

Secessionists

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol L, pt II, p 847-8-8

Jacob L. Van Dooklen, captain and provost-marshal, District of Nevada Territory

to Hdqrs Provost Marshal , Nevada Territory , May 17, 1864 to Brig Gen John S. Mason, acting assistant provost-marshal -general, San Francisco, Calif.

...secret secession organization in Virginia City, Storey County...for past 12 months there has been a very large and continuous emigration of the most influential secessionists of California to this Territory, the most majority locating in Storey County at Reese River and more recently in the county of Nye...

p 848 and notes compiled by myself and observed for the past two years there are not less than 2,400 "Peace Democrats," "Copperheads," and openly avowed secessionists in Storey County, all of whom are engaged in one common cause

poisoning the minds of the working class against the United States Government by statements relative to the lately reported action of Congress upon the subject of taxation of the mines..

...I am of opinion that the headquarters of the conclave of secessionists have been transferred to this locality...

leaders large owners, well aware any overt act would seriously impair the value of their property..

Secessionists..

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol L, ptII, p 856

..On the 25th instant I was informed by a letter from the Governor of Oregon that an outbreak of the secessionists was threatened to occur on election day, Monday the 7th of June next.

The pretense or signal, it is said, is to be voters being challenged and required to take the oath of allegiance. By a law passed two years ago by the Legislature of Oregon, any voter can challenge the vote of another, and he can be required to take the oath of allegiance.

The oath is entirely unobjectionable being the same as is prescribed by act of Congress of 6th of August, 1861. If, as is averred, many have threatened to shoot the man at the polls who challenges them, the threat is a very treasonable one ..

The plot as revealed to the Governor contemplates a seizure of Fort Hoskins and ^s Yamhill . There is but half a company at either post.

The canvass has not been conducted with personal abuse and bitterness, but intensely on the principles at stake, the Union party indorsing heartily and fully in full the entire policy of the Administration..

Benj Alvord

[I, L, II]
fortifications

p 858

Fort Vancouver, "ash Ter May 31, 1863

"...the commanding officer at Cape Disappointment ..will order the quartermaster to build there a good substantial wharf such as is needed for the wants of that ost.."

Vessels will take freight for Cape Disappointment cheaper and more readily if there is a wharf there, for now it can only be landed at high tide. That is the reason given by the J.H. Couch, river steamer, for often declining to take freight from here to that place, having to wait for high tide before the same can be landed on the beach.

Captain Jordan also brings personally to my attention a new question.

Captain Elliot of the Engineers says that it will remain for Captain Jordan to mount the heavy ordnance. I certainly had taken for granted that this work would be done by the engineers. It is particularly the work of an engineering requiring skill and experience as well as the fitting of the platforms and the circular railways for the working of the ordnance.

"When the 15-inch Rodmans arrive they will especially call for great labor and expense. Several 8-inch and 10-inch guns have been landed.

The act of 20th of February 1862 appropriated \$100,000 for defense at or near the mouth of the Columbia River. The act of the 20th of February, 1863, appropriated \$200,000 for defensive works in Oregon and Washington Territory. I should think this language would include the mounting of the guns.

Benj. Alvord

Recruits

Olney:

"War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol I, Pt II p 863

Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Washington Ter. June 10, 1864

His Excellency A.C. Gibbs, governor of Oregon, Portland, Oreg.

Governor: Pursuant to authority, dated April 29, 1863 received from the general commanding the Department of the Pacific, I have to request that you call out for the State of Oregon, a detachment of cavalry volunteers, to be mustered into the service of the United States, to serve until the 1st of November next, unless sooner discharged.

Said detachment must consist of a first lieutenant, second lieutenant, and forty privates. The non-commissioned officers will be appointed after they are mustered into service of the United States.

The men will furnish their own horses and horse equipments, for the use and risk of which they will be entitled to receive 40 cents a day. They will receive the pay and allowance of all cavalry in the service of the United States.

I have found myself under the necessity of making this call on account of the continued murders and robberies by the Snake Indians upon the road from the Dalles to Canyon City, Oreg. If you will appoint a suitable person he will be conditionally mustered into the service of the United States as a second lieutenant and recruiting officer of said detachment. If the detachment is raised and mustered in at Fort Dalles, a first lieutenant and second lieutenant will be mustered in at the same time. The recruits, as fast as raised, will be mustered at Fort Dalles

I am etc. Benj. Alvord

Brigadier-General, U.S. Volunteers, Commanding District.

(More)

p 864

State Of Oregon, Executive Department, Portland, June 11, 1864

Brig. Gen. Benj. Alvord

Commanding District of Oregon

General: In reply to your requisition of the 10th instant, calling for forty men to serve a limited time, I have to request that you will muster into the service of the United States Nathan Olney, as a second lieutenant, who will engage in the recruiting service under said requisition at the Dalles.

I have etc.

Addition C. Gibbs,

Governor of Oregon

p 878

Headquarters, Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, June 23, 1864

Brig. Gen. B. Alvord, Comdg. District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash-
er.

General: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 11th instant and in reply am directed by the general commanding to say that he had no special authority from the War Department to call out troops (volunteers) for a limited time, but that power was given to him, while in command of the District of Oregon, before the present war, to meet any emergency which might arise on account of Indian difficulties, and under that authority you can accept the services of the detachment of cavalry which you have called for; but inasmuch as the mustering officers now under the provost-marshal general are for the special purpose of mustering in troops under

laws for suppressing the rebellion, the detachment you have called for to serve till the 1st of November can be mustered in by a special officer, under your orders, and for their payment a special appropriation will be necessary by Congress.

Yours etc.

R.C. Drum

Assistant Adjutant-General

p 878

Headquarters, District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter, June
25, 1864

Capt. J.M. Drake:

First Oregon Cavalry, Commanding Expedition etc.

Sir: I am directed by the general commanding the district to inform you that for the last month there have been several robberies committed by the Indians on the Canyon City road, supposed to have been done by Po-li-ni's band. Capt. R.S. Caldwell with his company and a detachment of infantry has been ordered to the South Fork of John Day's River for the protection of the road. A company of forty men (mounted) is being raised at The Dalles for the same service. If you should deem it advisable, the general authorizes you after your return from Harney Lake to move your depot to the South Fork. This movement is left entirely to your discretion. The general is averse to interrupting the original plan of operations unless absolutely requisite for the protection of the settlements. This information is given in order that you may know what is taking place in your rear. I am etc.

J.W. Hopkins, first lieutenant, First Oregon
Cavalry, Act. Asst. Adjt. Gen.

Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter, June 27, 1864

Lieut Col R.C. Drum, Asst. Adj. Gen. Hqrs. Dept of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal:

Colonel:

I have the honor to report that today Capt. R.S. Caldwell, First Oregon Cavalry, and twenty men of his company, and nineteen infantry under Second Lieut. William Wood, First Washington Territory Infantry, left this post for Fort Dalles, thence to take post on the South of John Day's River on the road from Dalles to Canyon City.

On the 15th instant I ordered to Fort Dalles from Fort Walla Walla two detachments of cavalry, about sixteen men in all, who have been escorting paymasters. These join Captain Caldwell at Fort Dalles and will give him about fifty-fifemen. He is ordered to protect that road against the incursions of the Snake Indians. Their robberies and murders have continued.

I have thus taken the very last cavalry force from Fort Walla and this post, and have been compelled to leave but a small infantry guard for this post and the arsenal. I have to report that I received on the 25th a telegram dated the 24th from General Wright, commanding the department saying, "You can accept the detachment of cavalry. Muster in by one of your own officers. Particulars by mail."

I have been gratified to receive this telegram as my call of the 10th instant on the Governor of Oregon was made in pursuance of full authority in instructions from your office dated the 29th of April, 1863, as was fully set forth in my letter of the 11th instant.

(more)

I have ordered Capt. W.V. Spencer, assistant commissary of musters, to muster in ~~Sam~~ Nathan Olney, esq. as second lieutenant and recruiting officer to raise the detachment. He was appointed by the Governor of Oregon.

"When it is raised Captain Spencer)p 880 will also muster in the detachment, which will also be sent up on the Canyon City Road.

On the 16th I received the telegram of the 15th from your office," Authority contained in letter of the 29th of April, 1863)from this office) is revoked. My order, etc. In my letters of the 30th of May 11th and 13th instant, especially in the latter, I have explained the importance of my possessing, on emergencies, such power. I shall probably in a future communication submit the propriety of a restoration of said authority. On the 26th I received information of fresh robberies by the Snake Indians on the Canyon City road, two trains of pack mules having been stolen. These things have seriously impeded the trade and business of the country. I trust now soon to hear of such interruptions having ceased.

The cavalry expeditions of Captains Currey and Drake, each with 100 men, are now near Harney Lake. They can each leave their depots with fifty or sixty days rations on pack animals ready for the most efficient action. I have been averse to calling them in and breaking up their plans on account of these attacks in the rear. I shall, unless something extraordinary happens, permit them to carry out the views indicated in my letters of the 20th of February and 1st of June. When the latter letter was written I was in hopes that no call for volunteers would be necessary, but the aspect of affairs changed as you saw in my letter of the 11th of June.

I am etc.

Wm. Alvord (etc)

P.S.--Since writing the above I am informed by Maj. N.H. McLean, U.S. Army, mustering officer of volunteers, that he has received from General J.B. Fry, provost-marshal-general, a telegram dated 24th of June, 1864, saying that the War Department sanctions the mustering in of the detachment of cavalry volunteers ~~referred~~ referred to.

B.A.

Emigration

Series I Vol L, Pt II p 864

Al vord

There is a population of 2,000 to 3,000 people in the country
around Canyon City

I, L, II
secessionists

p 865

Fort Vancouver, Wash^{ter} June 13, 1864

Lieut Col R.C. Drum, Dept of the Pacific etc.

I was pleased to be able to telegraph you on the 11th instant that "none of the troubles referred to in my letter of the 30th of May are likely to occur."

The election passed off without the collisions anticipated at the polls growing out of challenging and requiring the oath of allegiance..

I think there was great forbearance on account of the assumed preponderance of the Union party. I am happy to say that the Hon J.H.D. Henderson is elected Representative to Congress from Oregon by about 2,500 majority. The number of so-called Democrats elected to the Legislature is not more than six or seven. Jackson County and one other have probably gone to them.

The issues were more distinctly drawn in this canvass than in any previous one, between entire and thorough support of the whole policy of the Administration and a complete opposition to it.

I sent Gen Wright, from the Oregonian of the 2d instant, an extract of the speech made by General Joseph Lane at Eugene City on the 21st ultimo... L.F. Mosher, esq son-in-law of General Lane came to see me (at Portland) He asserted that the report I questioned was an exaggeration of Lane's speech, that another report in the Eugene City Review was the correct one.

I do not doubt that he made a highly improper and inflammatory speech. I notice that more tolerance is practiced now than formerly as in congress the House declined to expel Mr. Long and Mr Harris for speeches of a highly objectionable character... Mosher was aide-de-camp to General Lane in the Mexican war when I first met him. Alvord

Troop movements

Wright

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol L, Pt II p 873

Headquarters Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, June 21, 1864

To the Loyal Citizens of the Pacific Coast

On the eve of my being relieved from the command of the Department of the Pacific, it is deemed a proper occasion to take a retrospective view

Troop movements: Gen Wright .

War of Rebellion, Series I ,VolL, Pt II, pp 873-4

Headquarters Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal. June
21, 1864

To the Loyal Citizens of the Pacific Coast

On the eve of my being relieved from the command of the
Department of the Pacific, it is deemed a proper occasion to take a
retrospective view of the three years I have been in command.

When I first assumed command of the department, embracing the States
and Territories west of the Rocky Mountains, I was not unmindful of the
high trust reposed in me by the Government, and the following
communication, which I addressed to the Adjutant-General of the
Army after the expiration of the first year of my command will exhibit
the course I had thought proper to pursue, and which has been
persistently followed during the whole of period of my administration
of military affairs on this coast (see Wright to Thomas, Oct. 27,
1862, p. 196)

Acting upon the principles contained in my letter above recited, I
now point with pride to the happy and peaceful condition of this
country. Intrusted as I have been with a high and responsible
command, far removed from the seat of the General Government, I have
during the whole period held in my hands the power of peace or war.
Had I for a moment yielded to the insane demands of a radical
press and its

colaborers, I should have filled my forts with political prisoners
to gratify personal hatred, causing such an outburst of indignation at
such a course as to render it almost certain that civil war and blood-
shed would have followed. The Union-loving people on this coast are
vastly in the ascendant.

They have the power and the will to maintain the integrity of the Union on these distant shores. Let every attempt to raise the standard of rebellion within your borders be crushed. Listen not to the insidious arts of a hireling, radical press which, under the specious guise of loyalty, would not hesitate to gratify its pruriency for fame by doing all in its power to plunge your country into all the horrors of a civil war.

Be just, and fear not:

Let all the ends thou aim'st at be thy country's

thy God's and truth's.

G. Wright Brigadier-General, U.S. Army Commanding

Session.. Col. Wright.

War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. L, Pt. 2 P. 873

Headquarters Department of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. June 21, 1864

To the Loyal Citizens of the Pacific Coast:

On the eve of my being relieved from the command of the Department of the Pacific, it is deemed a proper occasion to take a retrospective view of the three years I have been in command. When I first assumed command of the department, embracing all the States and Territories west of the Rocky Mountains, I was not unmindful of the high trust reposed in me by the Government and the following communication which I addressed to the Adjutant-General of the Army after the expiration of the first year of my command will exhibit the course I had thought proper to pursue, and which has been persistently followed during the whole period of my administration of military affairs on this coast. (See Wright to Thomas, Oct. 27, 1862, p. 196)

Acting upon the principles contained in my letter above cited I now point with pride to the happy and peaceful condition of this country. Intrusted as I have been with a high and responsible command, far removed from the seat of the General Government I have during the whole period held in my hands the power of peace or war. Had I for a moment yielded to the insane demands of radical press p 874 and its collaborators I should have filled my forts with political prisoners to gratify personal hatred, causing such an outburst of indignation at such a course as to render it almost certain that civil war and bloodshed would have followed. The Union loving people on this coast are vastly in the ascendant. They have the power and the will to maintain the integrity of the Union on these distant shores. Let every attempt to raise the standard of rebellion within our borders be crushed. Listen not to the insidious arts of a hireling, radical press, which under the

spacious guise of loyalty, would not hesitate to gratify its
pruriency for fame by doing all in its power to plunge your
country into all the horrors of a civil war.

Be just and fear not;

Let all the ends then aim'st at be thy country's
Thy God's, and truth's.

G. Wright

Brigadier General, U.S. Army, commanding

p 198

Department of the Pacific, San Francisco, Oct. 27, 1862

Brig. Gen. L. Thomas, adjutant-general, U.S. Army, Washington, D.C.

General: I have served on the Pacific Coast for ten years, the
last year in command of this department. My duties have called me
to nearly every section of this great country; from the sunny
plains of the south to the farthest bounds of our possessions in
the north. I have been called, either to battle with our savage
foes, or to aid in the preservation of this beautiful land from the
horrors of civil war. During this long period I have had ample
opportunity of judging of the character of the people and the value
of the Union of these remote possessions of the United States.
Previous to the war with Mexico but little (comparatively) was
known of this country; a few of our most adventurous people
had found their way across the continent and taken up their abode
either in Oregon or California; but when peace was restored and we
acquired California and coeval with that event the discovery of gold
mines, extensive and almost fabulous in richness, caused a large
influx of population. It was not alone from the States of our
Union that the people came; every quarter of the globe as well
as the isles of the ocean, contributed to swell the number. It
will thus be seen that this country was overrun and occupied by
people bringing with them and retaining all their home prejudices,

and ill calculated to establish a colony of loyal citizens eager to promote the prosperity of the country. Time and contact have done much to ~~disorder~~ harmonize and smooth down the discordant elements of this incongruous population, yet the outbreak of a formidable rebellion in our land had a tendency to revive those sectional sympathies and attachments, which have promoted men in glory in the fact not that they are Americans but that they are from such or such a state, to which their paramount allegiance is due.

Happily the number of men who thus ignore the authority of the Federal Government and declare their fealty to the State from which they came is small compared with that of the men who are Americans, p 197

and who love the Union and are willing to risk their all for its preservation. Such was the character and such the division of sentiments on this coast when I assumed the command of the department. I saw at once that to overcome all these threatening difficulties it was necessary to be watchful, vigilant and firm; not create unnecessary alarm in the public mind by hasty and ill advised acts, but to pursue the even tenor of my way, regardless of personal consequences and feeling assured of every complexion and ultimately redound to the honor of our Government and country. If what little I have done has contributed in the smallest degree in preserving intact our glorious Union and maintaining unsullied our flag I shall feel more than repaid. It affords me high satisfaction to inform the General in Chief that during all the period of my command in his department I have received the most cordial approval and assistance from the Governors and State officers, as well as from the most prominent citizens.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant, G. Wright

Brigadier General, U.S. Army, Commanding.

Headquarters District of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. June 27, 1864

Lieut. Col. R. C. Drum

Asst. Adj. Gen. Hdqrs. Dept. of the Pacific, San Francisco, Cal.

Colonel: I have the honor to report that today Capt. R. S. Caldwell, First Oregon Cavalry and twenty men of his company and nineteen infantry under Second Lieut. William Wood, First Washington Territory Infantry, left this post for Fort Dalles, thence to take post at the South Fork of John Day's River on the road from Dalles to Canyon City. On the 15th instant I ordered to Fort Dalles from Fort Walla Walla two detachments of cavalry, about sixteen in all, who have been escorting paymasters. These join Captain Caldwell at Fort Dalles and will give him about fifty-five men. He is ordered to protect that road against the incursions of the Snake Indians. Their robberies and murders have continued. I have thus taken the very last cavalry force from Fort Walla Walla and this post and have been compelled to leave but a very small infantry guard for this post and the arsenal.

I have to report that I received on the 25th a telegram dated the 24th from General Wright, commanding the department, saying, "You can accept the detachment of cavalry. Muster in by one of your own officers. Particulars by mail." I have been gratified to receive this telegram, as my call of the 10th instant on the governor of Oregon was made in pursuance of full authority in instructions from your office dated the 29th of April, 1863, as was fully set forth in my letter of the 11th instant. I have ordered Capt. W. V. Spencer assistant commissary of musters, to muster in Nathan Olney, esq.

as second lieutenant and recruiting officer to raise the detachment. He was appointed by the Governor of Oregon. When it is

raised, Captain Spencer will p 880 also muster in the detachment which will also be sent up on the Canyon City road. On the 16th I received the telegram of the 15th from your office, "Authority contained in letter of 29th of April, 1863 (from this office) is revoked. "By order " etc. In my letter of the 30th of May 11th and 15th instant, especially in the latter, I have explained the importance of my ~~possessing~~ possessing, on emergencies, such power. I shall probably in a future communication submit the propriety of a restoration of said authority.

On the 26th I received information of ~~two~~ fresh robberies by the Snake Indians on the Canyon City road, two trains of pack mules having been stolen. These things have seriously impeded the trade and business of the country. I trust now soon to hear of such interruptions having ceased. The cavalry expeditions of Captains Currey and Drake, each with 100 men, are now near Harney Lake. They can each leave their depots with fifty or sixty days rations on pack animals ready for the most efficient action. I have been averse to calling them in and breaking up their plans on account of these attacks in the rear. I shall, unless something extraordinary happens, permit them to carry out the views indicated in my letters of the 20th of February and 1st of June. When the latter letter was written I was in hope that no call for volunteers would be necessary, but the aspect of affairs changed as you saw in my letter of the 11th of June.

Benj. Alvord, brigadier general
U.S. Volunteers, commanding dist.

I, L, II
Emigration

Olney

p. 894-5

Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Wash. Ter. July 9,
1864

Capt. R.S. Caldwell, First Oregon Cavalry, Comdg. Expedition on Oregon
City Road.

Captain: The detachment of forty cavalry, Oregon volunteers, under
Lieut. Nathan Olney, has been ordered to join your command as soon as it
is mustered into the service, as see Special Orders No. 94, of current
series, from these headquarters.

The general commanding the district desires you to give said detachment
every opportunity of active service in the field. They have gallantly
come forward to aid in the duty of keeping the Canyon City road free
from raids of the Snake Indians, and you will give them every opportunity
of doing so.

You (p 895)

Instructions of the 24th ultimo are so far modified that instead of
establishing your depot ~~at the South Fork~~ at the South Fork you are authorized
to establish it at such point on the Canyon City road as you
shall deem expedient, changing it if it shall become advisable.

By order of Brigadier-General Alvord:

J.W. Hopkins, first lieutenant, First Oregon
Cavalry, Act. Asst. Adj. Gen.

Telegraph. Army operations B^Vancouver

War of Rebellion, Series I, Vol. L, Pt. 2,
p 951

Vancouver, August 18, 1864 4:30 p.m.

Lieut. Col. R.C. Drum

Asst. Adjt. Gen. Headquarters Department of the Pacific

I am pleased to announce that the telegraph is completed to this place, crossing the Columbia by submarine cable.

Benj. Alvord

Brig. Gen. U.S. Volunteers

p. 972

Executive Office

Olympia, Wash. Terr. Sept. 7, 1864

Received 2:30 p.m. 8th

His Excellency A. Lincoln, president:

My dear sir: Washington Territory this day sends her first telegraphic dispatch, greeting yourself, Washington City and the whole United States with our sincere prayer / to Almighty God that His richest blessings, spiritual and temporary, may rest upon and perpetuate the whole of our beloved country; that His omnipotent power may bless her and defend the President of the United States, our brave Army and Navy, our Congress and every department of the National Government, forever.

In behalf of the Washington Territory.

Wm. Pickering

Governor.

[I, L, II]
Economics

p 951

Vancouver, August 18, 1864, 4:30 p.m.

Lieut Col R.C. Drum,

Asst. Adjt Gen , Headquarters Department of the Pacific

I am pleased to announce that the telegraph is completed to this place, crossing the Columbia by submarine cable.

Genl. Alvord

Brigadier-General, U.S.

Volunteers.

p 972

Executive Office, Olympia, Wash Ter., September 7, 1864

Olympia, Wash Ter. September 7, 1864

His Excellency A. Lincoln, President

My Dear Sir: Washington Territory this day sends her first telegraphic dispatch, greeting yourself, Washington City and the whole United States with our sincere prayer to Almighty God that His richest blessings, spiritual and temporal, may rest upon and perpetuate the whole of our beloved country; that His omnipotent power may bless her and defend the President of the United States, our brave Army and Navy, our Congress, and every department of the National Government forever.

In behalf of Washington Territory: Wm. Pickering, governor.