we met a large delegation of the Pelouse with whom the colonel had a talk and having hung a few of the ringleaders in the late difficulties and taken a number of hostages he allowed the remainder to return to their people.

Place Names..Language..Wright campaign. Palouse..

Return trip, 1858..

Which forms a second lake which empties into the Nyosomen creek. This lake lies in a deep rocky bed with vertical basalt walls and lined on either side with scattering pine trees.

..Gaining the prairie the trail became broad and well beaten..through which flows a small stream on its borders by fringes of willows..

This stream the Spokane call the Scho-scho-u-seep and the Pelouse the Aqua-aye-seep. It flows to the south and joins the waters of the Pelouse...

Wright's return trip..

we had today a distinct view of the Se-Empt-tée -ta butte which rearing its blue peak far above the prairie hills around make it the prominent landmark of the country...

..the Oray-tay-ouse of the Spokanes is the Wah-rum of the Pelouse... and I would here remark that in travelling in this region much confusion often arises in giving names to streams and localities in terms of the language only spoken by the guides of exploring or surveying parties and as an instance of this we will take the stream marked on our maps and known among us as the Pelouse.

This stream is not so called by any tribe or band of Indians in the country. By the Pelouse Indians the Snake river as it flows through their country is called the Ne-Perce river and as it flows through the Ne-Perce country it is called the Snake river. This Pelouse river; as it flows through the Ne-Perce country it is

called the Nez Perce river and as it flows through the Snake Indian country it is called the Snake river. Thus we see one and the same stream called by three separate and distinct names according to the ownership of the country through which it flows.

So also the butte called by Governor Stevens on his maps and in his reports the Pyramid butte, is by the Spokanes and Coeur d'Alenes called the Se-emp-tee-ta and by the Pelouses and Nez Perces the E-o-mosh-toss butte.

So the stream upon which we had encamped the 28th September is called by the Spokanes O-ray-tay-ouse and by the Pelouses Wah-rum; but higher up before it has formed a series of lakes and received tributaries from the east and other points it bears still other and different names.

The similarity between the languages of the Nez Perces and Pelouses is such that the names given to places in the one language might be nearly one and the same as they would bear if given in the other.

Names..Indian names..place names. (Palouse country)

...to the west of this canyon of the Pelouse was a second and equally large one known as the canon of the Cheranno up which passes another trail leading to Fort Colville and which followed by Captain McClellan U.S. engineers in 1853 in returning to Fort Dalles.

This stream as represented by him drains a lake which the Indians call Sil-kat-koon (?) and which joins the Pelouse nine miles above the mouth of the latter. ..a number of Indian farms at its different points bespeak its agricultural capacity.

The day was hot and dusty..on the morning of the 28th of August we left the Pelouse and moving northward across its valley in a quarter of a mile reached the valley of the Cow creek or Steep up which we travelled for six miles...

(Col. Wright's return trip..1858)

while those to the west were long spurs and ridges from the main Bitter root or Coeur d'Alenes mountains.

..we passed no water..but in the early spring water is found at the point above referred to which is called by the Indians See-lay

This region is much frequented by Indians in early spring for roots of many kinds and being well sheltered with good grass wood and water it affords them a good resting place.

Here in a small group of cottonwood trees in which are found small springs with wild onions growing near them. Having traveled a distance of 15 miles we encamped in the pines on the left bank of the Sil-say-hoo-west-tsin, where we found good wood and water.

We were met here on the road today by Schly-ot-se, a chief of a band of friendly Pelouse Indians who with two of his men accompanied us to camp.

(Wright's return trip Top. memoirs page 72..

Oth ga ning the valley bottom of this creek (Oray-tay-ouse)

our trail turned a sharp point of basaltic rock. At this place are several Indian graves, among them that of the son of Schlott-ze the Pelouse chief who had been our traveling companion for three days.

.. we had today a distinct view of the Se-empt-tee-ta butte which rearing its blue peak far above the prairie hill around make it a prominent landmark of the country.

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