

U. S. Senate Executive Documents Vol. 3, 1856/57 -- from The Library of Congress, Sep. 19, 1960, loaned to Howard Sedgwick.

The Executive Documents, printed by order of The Senate of the United States, Third Session, Thirty-fourth Congress, 1856, 57. No. 5 of Vol. 3 - Report of the Secretary of War, etc.

On December 1, 1856, "The authorized strength of the army, as now posted, is 17,394. The actual strength at the date of the consolidation of the returns, July 1, 1856, was 15,562. The number of enlistments made during the twelve months ending September 30, 1856, was 4,440. The number of persons offering to enlist, but who were refused on account of minority and unfitness for service, was 5,594. The number of casualties in the army, by deaths, discharges, and desertions, during the year ending June 30, 1856, was 6,090; of which 3,223 were by desertion. (Excerpt, p. 3 - Jeff'n Davis.)

"... the frequent construction and abandonment of posts, and with such garrisons as we may expect to have with the present or probable size of the army, involves the employment of all the troops for long periods at constant labor, alike injurious to military instruction and the contentment of the soldier. His compensation at such times is far inferior to that of the common laborer on the frontier, and the prospect of abandoning the position soon after he has made it comparatively comfortable leaves him without adequate inducement for the sacrifice he is called on to make. A laborer without pay or promise of improvement in his condition, a soldier without the forms and excitement of military life, it is hardly to be wondered at that this state of things should lead to desertion, which has become so frequent as to be one of the great evils of the service..."

"...The use of wrought iron instead of wood, as a material for gun-carriages has engaged the attention of the Ordnance department..."

"The operations at the national armories have been restricted to the completion of new models for small arms; the alteration of old models to long range rifled guns, and to the preparations requisite for the exclusive manufacture of the adopted new model, of which many parts have been fabricated. This model, which is common in its general principles to all our small arms, is a rifled arm, (such as is commonly called the Minie rifle,) with the improvement of a lock, after Maynard's plan, self-priming, when used with the Maynard primers, and as well adapted to use with the percussion cap as the ordinary percussion lock. The alteration of flint lock to rifled arms, with the self-priming lock, has been effected to the limited extent which the means available for the purpose would allow. The results of trials with these arms leave no doubt of the propriety of the measure, which I heretofore recommended, of altering all the old model arms of the United States, including those distributed to States and Territories, by converting them into rifled arms, with the percussion self-priming lock, so as to make them conform to the new model.... the alteration of arms of the old model, so as to apply to them all the modern improvements, has been commenced and has progressed far enough to show conclusively that they can be made equal in efficiency to those of the new model. There is in the United States arsenals, and in possession of the States and Territories millions of these arms, which have cost between six

Jefferson Davis' report - December 1, 1856/

"Since the last annual report the cargo of camels, thirty-two in number, then referred to as being expected, have been landed on the coast of Texas and taken into the interior of the country. Much time was required for their recovery from the effects of a long sea voyage, and but little use has therefore been made of them in the transportation of supplies. On one occasion, it is reported, a train, consisting of wagons and camels, was sent from Camp Verde to San Antonio, a distance of sixty miles, over a road not worse than those usually found on the frontier, and the result was given as, that the quantity brought back by six camels (3,648 pounds) was equal to the loads of two wagons drawn by six mules each, and the time occupied by the camels was two days and six hours; that by the wagons four days and thirty minutes...

"The experiment of introducing them into the climate of the United States has been confined to the southern frontier of Texas. Thus far the result is favorable as the most sanguine could have hoped. Of thirty-four animals imported, two have died - one from accidental injury, and the other from cause unknown.....it is expected that another shipment of about forty in number will be landed during the present winter on the coast of Texas, .. we shall have for practical test about seventy animals.

The causes of the massacre at the mouth of the Rogue River I mentioned in a former report, and therefore it is unnecessary at this time to refer to them. I will simply remark, that the death of the sub-Indian Agent Wright, who was represented by General Lane, in debate in the House of Representatives, as being very friendly to the Indians, was caused by an old grudge against him for attempting, before he was appointed agent, to poison a whole band of Indians.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant.

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General

Lieutenant Colonel L. Thomas,
Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the Army,
New York City

(Endorsement)

Indian Affairs. — Important. — Respectfully submitted, with full concurrence in the views of General Wool.

WINFIELD SCOTT

—A

Headquarters, Fort Orford, O. T.,
District S. Oregon and N. California, June 24, 18

Sir: I have the honor to report that General Palmer, superintendent of Indian affairs, left here on the 21st, in the steamer Columbia, with the Port Orford and other friendly Indians, who have been on the reserve at this post for some months past, and all of the lower Rogue River Indians, who came with me, except 18, escorted by Captain Augur's company "G," 4th infantry, for the coast reservation. They go by the way of Portland and Dayton, O. T. to that portion of the reservation allotted to them by the superintendent.

On the previous day, one of Old John's sons, a nephew and three others, came in to say that Old John and his band desired to surrender, and wished permission to do so. I told them that they might do so, and they said that they would meet any command that I might send out for them at the place where I encamped the night before our arrival here. Captains Ord and Reynolds' companies arrived here yesterday with 242 Indians who had come in to him at the mouth of Rogue river. Some of these Indians came up in canoes by sea, and the others by land. Today I have sent back the same command to meet Old John, as this is the day on which he promised to be at the rendezvous. When these people get in there will only remain the Chetcoes, who have been driven into the mountains by the volunteers, and who will come in as soon as these gentlemen go away, which will probably be within a few days, as I understand that Gov. Curry has ordered them to be disbanded at once.

Agreeably to the instructions of General Wool, received by the steamer on the 21st instant, the following is the assignment of troops for the posts required near the coast reservation: Captain Smith, 1st dragoons, and Captain Floyd Jones, 4th infantry, with their companies, will garrison the upper post; Captain Augur, the middle; and Major Reynolds, 3d artillery the lower, about the mouth of the Sinselow. I have directed Captain Augur, on his arrival at the post now occupied by Lieutenant Sheridan, to leave his

company there temporarily, and proceed to select his own post, which he will have done by the time that Captain Floyd Jones will reach his destination. The Indians remaining to be sent to the reservation will be divided as nearly as convenient into two parties: one, consisting of George and Lumpy's people and some others, will be escorted by Captain Floyd Jones and the detachment of company E, 4th infantry, under Lieut. Chandler; and the other by Captain Ord and Major Reynolds' companies. Captain Smith, with Lieutenant Sweitzer and Assistant Surgeon Crane, will proceed with part of his company to Fort Lane, for the purpose of getting his horses and settling their property affairs, and thence to his new post, which it is expected he will reach nearly as soon as Captain Floyd Jones. The detachment of "D" and "E" companies, 4th infantry, will then rejoin their proper posts, and the detachment of "F," 4th infantry, under Lieutenant Garber, at Crescent City, will join that company via Vancouver.

With regard to the posts of Forts Orford, Lane and Jones, if the Rogue river war be considered by the General as closed, I do not see any necessity for the two former, and would respectfully recommend that they be broken up. The next Indian difficulties likely to break out between this and the Sacramento may be looked for in the vicinity of the Klamath; and Fort Jones is therefore, perhaps, in a very good position, and may be advantageously occupied. I shall consequently leave Major Wyse at that post, to be disposed of hereafter as the general may think fit.

Assistant Surgeon Milhau will accompany the detachment under Captain Ord, and will be left with Major Reynolds' company at the Sinselow until he can be relieved by some other medical officer. After all the Indians shall have started there will be nothing further for me to do in southern Oregon, and I believe everything to be quiet in northern California. I suppose that the district will be broken up, when I shall be ready to receive such orders, in relation to my own movements, as the commanding general of the department may be pleased to issue. I should be happy to receive them by the return of the steamer.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ROBERT C. BUCHANAN,
Bvt. Lieut. Col., Maj. 4th infantry, Comd'g Distr

Captain D. R. Jones,
Asst. Adj't General, Department of the Pacific,
Benecia, California.

B.

Headquarters, Puget Sound District,
Fort Steilacoom, W. T., June 2, 1856

General: Since my communication of the 21st instant, which I had the honor to address to you, I have received from Major Garnett his report of a scout which I directed to be made in the Green and Cedar river region, enclosing the reports of the officers who commanded the different detachments. Both officers and men deserve commendation for the zeal and activity displayed. I have enclosed them to the headquarters of the department.

The squaw taken by Major Garnett, and sent to me, says there are but seven men, with a number of women and children, in that region. I have sent her out to, if possible, bring them in.

On the 31st ultimo, a messenger, whom I sent out with regulars to the

Puyallup, returned with six hostiles, who are now at the reservation. They were found in a very destitute condition.

There are but few hostile Indians in this district at present, and the war is certainly finished. It may, however, be renewed at any time by reinforcements from the other side of the mountains. Another source, from the effects of which there may be a renewal of hostilities, is the outrages which are committed on the persons of friendly Indians from revenge or mere wantonness. There is no necessity for the independent military organization in this district.

Major Garnett, with companies "B" and "K," 9th infantry, left on the 28th ultimo for the purpose of joining Colonel Wright in the field by the way of Cowlitz landing. I have sent an express to Fort Vancouver, requesting Colonel Morris to have a steamer sent to the mouth of the Cowlitz for the purpose of taking the companies to the Cascades, merely stopping at Vancouver a few hours to obtain some clothing.

Since taking the field on the 13th of February, I have sent to the reservation about three hundred Indians, including men, women, and children, besides those killed in battle and the prisoners now confined in the guard-houses. I have built five block-houses, and constructed seven bridges, besides making more than twelve miles of road. We have scouted over a country full of obstacles, and in all our operations have not lost an animal by the enemy. This success must be, in a great measure, attributed to the zeal, energy, and faithful performance of duty on the part of the officers and men engaged.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SILAS CASEY,

Lieut. Col. 9th Infantry, Com'g P. S. District

Major General J. E. Wool,

Commanding Department of the Pacific, Benecia, Cal.

C.

Headquarters, Puget Sound District,
Fort Steilacoom, W. T., June 6, 1856.

Capatin: I have the honor to enclose, for the information of the commanding general, two communications from Dr. Tolmie, of the Puget Sound company, on the subject of the murder of a friendly Indian by a volunteer.

A few days since an old Indian was most wantonly shot by a volunteer in the town of Steilacoom. He had been employed by a white man to bring over a horse from one of the neighboring islands, and was just getting out of his canoe. The man was taken up by the civil authorities, and I confined him in the guard-house. Inasmuch as the Indian is in a fair way of recovery the man was bailed out on the 4th instant.

Not long since, two Indians, while in chains, were shot down in Olympia and a few days since, three friendly Sno-qual-mie Indians were most wantonly shot down near Seattle, it is supposed by a man named Collins. These several murders have caused great excitement among the Indians on the reservation.

I have exerted myself to quiet them, and have offered to the civil authorities the use of my guard-house for the confinement of any of these lawless desperadoes, who are constantly endangering the peace of this frontier, regardless of the liability of the Indians retaliating upon innocent persons.

The squaw whom I mentioned as having sent out from Seattle has returned. Eight men, six women, and a number of children were brought in by her means. They have gone to the reservation.

I expect to leave on the 9th in the steamer Hancock or Massachusetts for Bellingham bay, Fort Townsend, and the northern portion of the Sound. I shall be absent only a few days.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SILAS CASEY,

Lieut. Col. 9th infantry, Com'g P. S. District.

Captain D. R. Jones,

Ass't Adj't Gen'l, Headq'rs Dep't Pacific,
Benecia, California.

P. S. The recruits for the two companies of the 4th infantry at this post have not yet been sent over. I would like very much to have them, as my command as been lessened so of late.

S. C.

D.

Headquarters, Puget Sound District,
Fort Steilacoom, W. T., June 20, 1856.

Captain: I have the honor to report, for the information of the general commanding the department, that nothing especial has transpired since my last communication. Eleven Indians, including men, women, and children, who have been hidden on the Puyallup, were brought in yesterday; I shall send them to the reservation.

Governor Stevens still retains a portion of his volunteers in service in this district. I signified to him, some time since, my readiness to occupy all those points now held by his men, and which I consider, in any way, necessary for the protection of the country within the region of recent hostilities. I do not consider the service of any volunteers as having been necessary at all for more than two months past.

On the 14th of March last, as will be seen by my communication on the 19th of that month, transmitted to department headquarters, I requested Governor Stevens to issue his proclamation calling out two companies of volunteers to be mustered into the service of the United States for four months, unless sooner discharged, and informing the governor at the same time, that I considered the volunteers asked for sufficient, with the regular troops, for all required purposes; my call was refused. Time has shown that my views were correct, and I should have disbanded them some time since. I do not know the exact amount of the forces which have been kept up in this district by Governor Stevens, but I believe it has amounted to several hundred men, with a due allowance of field and staff officers, etc. I have heard that the military liabilities already foot up to \$1,400,000.

The men who committed the atrocious murders of three friendly Snoqualmie Indians near Seattle are still at large, one of them a volunteer. The Indians were employed at the time by two white men to paddle them up the river in a canoe. While the men were absent on some business, the Indians, as I have been informed, were murdered while begging for mercy. A friendly Chehalis Indian was killed on the 14th instant at the Mound prairie by one of the volunteers.

I have enclosed a map of the seat of hostilities in this district so far as known at present.

I returned from Bellingham bay and the northern part of the Sound on the 14th instant.

A map of Washington Territory west of the Cascade range of mountains is now being prepared. When finished I will enclose it, and at the same time point out the situation for the permanent post, which I consider necessary for the defence and security of this portion of the Territory.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SILAS CASEY,
Lieut. Col. 9th Infantry, Com'g P. S. District.

Capt. D. R. Jones,
Ass't Adj't Gen'l, Headq'rs, Dep't Pacific,
Benecia, California.

E

Headquarters, Northern District, Dep't of the Pacific,
Camp on the Na-chess River, W. T., June 11, 1856.

Sir: On the 8th instant a party of Indians, numbering thirty-five men, with a chief at their head, paid a visit to my camp. These Indians are living high up in the mountains, on the branches of the Na-chess. They do not consider themselves under the authority of any of the great chiefs of the Yakima nation. They have not been engaged in hostilities, and evinced the most friendly disposition.

On the 9th instant a party of fifteen Indians, with their chief, from the neighborhood of the Priests' rapids, came to see me. The chief presented me a letter from Father Pandosy. It appears that these Indians at the commencement of the war were living at the Atah-num mission, and fled immediately to the north. The chief has numerous testimonials as to his firm attachment to the white people and his unwavering fidelity in our cause.

I also received deputations, headed by chiefs, from several other smaller bands, one of them living far to the north, near the British possessions. They all expressed the strongest desire to cultivate our friendship. They have had nothing to do with the war thus far, and do not wish to be involved in it should hostilities continue in the Yakima country. They doubtless foresee that in all probability their own country might become the theatre of operations. I have made perfectly satisfactory arrangements with all these Indians.

For several days no signs of Yakima Indians had been seen; everything was quiet when, on the evening of the 8th, two men came to me from the chief Ow-hi, saying, that himself and other chiefs would come in on the next day. These men brought in two horses belonging to the volunteer express recently sent over from the Sound. The men remained with us, and on the evening of the 9th Ow-hi, Kamiakin, and Te-vi-as encamped on the opposite side of the river. The chiefs all of them sent the most friendly messages, declaring that they would fight no more, and that they were all of one mind for peace. I answered them, that if such was the case, they must come and see me. After a while Ow-hi and Te-vi-as came over, and we had a long talk about the war, its origin, etc. Ow-hi related the whole history of the Walla-Walla treaty, and concluded by saying that the war commenced from that moment; that the treaty was the cause of all the deaths by fighting since that time. Ow-hi is a very intelligent man. He speaks with great energy, is well acquainted with his subject, and his words carry conviction of truth to his hearers. I spoke to these chiefs -- asked them what they had to gain by war? and answered them by enumerating the disasters which must inevitably befall them: their warriors all killed or driven from their country, never to return; their women and children starving to death far to the north where the snow never melts; but if peace was restored they could live happily in their own country where the rivers and ground afford ample food for their subsistence, etc. I was determined to assume towards these chiefs a tone of high authority and power. I said, if they all desired peace they must come to me and do all that I required of them; that I had a force sufficient to sweep them from the face of the earth, but that I pitied the poor Indian; that I was willing to spare them to make them happy, provided they would comply with all my demands, etc. I have never seen Indians apparently more delighted than these chiefs were. They expressed their highest satisfaction with everything I said to them. We have fixed upon five days as the time allowed for the Indians all to assemble here, prepared to surrender everything which has been captured or stolen from the white people, and to comply with such other demands as I may then make.

With regard to Kamiakin, he did not come over, but remained during the conference on the opposite bank. He sent me the strongest assurances of friendship, and his determination to fight no more. This was confirmed by Ow-hi and Te-vi-as.

I am fully persuaded that all three of the chiefs are for peace, and I doubt not I shall soon settle everything satisfactorily. But I am in no hurry they must be made to see and feel that they are completely in my power; that they are, as I told them, "children in my hands."

I told the two chiefs to say to Kamiakin that if he wished to unite with them, and make peace, he must come to me; if he did not do so, I should regard him as an enemy, and pursue him with my troops. I said to them that no Indian should be a chief in this country, without coming to my camp.

Skloom and Show-a-wy, the two other chiefs in this country, have crossed the Columbia, and gone to the Palouse country. They properly belong in that country. Their people have remained here, and are incorporated with Ow-hi's band.

I think everything bids fair for an early and satisfactory termination of this war. Kamiakin says but little, is proud, and very jealous of his rights. Heretofore he has always been friendly to the white people, but habitually distant and reserved in his intercourse with them. I must humble him, and make him feel that hereafter his position as chief can only be

maintained by his faithful adherence to our cause.

Rumors had reached me, some days previous, that Leschi, with a band of Misqually Indians was on this side of the mountains, and I was trying to communicate with him, when I found he had come in without any agency on my part. He came with Ow-hi and Te-i-as. He says he came over with about twenty warriors, with their women and children. He is decidedly for peace. This man Leschi is connected with Ow-hi's people by marriage; and if peace is made, he is perfectly willing to go wherever I say - either to the Sound, or to remain with Ow-hi. I think he would prefer the latter, and perhaps that would be the best disposition that could be made of him.

After very great labor, the bridge over the Na-chess is this day completed. The river is broad, at one point twelve feet deep, and a velocity of eight or nine miles an hour. It is made on trestles, and may stand for a long time; but should the water rise very high, the floating logs would much endanger its safety.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT

Colonel, 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Captain D. R. Jones, A. A. G.,

Headquarters Dept of the Pacific, Benecia, Cal.

F.

Headquarters, Northern District, Dept. of the Pacific.
Camp on the Yakima river, W. T. Kittitas Valley, June 20, 1856.

Sir: In my last communication (No. 11) which I had the honor to address to department headquarters on the 11th instant, I reported the visit of the chiefs Ow-hi and Te-i-as and their promise to come in at the expiration of five days. I have no question as to their sincerity and strong desire for peace, and I am at a loss to know the reason of their failure; however, such is the fact. I have not seen any of those Indians since. The chief told me that they had sent a messenger over to the Sound, and they seemed very anxious to hear from there before they came in; but whether they did or not, they were to come in at the expiration of five days.

I now learn from Governor Stevens that Ow-hi and Te-i-as some three months since made overtures of peace and desired to pass over into the Sound district that several messages have passed between them, and that the governor's last message invited them to meet him at a point west of the Cascades. After the last visit of the chiefs to my camp I did not relax my labors on the bridge across the Na-chess. The difficulties were greater than I anticipated; after bridging the main stream, a dense undergrowth of six hundred yards had to be cut through and five or six smaller bridges made. However, on the evening of the 17th the road was opened.

On the morning of the 18th I crossed the Na-chess with eight companies, (one dragoons, one artillery, two of the 4th infantry, and four of the 9th infantry,) 450 rank and file, and marched north over a broken country nine miles, and encamped on the We-nass. Yesterday morning I marched at sunrise, and still pursuing a northerly course, crossed two ranges of mountains over a very rocky and steep trail, where the mountain howitzer had to be dismounted and packed, and arrived in this valley (17 miles) at 2 p. m. On our march I saw no Indians today. I have scouting parties out exploring the country. This is a very fine valley, some twenty miles in diameter, several branches

of the Yakima flowing through it. It is almost entirely surrounded by high mountains, some of them now covered with snow.

I have made a personal examination of the Na-chess to its mouth, from thence up the Yakima to the fisheries, the military road and the We-nass river; and I now occupy with my troops all the great valley.

Major Garnett joined me on the 13th, with companies B and K, 9th infantry. I left Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe with three companies to occupy "Fort Na-chess." This is an important spot as a depot, and within easy marches of the great fisheries.

I do not despair of ultimately reducing these Indians to sue for peace. I believe they really desire it, and I must find out what outside influence is operating to keep them from coming in. I shall probably stay in this valley several days. This is an unknown region, and I have to feel my way; but when the campaign is over I hope to present a good sketch of the country.

My men are much in want of some articles of clothing, especially shoes, stockings and overalls; I pray that the quartermasters may be able to keep a supply on hand. Shoes, particularly those pegged, last but a few days marching over sharp rocks.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,
Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Captain D. R. Jones, A. A. G.,
Headquarters Dept of the Pacific, Benecia, Cal.

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G.

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific,
San Francisco, January 19, 1856.

Sir: Herewith you will receive special order No. 6 for your present guidance.

The general commanding expects to be at Fort Vancouver before the season for operations against the Indians commences, when he will communicate his plans and instructions more fully; meantime he wishes you to gather all the information possible about the country to be occupied in the spring, taking as a basis one military post somewhere near Walla-Walla, and one near the Seelah fisheries, to be the principal ones, and perhaps a smaller post somewhere between the Seelah fisheries and Fort Dalles - say at the Yakima mission, or on the Simcoe river. By the next mail the general will send you a map of the country and some reliable topographical information concerning the principal points, from which the fisheries and grazing grounds can be so guarded as to keep the Indians from them.

Acting Assistant Surgeon Hammond will be discharged on the arrival of Assistant Surgeon Suckley at Fort Dalles.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

P. S. - The commanding general desires me to add, that he has no authority to recognize any volunteers or to receive them into service. He trusts the number of regular troops in the department will be ample without them.

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific,
San Francisco, January 19, 1856.

(Special Orders No. 6.)

1. Colonel George Wright, 9th infantry, is assigned to the command of Fort Vancouver, where he will for the present make his headquarters. He will also exercise a supervisory control over Forts Dalles and Steilacoom, and the section of the country on the Columbia river and Puget's Sound.

2. As soon as practicable after his arrival at Fort Vancouver, Colonel Wright will make a critical inspection of all the public supplies, including horses and mules at Forts Vancouver and Dalles. Should he discover that any supplies or animals are wanting for an efficient campaign in the Indian country east of the Cascade mountains, he will cause the proper staff officers to make requisitions for such supplies or animals, to be approved by himself, on the chiefs of staff at department headquarters - Major Cross, chief quartermaster, Major Lee, chief commissary, Lieut. Colonel Ripley, chief of ordnance, and Surgeon Byrne, medical director. He will also report fully upon all these points to the commanding general.

3. It having been reported that department special orders No. 92, of November 16, 1855, has not been complied with in regard to the quartermaster department, the particular attention of Colonel Wright is directed thereto that its provisions may be promptly complied with.

4. Captain Ord's company B, 3d artillery, will be ordered to return without delay to Benicia barracks. The detachment of Company M, 3d artillery will be ordered to return with it to the Presidio of San Francisco.

Lieutenant Colonel S. Casey, with two companies 9th infantry, is assigned to Fort Steilacoom. Lieutenant Colonel Casey will make himself acquainted with the state of affairs on Puget's Sound, and will, as soon as possible, report through Colonel Wright a plan of operations in that quarter, the force required, and points at which it may be expedient to establish temporary or permanent posts, keeping in view, for instance, Bellingham bay and White river. It is expected that the most active, efficient measures will be adopted with reference to a speedy termination of the war.

By command of Major General Wool:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, California, July 4, 1856.

Colonel: For the information of the Lieutenant General commanding the

Army, and the War Department, I herewith transmit a copy of the letter of instructions to Colonel George Wright, 9th infantry, commanding in the Yakima country, in the Territory of Washington.

It was my intention to have returned to that region to superintend the military operations east of the Cascades, but I have been prevented by ill health, which rendered me incapable of sustaining the fatigue.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieut. Col. L. Thomas, A. A. G.,
Headquarters of the Army, New York.

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, California, July 3, 1856.

Colonel: I am directed by Major General Wool, commanding the department, to acknowledge your letters of the 8th, 11th, and 20th ultimo. He says "that while he anticipated, by your letters of the 8th and 11th, a speedy termination of the war with the Yakimas, he was surprised to learn by the letter of the 20th of their sudden disappearance from the Na-chess river, and, as it would seem, although comprising a large force, their whereabouts, or the direction they had taken to elude your vigilance, had not been traced.

"It would appear, however, from yours of the 20th, that an outside influence had been exerted to prevent the Yakimas from coming in, as you previously anticipated. The commanding general, in his communication of the 16th June, cautioned you against the whites in your rear, from whom he thinks you have as much to apprehend as the Indians in your front. He thinks you ought to have discovered from your first interview with Governor Curry and the unfortunate Governor Stevens that it was never their intention that the war with the Indians should be brought to a close by regular troops. Hence their keeping in the field volunteers when there was not the slightest necessity to cause to justify it.

"Lieut. Col. Casey notified Governor Stevens some time since that volunteers were not needed for the defence of the inhabitants of Puget's Sound, and that he had sufficient force to guard all the points necessary in that district. Still, as it appears, Stevens has now several hundred men in the field; and by the mail which brought your letter of the 20th the general received information that two hundred volunteers, under Col. Shaw, had been ordered from Puget's Sound to the Yakima country, and although you previously had notified Shaw that they were not required, that they passed through the Na-chess Pass about the 17th June, which might account for the unexpected disappearance of the Indians in your front. Although this information was received from a reliable source, the general does not believe it to be true, and from the fact that you have made no allusion to any movement of the volunteers under Col. Shaw or any one else in your last communications."

"The general, however, with the ample forces under your command, apprehends no other evil than delay to bring the Indians to terms. Yet he would forewarn you that you cannot be too cautious or wary of your double enemy. If a defeat, or if any serious disaster should happen to your command, it would be a source of great rejoicing to scrip holders, and especially to

those who are anxious for a long war, and who have proclaimed it a God-send to the people of the Territories of Washington and Oregon."

The general commanding also "calls your attention to indirect reports which have reached here, that your main depot of supplies at the Dalles has been left unguarded, except by a few sick and disabled men. This the general does not believe to be true. With your ample forces there would be no necessity for leaving so important a post as the Dalles unprotected or without troops to defend it. A company, he thinks, would not be too large a guard for that post."

In conclusion, the general says "as the war 'is finished' in Puget's Sound and in southern Oregon, it only remains to you to give it the finishing stroke. This the general does not doubt will soon be accomplished by the activity, enterprise, and gallantry of yourself and of those under your command."

"You will recollect that you have nothing to do with volunteers or Governor Stevens. If you should find them or any citizens in your way, you will arrest, disarm, and send them out of the Yakima country."

Lieut. Col. Morris, commanding at Vancouver, has been ordered to send the recruits now at his post to increase the guard of the Dalles, unless he has information that you have left a company for that purpose.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. W. MACKALL,
A. A. General.

Col. George Wright, 9th Infantry,
Com. District of Columbia River and Northern Oregon.

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, Cal., July 19, 1856.

Sir: In the absence of Major General Wool, confined by severe indisposition at Napa Springs, I am directed to report that the Indians (lately hostile) in northern California and southern Oregon, have all surrendered, to the number of 1,225, and are now under guard and protection of the troops on their way to the coast reservation.

The three passes from this reservation will be closed and held by as many posts - one, on the Yankill, 25 miles from Dayton; the second, as near Cowallis; and the third, near the mouth of the Sinselaw.

From the Upper Yakima river Colonel Wright reports (July 1) that some sixty Indians have sought his camp, consented to go with their families to such place as he would designate, and have been directed to Fort Na-chess. From these Indians he learns that ^{the} peace party is increasing, and that the most influential of the hostile chiefs, Kamiakin, with difficulty keeps his party together.

The colonel continues his march to the mountains, beyond which, on a large river well stocked with salmon, this chief has established his people.

Affairs on Puget's Sound are in the same state as at the general's last report.

So soon as his health permits, the general will send a detailed report, making mention of such officers and troops as deserve commendation, and showing the continuing mischief from the double negotiation and war with the Indians by the authorities of the Territory and those of the United States.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

W. W. MACKALL,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Lieut. Colonel L. Thomas, A. A. General,
Headquarters of the Army, New York.

July 20. - The health of the general is so much worse that he yesterday sent out orders for the return of Surgeon Byrne to the Springs.

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, August 4, 1856.

Colonel: Owing to ill health, with which I have been afflicted for more than five weeks, I find myself unable to fulfill the promise contained in the communication of Major Mackall, dated the 19th ult. I can therefore do but little more than forward the enclosed correspondence, which I commend to the attention of the Lieutenant General commanding the army, and the Secretary of War. It will show, to some extent, the difficulties imposed on the regular officers by the efforts on the part of Governor Stevens to prolong the war against the Indians, who are peaceably inclined, and would not make war on the whites if the latter would exhibit towards them the common feelings of humanity, and the authorities of Washington Territory would treat them with ordinary justice. Governor Stevens is crazy, and does not know what he is doing; and Governor Curry's satellites go for exterminating the Indians. Between the efforts of the two governors and their coadjutors to defeat the regulars in their endeavors to restore peace and maintain it, by a judicious disposition of the troops, they have a very arduous and difficult task to perform.

Although Governor Stevens has been again and again notified that his volunteers were unnecessary to protect or defend the inhabitants of Puget's Sound, he still keeps several hundred volunteers in the field, and recently sent Colonel Shaw with, it is said, two hundred volunteers to the Walla-Walla country. In doing this, his object (for there are no whites in that country to protect or defend,) was to provoke a continuance of the war with the Walla-Wallas, etc., and to plunder the Indians of their horses and cattle. I have ordered Colonel Wright, as soon as he completed his arrangements with the Yakimas and Klikatats, to hasten with all possible despatch to the Walla-Walla country, and to order Stevens' volunteers out of the country. In case they refused to go, to arrest, disarm, and send them out of the country. See my instructions to Colonel Wright, Marked No. 1; also my instructions to Lieut. Colonel Casey, with his correspondence with Governor Stevens, enclosed, marked No. 2; also a correspondence with Messrs. Tandler & Co., marked No. 3, which will show that Governor Stevens is making arrangements to continue the war in his Territory; also Colonel Wright's correspondence, marked Nos. 16, 17, 18 and 19, giving a history of events from the 3d to the 18th of July, which contains much interesting and valuable information; and, finally, Lieut. Colonel Casey's report, marked No. 4, in reference to the establishment of posts, and the best means of effecting a

permanent defence of Puget's Sound country. All of which I could hope might claim attention, and especially so much as related to permanent posts, which I have no right to establish without the sanction of the Secretary of War.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieut. Colonel L. Thomas, A. A. General,
Headquarters of the Army, New York.

P. S. Notwithstanding Governor Stevens's volunteers, I have not the slightest apprehensions that Colonel Wright will have any difficulty with the Walla-Wallas, or neighboring tribes.

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

(No. 1.)

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,
Benboa, Cal., August 2, 1856.

Sir: I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letters of the 7th, 9th, and two of the 18th of July.

Major General Wool congratulates you on your successful termination of the war with the Yakimas and Klikitats. He directs that two (instead of one) posts be established in the Yakima country; one of these garrisoned by three (3) companies, the other by one, and this latter to be in the vicinity of the Atahman mission.

As soon as you have arranged matters with the Yakimas and Klikitats, the general desires you, with the least possible delay, to conduct an expedition of five or six companies against the Walla-Wallas etc. Having arranged all difficulties with those tribes, then establish the post, as before directed, in the Walla-Walla country, and direct the dragoons to make excursions to give protection to emigrants approaching Oregon or Washington Territory. "No emigrants or other whites," says the general, except the 'Hudson Bay Company,' or other persons having ceded rights from the Indians, will be permitted to settle or remain in the Indian country, or on land not ceded by treaty, confirmed by the senate, and approved by the President of the United States."

"These orders are not, however, to apply to the miners engaged in collecting gold at the Colville mines." The miners will, however, be notified that should they interfere with the Indians "or their squaws, they will be punished and sent out of the country."

"It appears that Colonel Shaw, from Puget's Sound, with his volunteers, has gone to the Walla-Walla country. His men can only be subsisted by plundering the Indians in that country." Colonel Wright will order them out of the country by the way of the Dalles. If they do not go immediately they will be arrested, disarmed, and sent out.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. W. MACKALL,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Colonel George Wright

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, Cal., August 2, 1856

Sir: Your letters of July 11th and 21st, the latter enclosing your correspondence with the governor of Washington Territory, have been submitted to Major General Wool, who directs me to give his approval of the selections you have made for the permanent posts of your district, viz: Steilacoom and Billingham bay, and either Ludlow, Townsend, or Discovery, as may finally seem best to you. Five companies are all that can be spared, and you will arrange the garrisons of those posts accordingly.

The major general directs me to express the surprise he felt after reading the above letter of the 11th, in which you report "everything quiet, and no indications of hostile Indians," and "the time has now arrived when a disposition of the troops should be made for the permanent defence," etc., and name the three posts above specified as proper and sufficient to that end, to find you on the 18th instant offering to occupy the posts at Montgomery and Selim prairie, (neither being among your specified points,) about to be abandoned by the volunteers from Washington Territory.

No new acts of hostility appear to have made this change in your dispositions either necessary or judicious, as none such are mentioned in your still more recent letter of the 21st, where you "reiterate" that there "has been no necessity for any volunteers in the Puget's Sound district for many months past."

The major general cannot see why you should occupy posts on the 18th instant which you thought unnecessary on the 11th, and which had been held by volunteers whose services were deemed unnecessary as late as the 21st.

In conclusion, I am directed to say, "you will recollect that you have nothing to do with Governor Stevens or volunteers, and hereafter all communications from governors of Territories must be transmitted immediately to the major general for his decision."

The general desires Captain Keyes, 3d artillery, to be ordered by you to resume his station at the Presidio of San Francisco, so soon as you can spare his company.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. W. MACKALL,
Assistant Adjutant General.

Lieutenant Colonel S. Casey,
9th Infantry, Commanding District of Puget's Sound,
Fort Steilacoom, W. T.

Headquarters, Puget's Sound District,
Fort Steilacoom, W. T., July 21, 1856.

Major: I have the honor to enclose, for the information of the general commanding the department, a copy of a communication received by me from Governor Stevens on the 18th instant, with a copy of my reply.

I will reiterate what I have already communicated to department headquarters, viz: that there has been no necessity for any volunteers in the ~~Puget's Sound~~

Puget's Sound district for several months past; and further, that there never has been, since my arrival here, on the 31st of January last, any necessity for more than two companies of those troops, had they been organized according to the infantry of the regular army and mustered into the service of the United States.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SILAS CASEY,
Lt. Col. 9th Infantry, Com'g Puget's Sound District.
Major W. W. Mackall,
Ass't Adj't Gen., Headq'rs, Dep't of the Pacific,
Benicia, California..

Executive Office,
Territory of Washington.

Sir: I am desirous to turn over to you Fort Hicks, (Montgomery's,) and have directed Captain Swindall to confer with you in relation to it.

Quartermaster General Miller will move the stores to the town of Steilacoom.

The Steilacoom company will be mustered out of service as soon as Fort Hicks, of which it constitutes the garrison, is received by you.

Orders have been issued to muster out of service the guard at the Nisqually ferry block-house, the company at Skookum bay, the companies at the Cowlitz, and in Clark county.

I am desirous that you should occupy with your command the posts on the line of the Snoqualmie, at present held by Major Van Bokkelin with his command of about ninety men. Their terms of service will expire in some few weeks. A company of fifty men, ^{will} I think, be adequate to the duty.

If it will be incompatible with your views to occupy that line, I propose on the expiration of the term of enlistment of Major Van Bokkelin's command, to organize a new company of about fifty men to hold the line.

Truly and respectfully,

ISAAC I. STEVENS,
Governor and Commander-in-Chief.

Lieutenant Colonel Silas Casey,
Commanding Puget's Sound District, Fort Steilacoom.
True copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,
First Lieutenant, Third Artillery, A. D. C.

Headquarters, Puget's Sound District,
Fort Steilacoom, W. T., July 18, 1856.

Governor: Your communication respecting Fort Hicks and other matters has just been received.

On the 1st of June I informed Colonel Shaw (and a short time after, a communication, yourself) that I was ready at any time to occupy the

stations at Montgomery's and the Yelin prairie when you were prepared to give them up. I am ready now to carry out that offer, and early next week will send troops to Montgomery's.

I do not consider any other points within the region of recent hostilities than those occupied by me at present and the stations at Montgomery's and the Yelin, in any manner necessary for the protection of the frontier.

Not considering any troops necessary on the Snoqualmie line at present, I decline ordering any there.

SILAS CASEY,
Lieutenant Colonel, Ninth Infantry,
Commanding Puget's Sound District.

His Excellency I. I. Stevens,
Governor of Washington Territory, Olympia, W. T.

RICHARD ARNOLD,
Lieutenant, and A. D. C.

(No. 3)

San Francisco, July 29, 1856.

Dear Sir: Lieut. Colonel H. R. Crosbie, aid to Governor Stevens, of Washington Territory, is in our city to make purchases on account of the present Indian war in that Territory. Will you be kind enough to advise us whether we would be safe in selling them \$20,000 worth of goods? Would the general government at Washington recognize the debt? Excuse our audacity in so addressing you.

Your most obedient servants,

TANDLER & Co.

Major General Wool.

True copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,
1st Lieutenant 3d Artillery, A. D. C.

Chief Quartermaster's Office, Dept. of the Pacific
Benicia, July 30, 1856.

Gentlemen: In reply to your letter of the 29th instant, the commanding general has directed me to say that he knows of no war in Washington Territory in which Governor Stevens is engaged, as there are sufficient United States troops in the Territory to quell Indian hostilities. Any contract that Governor Stevens may make under these circumstances will be illegal, and in his opinion will not be sanctioned by Congress.

Very respectfully, gentlemen, your obedient servant,

O. CROSS,
Major and Quartermaster.

Messrs. Tandler & Co.,
San Francisco.

True copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,
1st Lieutenant 3d Artillery, A. D. C.

(No. 4)

Headquarters, Puget Sound District,
Fort Steilacoom, W. T., July 11, 1856.

Major: I have the honor to report that I shall transmit, for the information of the general commanding the department, the map of the Territory mentioned in a former communication. Inasmuch as it would be injured by folding, I shall send it by express.

I have just returned from visiting the stations of my district, (seven in number.) I find everything quiet, and no indications of hostile Indians. Muckle Shute has two block-houses, and an excellent stockade, and I have directed that log quarters for one company be constructed at that place. We have an excellent road from Muckle Shute to Thomas' Ferry, and I have caused a bridge to be constructed across White river, near the forks of that and the Green river, the only point where one could be erected without great labor and expense. After the quarters at the Muckle Shute are finished, and a new trail opened to Porter's prairie, one company will be sufficient to occupy that post, and the dependent block-houses.

The Indians at the fish-weir appear happy and contented. I have directed another weir to be made on the Black river, to prevent fish from ascending the Cedar river. The war in this district has ceased, and will not be renewed unless induced by the whites. I think the Indians here have an acute appreciation of kind and just treatment.

Inasmuch as the time has now arrived when a disposition of the troops should be made for the permanent defence and security of this Territory west of the mountains, I will indicate in a brief manner those points which, in my opinion, should be occupied. First, there should be a post in this vicinity, of four companies. As regards its exact locality, in my opinion Nisqually would be the most advantageous place. A post could be erected there, within one mile of a landing on the Sound, where a wharf might be built. For further information with regard to it I refer to my communication of the 13th of February last.

I am not prepared to say that a permanent post will be necessary at the Muckle Shute or vicinity. By keeping a good supply of land transportation at the post in this vicinity, (and especially after the roads shall have become improved,) in my opinion, the necessity of a permanent post at or in the vicinity of that point will be obviated.

It will be prudent, however, to occupy that point and the two neighboring block-houses for some time yet; while so occupied, they can be considered as dependencies of this post.

In the next place, I would recommend a post either at Fort Ludlow, Fort Townsend, Port Discovery, or some point in that vicinity, as further examination may determine. This post will have regard to the northern Indians who may come to the Sound for depredating purposes, as well as to the numerous tribes who inhabit between those points and the Pacific.

The third post should be at Bellingham bay, as near the coal mines as a good location could be found. One important condition in the location of these posts should not be overlooked; they should be at points easy of access for vessels at any time of tide, and at the same time well protected from the winds and waves. A steamer of five or six hundred tons burden, capable of a speed of fifteen miles per hour, I consider indispensably necessary, in connexion with the posts, for the proper defence of the Sound. The boat should be subject to the orders of the senior officer stationed on

This

the Sound, and would be employed in transporting troops to any threatened point for the purpose of repelling any irruption of the northern Indians, or of promptly quelling any disturbance which might arise with our own Indians.

All the supplies requisite for the posts, from San Francisco, could be transported on this boat, and coal and wood for her use can be obtained on the Sound cheap, and in abundance. It would be the best economy to have a boat built in New York expressly for the purpose required.

In the end it will prove a great extravagance on the part of the general government to neglect in any manner the proper defence of a remote frontier like this; and one chief reason is, that if so neglected, a pretext will always be afforded to a territorial executive to incur and extravagant and unnecessary expenditure of the public money.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SILAS CASEY,

Lt. Col. 9th Infantry, Co., P. S. Dist.

Major W. W. Mackall,

A. A. Gen., Dept. of the Pacific, Benicia, Cal.

True copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,

Lieut. and A. D. C.

(No. 16.)

Headquarters, Northern District, Dept. of the West,
Camp on the Wenatcha river, W. T., July 7, 1856.

Sir: On the 3d instant I broke up my camp on the Upper Yakima, near the "Snoqualmie" Pass, forded the river without accident, marched five miles, and halted for the night. Marching at sunrise, on the 4th, our course lay east of north, following a tributary of the Yakima until I reached the base of the mountains. During this day's march the repeated crossing and recrossing the stream rendered our progress slow, and, after marching twelve miles, finding myself at the point where the route deflects from the water-courses and takes a direction north over the mountains, I encamped for the night. Resuming our march early on the 5th, we began to experience some of the difficulties which our Indian guides had enumerated. The mountains are very high the trail frequently obstructed by masses of fallen trees, which had to be removed by a pioneer party. Again the trail runs along the sides of a mountain, with barely room for a single animal, and occasionally, the stones and gravel yielding to the pressure, a mule with its pack would roll down the precipice. After marching twelve miles, we encamped in the mountains. Marching at daylight on the morning of the 6th, for the distance of five miles, the trail was far worse than that of the preceding day. However, we soon struck a stream and, following its bed and crossing it frequently, at last ascended a high mountain which overlooks this valley, into which I descended, and encamped at 1 p. m.

As I approached, the chiefs who had visited me on the Yakima came out to meet me, also the priest, Pendosey. They assured me that everything was progressing favorably, and that a large number of Indians, with their families were on the other side of the river fishing. After I had encamped, the chiefs and a number of warriors came over to have a talk; they appear to have no all I may require. They say that they will all I require it; but they express great apprehension and would prefer to stay here for awhile, until

they can lay up a good supply of salmon, when they would all go to the Kittitas to winter. I have examined all the fishing places south of this, and there are none to compare with this, at this season of the year. These Indians have always been in the habit of fishing here, but moving further south to winter. This river is considered as the northern boundary of the Yakima country. But few Indians are living north of this point as far as the British possessions.

If I consent for these Indians to remain here temporarily to fish, I shall require hostages for their good behavior and compliance with their promises.

Kamiakin has fled to the Palouse country, and Ow-hi has gone beyond the Columbia, and, in all probability, will not attempt to come back before next winter.

I have sent word to the nations beyond the Columbia that they must not harbor these renegade chiefs; that if they do they will suffer for it, as the war may be carried into their country.

The chief Te-i-as is in my camp, and I shall keep him and his family with me. Although he is a brother to Ow-hi, and father-in-law to Kamiakin, he is, and always has been, our good friend.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,
Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Captain D. R. Jones,
Assistant Adjutant General,
Headquarters Department of the Pacific, Benicia, Cal.

True copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,
1st Lieutenant 3d Artiller, A. D. C.

(No. 17.) Headquarters, N. District, Dept. of the Pacific,
Camp on the Upper Columbia river, W. T.,
July 9, 1856.

Sir: I marched from my camp on the Wenatcha river at sunrise this morning. Our route along the right bank of the Wenatcha was, at times, almost impracticable, the trail passing over rugged mountains, and but a few inches wide, where a single false step would precipitate man or beast into the roaring cataract, five hundred feet below. By working at the trail, and then leading each animal very carefully, I succeeded in crossing over the whole command, with baggage, pack-train, and three mountain howitzers, safely; at 3 p. m. encamped on the right bank of the Columbia.

Previous to marching, I made arrangements for the Indians, with their families and baggage, to follow immediately in rear of our pack-train, with a company of infantry and a detachment of dragoons as rear-guard. It was nearly 9 o'clock before the Indians could all get off. They have probably a thousand horses, and extended five ^{some} miles; With their women and children of course they move slow. It is impossible at this moment to say how many there are in all. I left many to fish, and others will cross over by another trail. There were all willing to come with me now if I said so; but as they desire to remain a short time at the fisheries, I had no objections; my

principal object being to carry off the large mass of the Yakima nation, and locate them permanently, and beyond the possibility of their being operated upon by their former chiefs. Such a large number of those people as I now have will not be able for awhile to subsist independent of aid from the government. Dispersed over the whole country, they can get along very well; but then we should have no hold on them for their good behavior. They have, heretofore, had but little intercourse with the white people, and that little has been anything but satisfactory to them. They have usually kept their women and children remote as possible from our people, and it has been a work of great delicacy and labor to allay their fears and convince them that I have the power and the will to protect them from insult and injury. Our success in quieting their apprehensions has exceeded my highest expectations.

During my halt on the Wenatcha, I was visited by several little parties of Indians living on streams to the north and east of the Columbia, most of whom had been in, or sent to me, when I was on the Na-chess. These Indians live outside of the Yakima country, are very friendly to us, and appear very anxious to cultivate a good understanding. I have given them good advice, and told them they should not be molested.

In all my operations recently, the aid I have received from Father Pendosey has essentially contributed to our success. He has great influence with these Indians, and has exerted himself, both night and day, in bringing matters to their present state.

Kamiakin, who plunged these people into war, and was continually boasting of what he would do, has basely deserted his people and fled, probably to the Palouse country. His career on this side of the Columbia is ended. I have two or three good and influential chiefs with these Indians. A new government must be erected, which will unite all their hearts, and place them in deadly hostility to the refugee chiefs. This can all be accomplished by the judicious management of the military commander who may be left in this quarter.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,
Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Captain D. R. Jones, A. A. G.,
Headquarters, Dep't Pacific,
Benicia, California.

A true copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,
First Lieut. Third Artillery, A.D.

(No. 18)

Headquarters, N. District, Dep't of the Pacific,
Camp on Yakima river, Kittitas valley, W. T., July 18, 1856.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 3d instant, and the pleasure of reporting that, notwithstanding the numerous difficulties and embarrassments I have encountered, the war in this country is closed.

When I last had the honor to address department headquarters, on the 9th instant, I was on the Upper Columbia, at the mouth of the Wenatcha, en route for this valley. Resuming my march on the morning of the 10th, three days brought me to the Yakima river, and on the 13th I encamped at this place

Since leaving Fort Na-chess, this command has marched one hundred and eighty miles, principally over a rugged mountainous country hitherto unknown to us, and deemed impracticable for military operations. But the patient endurance of the officers and men overcame every obstacle; we have penetrated the most remote hidingplaces of the enemy, and forced him to ask for mercy. Deserted by their chiefs, and perseveringly pursued by our troops, the Indians have no other course left them but to surrender. I have now about five hundred men, women and children at this place, with a much larger number of horses and cattle. These Indians of their own accord brought in and delivered up all the horses and mules in their possession belonging to the government, about twenty in number. Were it advisable, I could assemble a much larger number of Indians at this place, but the difficulty of subsisting them makes it necessary to allow them to occupy separate districts of country where fish and roots can be obtained in abundance. This river affords them but few fish at this season of the year; when the salmon commence their fall run they will prepare their winter supply. To the people now with me, I am compelled to issue at least two hundred and fifty pounds of flour daily, to enable them to get along. Still I think it better to do this, than to send them far away beyond my immediate control. Other Indians are constantly coming in; this party is the nucleus, the central point around which they will all gather in the fall. I have had interviews with nearly all of the Yakima nation, and they are fully impressed with all the folly of their continuing the war; they have been made to feel the inconvenience of it. So long as troops simply moved through their country and retired, it had but little effect; the Indians were generally the gainers by it. But a steady advance over their whole country, rendering it necessary to move their families and stock, has had a different effect, understanding as they do that the country is to be permanently occupied.

I have examined this country pretty thoroughly, and I am somewhat at a loss to fix upon a position for a permanent military post. The whole country should be given to the Indians; they require it; they cannot live at any one point for the whole year. The roots, the berries, and the fish make up their principal subsistence; these are all obtained at different places and different seasons of the year. Hence there are frequently changing their abodes, until fall, when they descend from the mountain districts and establish themselves in the lower valleys for the winter. There is but little timber on the streams, and after the rainy season sets in, early in December, the bottom lands all overflow, and the plains are covered with a deep snow. South from this, the most eligible point for a post is a short distance beyond the "To ponish," where there is good timber for building, grass and water in abundance. This point is on the southern boundary of the Simcoe valley, and at the point of intersection of the trails from Fort Dalles and the Kamas prairie. The Kamas prairie or lake, it will be recollected, is about thirty miles from the Columbia river, and reached by ascending the Klikitat. It is the habitation of the Klikitats, and it was from that point came the war party which attacked the people of the Cascades. The point above referred to has the advantage also of commanding both routes to the Columbia, and holding in check the Klikitats, who would not be likely to commit any hostile acts with a military force in their rear. The season is rapidly wearing away, and arrangements for the winter must be made as soon as practicable. The Indians, during the coming winter, must occupy the warm valleys and I would suggest that one military post, of four companies, would be ample until next spring.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,
Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall,
Assistant Adjutant General

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, California.

True copy:

RICHARD ARNOLD,
1st Lieutenant, 3d Artillery, A. D. C.

(No. 19.)

Headquarters, N. District, Dept. of the Pacific,
Camp on Yakima River, Kittitas Valley, W. T.,
July 18, 1856.

Sir: Recurring again to your communication of the 3d instant, I would remark, that my letter of the 18th gave you all the information I possessed in relation to the movements of the volunteers under Colonel Shaw from Puget's Sound. My prompt reply to Colonel Shaw's letter, before he commenced his march, declining all aid, and informing him that I had an ample force of regular troops for operations in this country, led me to presume that the expedition would be abandoned. Subsequently Colonel Shaw crossed the mountains and passed down the We-nass; since which I have heard nothing from him. When in the country, I received no message from him whatever.

I have not overlooked from the first the evident determination to co-operate with the regular forces in bringing this war to a close, and I have steadily resisted all advances. My efforts have been retarded, but not defeated, by what was done.

Kamiakin has gone far away, and probably will never again come back. Ow-hi has gone to the upper Columbia, and probably to the buffalo country. Old Te-i-as, with his family, is still on the Columbia. He is an old man and very timid, but our very good friend. His sons and daughters were very anxious to come with us, but the old man insisted upon keeping them with himself until he comes in.

Before I marched from Fort Na-chess, I sent an Indian to ascertain the whereabouts of the "Klikitats," what they were doing, etc. The messenger has returned and informs me that they are at the Kamas lake digging roots; that they are desirous of meeting me, and only awaited for me to fix upon the time and place. I have sent messengers for them to meet me at the Ah-tah-mim Mission on the 25th instant.

Three friendly Indians, belonging at the Cascades, who joined the hostile party in the attack, fled when I retook that place, and are now with the Klikitats. They must be given up, and additional security for the future good conduct of the whole band.

The Indians who murdered Agent Bolon are not here; they have probably fled from the country.

I shall march for the Ah-ta-mim on the 21st instant with three companies leaving Major Garnett here with four. As a post of observation, this point must be occupied until the Indians move to their winter residence.

With regard to my depot at Fort Dalles, it is, and always has been, perfectly safe. When Colonel Steptoe left there, he left a detachment nearly equal to a company, and besides Captain Jordan had more than one hundred employes at his command. I directed Colonel Steptoe to leave one company entire if he deemed it necessary. He reported that the guard he left was ample.

Some time since I received an application from Lieutenant Derby, through Captain Winder, commanding at the Cascades, for a guard for the party at work on the military road. I directed Captain Winder to furnish a small guard, if practicable, from his company, informing him that it was my design to send an additional company to that point at an early date. The occupation of the block-houses by Captain Winder's company left him no men to spare for the guard, and I had determined, before I received the application of Major Bache, with the endorsement of the general, to send down a company as soon as I returned from my expedition to the north.

On the 16th instant Brevet Major Lugenbeel, with company A, 9th infantry, marched from this place, with orders to proceed forthwith to Fort Dalles; the major to assume the command of that post, and then to detach a subaltern and seventeen men to occupy the block-houses at the upper Cascades; Captain Winder to occupy the lower block-house, detailing a subaltern and thirteen men to remain constantly encamped with the party under Lieutenant Derby. The small central block-house I have ordered to be abandoned, on the representations of Captain Winder that it is entirely unnecessary, and that the people living there keep the party of soldiers drunk all the time; even his best men cannot be relied upon.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,
G. WRIGHT,

Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall,

A. A. Gen., Headquarters, Dept. Pacific, Benicia, Cal.

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, August 19, 1856.

Colonel: By some accident I received no letters from Colonel Wright by the last mail from Oregon.

As I anticipated in my report of the 4th instant to the Lieutenant General and the War Department, Governor Stevens' volunteers succeeded in their mission to the Walla-Walla country. From their reports, as published in the Oregon papers, it appears that they attacked a party of Indians at Grande Ronde, some thirty or forty miles from Walla-Walla, in Oregon Territory, when they defeated the Indians, destroyed their supplies, and captured three hundred horses. The whole object being to plunder the Indians and prolong the war, Colonel Wright was ordered with all possible despatch to that country, with orders to arrest, disarm, and send the volunteers out of the country.

Although their attack and plundering of the Indians may increase our troubles, I do not apprehend any difficulty in bringing the Indians to terms. The Indians are anxious for peace. Governor Stevens and the satellites of Governor Curry are not for peace, but a long war and a war of extermination.

Herewith I transmit a communication from Captain Judah, dated August 7th, by which, now that the Rogue River Indians have been removed, it will be perceived that some of the whites in northern California are for making war against the Indians in that section of the country.

If the officers of the army could have the expending of half the money appropriated for the benefit of the Indians in California, I sincerely believe they could prevent all difficulties between the whites and the Indians. From the complaints from all quarters against the Indian Department in California, I can arrive at no other conclusion than that the affairs of the department are not judiciously nor efficiently managed.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieutenant Colonel L. Thomas,

Asst. Adjt. Gen., Headquarters of the army, New York city.

A letter from Captain H. M. Judah, 4th Infantry, written at Fort Jones, California, August 7, 1856, who says command of that post relinquished to him that morning by Brevet Major Wise, 3d artillery, and that he was enclosing copy of the Yreka Union containing accounts of engagements between volunteer and Modocs and Des Chutes Indians.

"As a truthful statement of occurrences, I cannot believe the article referred to is at all to be relied on, its ~~contents~~ inconsistencies being too prominent to require notice, particularly that which makes a large body of Indians, flushed with victory, and through which twenty-three volunteers were forced to cut their way for several miles, retreat before General Cosby and ten men. The statement that the volunteers pursued and endeavored to attack the first body of Indians they encountered is significant, and entirely sustains me in my opinion of the character of the entire expedition.... That the expedition was unauthorized by the circumstances upon which the necessity for it was based, is the opinion of every candid and honest citizen with whom I have conversed upon the subject. It was possible, through the exercise of a proper discretion and judgment, to have ascertained the perpetrators of the murders upon the Siskeyon mountain (two white men) as of that in the Shasta valley (one white man), the more readily so through the assistance of the chief of the Klamath Indians, Alsk, who has always evinced a most friendly disposition towards the whites, and an anxious desire to maintain peaceful relations with them. When last in Yreka, he stated to Mr. Rusborough (late Indian agent) that among so many Indians as he attempted to control, there were necessarily some who were maliciously disposed, and, as I was informed, evinced a desire to assist in bringing them to justice should they ever be guilty of any outrages against the whites. From the information I possess, it is apparent to me that the volunteers under General Cosby had no intention of discriminating between Indians; neither would it have been possible to have done so, in view of its character, had its commander been so disposed." -- Judah.

Headquarters Department of the Pacific,

Benicia, California, September 19, 1856.

Colonel: For the information of the Lieutenant General commanding the Army, and the Secretary of War, I herewith forward a copy of a letter from Colonel Wright, 9th infantry, dated September 8, 1856. He has gone to the Walla-Walla country to superintend the establishing of a post in that country, to be under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe, and to

visit the several neighboring tribes, to ascertain their feelings and disposition towards the whites. I, however, apprehend no difficulty whatever with them, and certainly not if the volunteers can be kept out of the Indian country. The object hitherto has been plunder - on the one hand the treasury of the United States; and on the other, the extermination and plunder of the Indians, who have a large number of horses and cattle. I do not believe Governor Curry could have fitted out a winter expedition against the Walla-Wallas, but from the fact that they had a great number of horses and cattle, by the capture of which the volunteers expected a large remuneration. This information is from sources not to be doubted.

By the next steamer I will transmit a report of the treatment and management of Indian affairs in California. It was my intention to have transmitted it by ^{the} steamer of the 20th instant, but delayed in consequence of not receiving important information anticipated.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieut. Colonel L. Thomas, A. A. G.,
Headquarters of the Army, New York

Headquarters, Northern District,
Department of the Pacific, Fort Vancouver, W. T., Sept. 8, 1856.

Major: Since my last communication, on the 25th ultimo, all of the Indians both at this place and the Cascades have been removed to the White Salmon river, where they are fishing, and making preparations for the coming winter. An agent will remain with them.

Everything is perfectly quiet in the Yakima country. From Colonel Steptoe I have received no official information; I learn, however, by the express from the superintendent of Indian affairs, that the colonel has proceeded without any difficulty, and would doubtless reach his position on the 3d instant; possibly I may hear from him before the steamer leaves.

Governor Stevens was on the Mill creek with a small detachment of volunteers under Colonel Shaw. A pack-train despatched by the governor for Walla-Walla, in advance of the command of Colonel Steptoe, had been captured by the Indians. It appears that the train (a small one) was accompanied by forty-one men, and at the time of being attacked by the Indians was within a few miles of the camp of Colonel Shaw, and within view from his camp. It is reported that the Indians numbered seventy-five and belonged to the tribes engaged in the affair with Shaw's volunteers in July. Bad management caused the loss of the train; no effort was made to drive off the Indians; the men sheltered themselves behind their packs and animals until after dark, and then made a precipitate retreat to Colonel Shaw's camp, leaving everything in the hands of the enemy. I learn that a detachment was advanced from the camp to succor the train, but from some unknown reason it did not reach its destination.

The superintendent of Indian affairs has taken up to Walla-Walla a supply of provisions and presents for the Indians, and Nez Perces and other Indians were coming to a council to be held about the time of the arrival of Colonel Steptoe with his command.

Notwithstanding all these little contre-temps, I doubt not of the ultimate success of our arrangements for the pacification of all the Indian tribes.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT

Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall, A. A. G.,

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific, Benicia, California.

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, California, September 3, 1856.

Colonel: Since my communication of the 19th of August, I have received communications from Colonel George Wright, 9th infantry, of the 25th and 27th of July, and 3d, 17th, and 24th (two) of August, copies of which are herewith enclosed; all of which I would commend to the attention of the Lieutenant General commanding the Army and the Secretary of War. I enclose a copy of instructions to Colonel Wright, dated the 1st instant.

By Colonel Wright's letter of the 17th August, it will be perceived that "Governor Stevens has countermanded his requisition for two additional companies of volunteers, and those now in the field will be required forthwith to leave the country." See my communications addressed to the headquarters of the army, dated 4th and 19th August; also a copy of instructions already forwarded to the headquarters of the army, to Colonel Wright, dated the 3d of July. It will also be seen by the letter of August 24th, that Colonel Wright has recovered uninjured the howitzer abandoned by Major Haller..

I have never doubted for a moment that as soon as the volunteers ceased their depredations and savage barbarities on the Indians, arrangements could be made satisfactory to all concerned. Nothing is required but common justice and the ordinary feelings of humanity to be extended to the Indians, to keep them quiet and to preserve the peace of the country. The object of the war has been, from the commencement, one of plunder of the Indians and the treasury of the United States, prompted by political and pecuniary considerations, not doubting, in consequence of the appropriation of \$900,000, on account of a pretended Indian war in California, and the appropriation of \$70,000 on account of a small Indian fight in the Rogue river country, that Congress would, no matter how great the expense, pay the bill. The advocates of the war, in reference to the expense, have uniformly referred to the California appropriation as conclusive evidence that the expenses of the recent war would be paid by the United States. Hence, powers not conferred on the President of the United States were assumed by Governors Curry and Stevens in raising volunteers and marching them beyond their own jurisdiction and making war on Indians peaceably inclined, and who would not have made war on the whites if they had not been attacked. All of which is respectfully submitted.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,

Major General.

Lieut. Col. L. Thomas, A. A. G.,

Headquarters of the Army, New York.

(No. 20.) Headquarters, N. District, Dept. of the Pacific,
Camp on the Atah-nam Creek, W. T.
July 25, 1856.

Sir: On the 21st instant, I marched from the "Kittetas," with one company of artillery, two of infantry, and a detachment of dragoons, leaving Major Garnett with three companies and a detachment of twenty-five dragoons. I brought with me a party of Des Chutes Indians, with their families, whom I have permitted to fish at the Columbia river, on the north side, above the Dalles. I also brought a party of Klikitats, with their families. They are to halt on the To-po-nish, a short distance below, where the road crosses. They can obtain subsistence by fishing, digging roots, etc.

I halted two days at Fort Na-chess, at which place I was visited by a party of Nisqually Indians, who were temporarily living upon the upper waters of the Na-chess. Eight of the principal men came in; the number of men, women and children in their camp is probably seventy. They are poor, having lost nearly all their horses and property, when they crossed the mountains last winter. They are very anxious to return to the "Sound," either to the reservation, or any other point which may be decided on.

At my camp on the "Kittetas," I left Leschi, Nelson, and Kitsap, with a small party of Nisquallies. Leschi is the recognized chief of these people, including those on the Na-chess. They are all desirous of returning to the Sound, provided they can do so in safety. With regard to the three named, I some time since received a letter from Governor Stevens, suggesting that no terms should be granted them; but inasmuch as they came in and departed in security previous to that time, and appeared determined to be our friends, I would not take any harsh measures, without having proof of their guilt. I can establish nothing against them worthy of death. I have no doubt that they have, during the course of the war, committed many murders — at least so we would designate their acts; but they look upon the killing of men, women, and children as a legitimate mode of warfare; even of this I have no evidence. I have written to Colonel Casey, to ascertain from the superintendent of Indian affairs for this Territory if he will receive all these Nisquallies on the reservation, and guaranty their safety. If the answer is in the affirmative, I will then send these Indians under a guard to the nearest military post west of the mountains, to be thence forwarded to the reservation.

Since I have been in this country I have marched over its entire length and breadth, from the Dalles north to the We-nat-cha, and all the rivers have been examined from the mountains to the Columbia river. I have seen all the Indians, and they are now living only at points which I have designated, either near military stations, or higher up on the streams, to enable them to gain a subsistence. They are all at this moment very happy, and fully convinced that their true policy is to abstain from war, and remain forever our friends. I have also dispelled their fears of Kamiakin, who has oppressed and robbed them for many years, and should he ever return to this country, these Indians will all unite against him.

Yesterday morning I left this camp at 3 o'clock, and, with a detachment of dragoons, made a reconnaissance of this creek to its junction with the Yakima; also up the Yakima, etc. It is twelve miles to the Yakima; there is no timber at all on this creek. From the mouth of this creek to the mouth of the Na-chess, it is ten miles. The Yakima presents the same appearance throughout, cottonwood and willow in abundance, but no building materials.

This is the day I fixed upon to meet the Klikitats at this point.
~~Our messengers have~~

Our messengers have been gone nine days. If they do not come by to-morrow, I shall march on the next day for Kamas lake.

G. WRIGHT,

Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall, A. A. Gen.,

Headquarters, Dept. of the Pacific, Benicia, Cal.

(No. 21.) Headquarters, N. District, Dep't of the Pacific,
Camp on A-tah-num Creek, W. T., July 27, 1856.

Sir: On the afternoon of the 25th instant, the "Klikitats" all came into my camp, headed by their venerable chief Tow-a-tax, commonly called Ni-ka-tan-i. They are direct from Kamas lake, and number about forty men. I have been in council with them for two days and their conduct throughout has given me the highest satisfaction. Their promptness in coming in, and the frankness of their speeches, and ready compliance with all my demands, assured me that hereafter we may rely upon their permanent friendship.

The chief Ni-ka-tan-i and the sub-chiefs related the whole affair of the attack at the Cascades; it corresponds with what I had already heard -- that Kamiakin had sent a party of Yakimas to Kamas lake, and commanded that the Klikitats should join them with their young men, and proceed to the Cascades, communicate with the Cascade Indians, and, if practicable, gain them over; then availing themselves of the moment when both steamboats should be there, to burn them, and, at the same time, make a simultaneous attack on the whole line, kill all the white inhabitants, and hold possession of the place until Kamiakin should arrive, which he promised to do with a large force, comprising all the Indians in this country and the borders of the Columbia. They say that the design of Kamiakin was to hold the Cascades permanently. By threats and persuasion, Kamiakin induced twenty of the Klikitats to join the Yakimas; the latter numbered thirty. The whole party of fifty then went to the Cascades, and held secret meetings with the friendly Indians, gained over the chiefs Chenowith and Bannahar, and then made the attack. It does not appear that there was any chief with the party attacking at the Cascades. The chief Ni-ka-tan-i says that the Klikitats have been suffering for a long time the oppressions of Kamiakin and Ow-hi. They have been forced to give up their horses and women, and suffered every species of maltreatment without the power to make a successful resistance.

I demanded of these Indians the immediate surrender of three Cascade Indians who fled with the Klikitats at the time I recovered that line. They were promptly brought in and delivered to my custody.

After a minute and careful investigation of their cases, I can find nothing against them worthy of punishment. Their own story, corroborated by many witnesses, satisfies me that they did not engage in the murders. That they fled, is true; but the defection of their chiefs led them to believe that, if taken by us, they would all be hung. It is proved by the concurrent testimony of all these Indians, that the Cascade chiefs, Chenowith and Bannahar, set fire to their own houses with the view of making us believe that the enemy had done it. I next demanded the restitution of all the property in their possession belonging to the white people; that they should live at the place I should designate; not roam over the country without authority; promise inviolable friendship towards the white people, and

and to oppose with all their forces any attempt of the refugee chiefs to disturb the quiet of the country; and, finally, to deliver the hostages to me to insure a faithful compliance with their agreement. These conditions were all instantly and cheerfully complied with.

When I came over from my camp to the Kittetas, I brought with me about one hundred Klikitats, who had been for some time kept with the Yakimas. I have now reunited them with those from Kamas lake, and over the whole of them placed the chief Ni-ka-tan-i and five sub-chiefs.

The main body of these Indians will live at the Kamas lake during the summer. In the winter they will move down on the Klikitat river, where there is but little snow. Another party I have located in the valley of the To-po-nish, below where the road from the Dalles passes.

Soon after I arrived in this country, quite a party of Klikitats escaped from Kamiakin's people and came to my camp. They were anxious to go back to Oregon, where they had lived before the treaty; and in the then unsettled state of the country, I had no place to put them in safety; accordingly, I permitted them to go to the Dalles. They will now be brought back and incorporated with their own people. The Klikitats at Vancouver will also join the head chief at Kamas lake. By this the whole Klikitat nation will be reunited, and I have the strongest faith in the friendship of the chiefs and people. I will guaranty that they will be on our side in any war we may be engaged in.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,

Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall, A. A. Gen.,

Headquarters Dept. of the Pacific, Benicia, California.

(No. 22.)

Headquarters, N. District, Dept. of the Pacific,
Camp on the To-pon-ish Creek, W. T., August 3, 1856.

Majors: On the 29th ultimo I marched from the A-tah-num to this place, and since that time I have carefully examined the Simcoe valley, and I have come to the conclusion that my present position is the most desirable one for station for the winter.

In front of us is an open plain to the Yakima river; and both up and down that river there is a good trail over a level country - one leading to the Selah and Kittetas, and the other in the direction of the Walla-Walla. On the To-pon-ish there are oak and cottonwood, and at a distance of four miles west of us there is an abundant supply of the best pine timber accessible with wagons.

This valley is much warmer in winter than any of those farther north, and the Indians now at the Kittetas, and on the Yakima, Na-chess, etc., will all winter here. This is a central point. The roads from the Dalles, Kamas lake, and from the north, all unite here, and also from Walla-Walla. The Simcoe valley is extensive, affording grass for our animals and sufficient good land for gardening.

The express has just arrived from the camp on the Yakima. Four companies are there under Brevet Major Haller, and everything was quiet.

I have received your communication of the 19th ultimo, and I shall carry out the instructions of the general as soon as practicable. I have abandoned the camp on the Na-chess, and ordered Colonel Steptoe with his command to this place.

The company of dragoons will proceed to Fort Dalles to escort the supply train to Walla-Walla; and after its departure the infantry companies will march from this point direct for Walla-Walla, to reach there at the same time as the train.

Supplies are now coming up to enable the troops here to begin at once to build huts for the winter.

It is out of the question to confine the Indians in this country to a certain district, unless the government furnish their entire subsistence. The whole country between the Cascade mountains and the Columbia river should be given to the Indians; it is not necessary to the white people. The Indians can subsist themselves if they have it; the mountains, the plains, and the rivers, each in turn affords them food. In the winter they are compelled to live in the valley, and one strong military post will insure their good behavior.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,

Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall, A. A. Gen.,

Headquarters Dept. of the Pacific, Benicia, California.

Headquarters, N. Dist., Department of the Pacific,
Fort Dalles, O. T., August 17, 1856.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 2nd instant.

After the receipt of instructions from department headquarters, under date of the 19th of July, I immediately organized a command to proceed to the Walla-Walla country and establish a post. Although the instructions only required three companies to be sent to Walla-Walla, yet the aspect of affairs in that country induced me to order four. Company L, 3d artillery, company K, 4th infantry, and company K, 9th infantry, were ordered to march from the Simeoe valley, direct for the mouth of the Walla-Walla, under the command of Captain Russell of the 4th infantry. Company E, 1st dragoons, was ordered to this post, to accompany the supply train to the same point. The troops in the valley have already been concentrated, and the march will commence on the 20th. The supply train from this point will leave on the same day, escorted by the dragoons and a few men under orders to join their companies; the whole commanded by Brevet Lieut. Col. E. J. Steptoe, 9th infantry.

The companies now in the field have become much reduced, and the four companies I have ordered to the Walla-Walla, being the largest, equal in number the five remaining in the Yakima country. However, as the general has directed that five or six companies be sent, I shall prepare another company to go up with the next train.

The latest accounts from Walla-Walla represent everything as perfectly quiet, and no further difficulty is apprehended after a military post shall have been established there. Governor Stevens is now here, on his way to

Walla-Walla, with goods and provisions for the Indians. The governor has countermanded his requisition for two additional companies of volunteers, and those now in the field will be required forthwith to leave the country.

I have made arrangements to remove all the Indians near Fort Vancouver to the Yakima country, and, if possible, I propose also to take the Cascade Indians with them. I shall return to Vancouver on the 20th, and as soon as arrangements can be made, forward the Indians to White Salmon river, where they will be landed, and, after fishing, up the river to Kamas lake; they will winter in the Simcoe valley. There will probably be three hundred Indians to be sent up from Vancouver and the Cascades, and as soon as I have a moment's leisure, I shall ascend the White Salmon and make an examination of that portion of the country, and also settle some ^{little} difficulties now existing between the Klikitats and Dog River Indians, with regard to the fisheries on the White Salmon.

As my presence in this quarter could not be dispensed with at this moment, and the Walla-Walla expedition had been organized under the former instructions, I do not deem it proper to delay the movement. To Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe I have confided the expedition. Knowing that the general has the highest confidence in Colonel Steptoe, I doubted not that my course would be approved.

I have now one company of the 4th infantry and two of the 9th infantry encamped on the Yakima, at the Kittetas valley, under command of Brevet Major Haller, 4th infantry. In the Simcoe valley, near the To-po-nish, I have two companies of the 9th infantry under Major Garnett. Major Garnett is erecting temporary quarters for the accommodation of four companies. On the A-tah-nam and streams to the north no timber suitable for building can be found in season for use this winter, and, as most of the Indians would winter in the warm valley of the Simcoe, I had intended to have but one post in that country for the ensuing winter. The camp under Major Haller I had proposed to break ^{up} this fall, and the companies to fall back to the Simcoe; one of them, if necessary, halting at the A-tah-nam and hutting for the winter. Captain Dent, with his company "B," 9th infantry, is now at work on the road from this place to the Simcoe, and it is expected that by the end of September we shall have a fair wagon road all the way.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,
Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall, A. A. G.,
Headquarters Dept of the Pacific, Benicia, California.

Headquarters, Northern District,
Department of the Pacific,
Fort Vancouver, W. T., August 24, 1856.

Sir: The command for Walla-Walla, under Brevet Lieutenant Colonel Steptoe, will probably reach that country by the end of the month. Our latest news from there represents everything as quiet. I have sent twenty-five thousand rations of subsistence to Walla-Walla, with a good supply of quartermaster's and medical stores, and directed Colonel Steptoe to proceed at once with the erection of temporary buildings for the winter.

On the 21st instant I received at Fort Dalles a party of Ti-ah Indians, numbering some two hundred and fifty. Elet-Pamah, with other chiefs of the

Ti-ah Indians, were in my camp soon after I reached the Na-chess, and they say that they are determined, from that moment, to collect as many of their people as possible and come in. The party brought in six or seven hundred horses, and all their property of every description. Their arms were given up to Major Eugenbeel, and the Indians transferred to the immediate charge of the agent.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,

Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall, A. A. G.,

Headquarters Department of the Pacific, Benicia, California.

Headquarters, Northern District,
Department of the Pacific,
Fort Vancouver, W. T., August 24, 1856.

Sir: I have this moment received your communication of the 18th instant.

My letters of the 17th and 19th instant will have informed you of the measures I had taken to carry out the wishes of the general.

My latest advices from the Kittitas and Simcoe valley assure me that all is quiet in that quarter. From the Walla-Walla country the accounts all are favorable. Governor Stevens is now there, and the volunteers are coming down by detachments. Colonel Steptoe's command will reach the Walla-Walla about the last of this month.

I deem it necessary to post an additional company at Fort Dalles at an early date, as we have in that vicinity some fifteen hundred Indians.

Major Haller's company will be ordered to Puget Sound at the proper time.

Before leaving the Simcoe valley, I succeeded in recovering the mountain howitzer abandoned by Major Haller. I brought it to Fort Dalles; it was uninjured.

I shall go to the White Salmon river as soon as the Indians in this neighborhood can be prepared to move. Had I been advised of the wish of the general that I should go in person to the Walla-Walla country before I left the Simcoe, I should have gone to that place directly but having made all the arrangements, and deeming my presence in this quarter yet necessary the expedition was, as I have previously reported, confided to Colonel Steptoe. I trust my action in this matter will be approved by the general.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

G. WRIGHT,

Colonel 9th Infantry, Commanding.

Major W. W. Mackall, A. A. G.,

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific, Benicia, California.

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific,
Benicia, California, September 1, 1856.

Sir: Major General Wool directs me to say that he approves of your arrangements with the Yakimas and Klikitats; that it is important you should go to Walla-Walla as soon as possible, and attend to the establishment of the post in that vicinity, as previously directed.

It is also of the highest importance, says the general, that you, the senior officer, (the chief man,) should see and talk to all the tribes in that region, in order to ascertain their wants, feelings, and disposition.