

Priest Rapids.

Report of the Secretary of the Interior. Surveyor General's office,
Olympia, W.T. July 17, 1866.

Sir: I have the honor herewith to submit the following report of the progress of the public surveys in this district and other operations of this office during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1866 together with such information in regard to topography, climate, soil, serources and production of this territory as is at present within my reach.

.. the estimate for 372 miles township exterior lines and for 3,240 miles subdivisional lines include sixteen townships in the Colville valley, twelve in the Yaquima valley, six in the Willopah valley, six townships on the Columbiariver below Priest Rapids and the balance along the waters of Puget Sound.

.. Since the discovery of rich mineral deposits of Montana Territory and the consequent rapid influx of population into that region, a considerable portion of the trade of the Columbia river has been carried up to the vicinity of White Bluffs and steamers are regularly plying to that point instead of terminating their voyages at Wallula as formerly. As a consequence population is ~~an~~ centering at the new at the new head of navigation and calling loudly for surveys. I have, therefore, recommended a survey of six townships in that locality.

Idaho

Surveys have not yet been extended to that territory on account of its remoteness from the seat of office, at Denver of the surveying department of Colorado of which it once constituted a part.

By an act of the 29th of June, however, a surveyor general for Idaho is authorized and has been appointed, commissioned and has started for his post at Boise City. That office will be instructed to establish the principal bases for future surveys existing appropriations being adequate.

By authority of another act approved June 27, 1866 authority is given for a land district in Idaho and for appointment of a land officer.

Commissioner of the General Land office, Dept. of the Interior,
Oct. 2, 1866.

White Bluffs..

Commissioner of the General land office. Dept. of Interior, Oct. 2,
1866.

Washington territory.

The field of operations in this, the most distant political community of the Union during the last year embraces nearly two thousand acres. This quantity added to the work here before executed reaches an area of upwards of three million five hundred and thirty thousand acres surveyed in Washington since the initiation in that territory of the public surveys.

The surveyor general ~~condemns~~ recommends that during the year ending 30th June 1868 the lines shall be extended east and west of the Cascades and between those mountains and Puget sound, the country being traversed by numerous streams and valleys well adapted to agriculture; and that surveys shall be prosecuted in the region of the Columbia river along the White Bluffs the head of navigation, likewise in the vicinity of Fort Colville and in the Willoughby valley immediately east of Shoal Water bay...