

emigration

War of rebellion Series L, Vol I, Part 1, p 156

Brig Gen B. Alvord, re~~g~~ commanding t~~h~~o~~o~~o~~s~~ , the District of Oregon, detailing condition since July 1862. Forwarded by G. Wright, brig Gen U.S. Army commanding to Col E.D. Townsend, Assit. Adjut Gen Hdqrs of the Army, Washington, D.C.

Assumed command 7th of July , 1862, includes part of Oregon, all of "ash Territory and portion of Idaho Territory west of Rockies (excluded, Umpqua and Rogue Rivers)

movement of Capt. Crawford's emigrant escort from Omaha "afforded effectual protect on to the emigration which amounted to 2,000 wagons or about 10,000 souls that autumn."

"I also order d in July, 1862, a company of cavalry to encamp in the Nez Perce country, near the agency for the protection of the tribe so far as practicable from the intrusion of whites who in search of gold had (previously to my being placed in command) invaded the "Ne. Perce Indian Reservation without authority to the number of 10,000 to 15,000 people in violation of the provisions of the treaty, and in contempt of the r~~igh~~t rights of the Indians...I left on the 16th of October for th NP cou ntry. Before I reached there tw murders of white men by the Indians occurred , almost the very fi st every attributed to that tribe, who have been proverbial for their persistent friendship for the whites. Finding among the chiefs, who surrendered the murders, a great desire for the continuance of the soldiers among them, I ordered another company there and established a post at Fort Lapwai.

"The effect of the establishment of the post 157 was very salutary ~~add~~ and paved the way for the successful negotiations of a treaty with that tribe on the 9th of June last , by which

they have surrendered the greater portion of their reservation, including all of the gold mining regions..."

"On the 9th of May last I assembled six companies of troops under command of Col. J. Steinberger, First Washington Territory Infantry, at Fort Lapwai, preliminary to said negotiations. I have no doubt that the concentration of those troops had a salutary effect on all the surrounding tribes, as well as furthering the success of the council. All those Indian tribes have remained at peace with whom the Indian wars of 1855, 1856 and 1858 were carried on, and the only Indians who ~~who~~ have committed assaults upon the frontier have been the Snakes. The Snakes speak the Comanche language, have the same habits, and are in fact a branch of the Comanche tribes of the region east of the Rocky Mountains.

...Established Fort Boise..Bvt. Maj. P. Lugenbeel, ninth Infantry, to whom the command of the troops destined for that post given. After reconnaissance he established it on the 4th of July at a point about forty-three miles east of ~~old~~ old Fort Boise and 275 miles from Wallula (the depot on the Columbia River better known as old Fort Walla Walla) He has commenced erection of a five company post, three of infantry and two cavalry.

During the winter, for want of forage the cavalry with the exception of twenty-five men will withdraw to Fort Walla Walla. A population of 10,000 to 15,000 people have gone to those mines

Letter sent Oct 6, 1863, Headquarters District of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, Washington.

...The mineral wealth of the country will be explored by the hardy and adventurous miners and it will be our duty to give them all possible protection in the undertaking. A commencement has been made in the erection of batteries for the

fortifications at the mouth of the Columbia, and the chief of ordnance has promised to send heavy ordnance for them. In a letter dated the 5th of May last to the governor of Oregon I learn that Brig. Gen J. C. Totten, chief of the Engineer Department, has recommended that an iron clad vessel be sent to this river. His words are "It is recommended by the Engineer Department that a strong, heavily-armed steam floating battery and ram be provided for the defense of the Columbia River."

..Absorbed by the stirring events of the war, few in the Atlantic states are conscious of the limitless gold fields recently found in Oregon and in Washington and Idaho territories, covering an extent of country as large as those of California. Thus the rapid increase in population and commerce of this region gives it now fresh claims on the care and attention of the Government.

Benj Alvord, Brigadier General U.S.

Volunteers Commanding district.

[Part I, p158]

August 10-22, 1862--Expedition from Fort Walla Walla to the Grande
Ronde Prairie, Wash Ter. with affair (14th) at the Grande Ronde Prairie.
(War of the Rebellion Records, Series 1, Vol L.)

Headquarters District of Oregon, Ft. Vancouver, Wash^{Ter} Aug 26, 1862

Sir: I herewith transmit for the information of the general commanding
the department a copy of the report dated 23rd instant of Capt. G.B.
Currey of Company E, first Cavalry Oregon Volunteers of his recent
expedition to the Grande Ronde Valley; a copy of Col J. Steinberger's
instructions to him..etc...you will perceive that the expedition was
entirely successful. It resulted in the death of four Indians including
the leader Tenonnis or Big Talk on Four Mountains, otherwise called the
Dreamer, whose ominous prophecies had exerted a baneful influence
over the small party who followed his fortunes. The killing of these
appears to have been a necessary and unavoidable act. The great majority
of the Indians on the Umatilla reservation appear to have had no
sympathy with the Dreamer or his assumptions.

Beng. Alvord, brig.gen.

U.S. Volunteers, commanding district to assistant adjt. gen. Dept. of
the Pacific, San Francisco.

Reports of Capt. George B. Currey, First Oregon Cavalry, Grande Ronde,
August 15, 1862 1863.

On the second day from Umatilla Agency I surprised Tenonnis (The Dreamer)
camp about 1 o'clock at night. Held a long talk with him endeavoring
to induce him to go with me to Walla Walla, Wash. Ter. This he obstinately
refused. I gave him until 8 a.m. to consider in (sic) At the expiration
of that time he told me that if the type a Walla Walla wished to see
him he might come, but that he would not go. I then concluded to make
him a prisoner. This he resisted, firing at me twice. I shot him with a
revolver, as well as one of his principal men. While this was going

on several shots were fired among my men from a crowd of some 15 or 20 Indians whom I had supposed to be mere spectators. One fire from my men's yagers sent them out of sight except two who fell. The Indians claim that the two shot by them were friendly Indians. This may create some dissatisfaction among those on the reserve. I shall remain here a day or two to recruit my horses and watch the shape things are taking.

George B. Currey, Captain first Cavalry Oregon, Comdg. Officer at Fort Walla Walla.

(Dreamer at Umatilla killed.)

On the morning of the 10th instant (1862) I started for the Umatilla Indian reservation and Grand Ronde Prairie with detachment of 30 enlisted men of Company E, first Cavalry Oregon Volunteers, 11th instant arrived at the Umatilla Indian reservation. On the morning of the ~~22nd~~ 12th with remainder of detachment set out for Grande Ronde Prairie. Encamped for the night on Grande Ronde river. Distance from agency 40 miles. Left camp on morning of the 13th, traveled eight miles to settlements. Talked to settlers, learned that a certain Indian, now known among the whites as the Dreamer but formerly known as the Big Talk on Four Mountains had staked off a region of the country of many miles in extent situated in the northern portion of Grande Ronde Prairie claiming the same as his and denying that the treaty between the whites and Indians affected his rights to the same. This same Indian by threatening to kill all the whites who had or would settle within the lines he had set up caused quite a number of settlers to abandon the claims. The settlers narrated several instances wherein the Dreamer, Wainicut-hi-hi and a tall young Indian rode up to settlers and gave them until the following day to leave or they would kill them.

)/...surrounded camp..talked to Dreamer)

The Dreamer leveled his piece at me but a ball from my revolver striking him in the breast shook his nerves so that he missed. Both Indians were killed in the tent.

....(previous paragraph...)

At this the Dreamer became excited in his manner and told me if the commander desired to see him that he must come there; that that was his country and the commander must come there and see him. This put a finale to further talk. I ordered the men to secure and tie the Dreamer and his accomplice, at the same time handing a rope to one of the men. At this both Indians sprang up and seized their arms which they had hitherto concealed in their blankets. ..The Dreamer leveled---

While this was going on the Indians who had gathered in, as I supposed as mere spectators, fired upon my men who were drawn up in front of the lodge. My men returned the fire upon the Indians killing two of them and 1 horse. The Indians then fled to the brush excepting one old Indian with whom I conversed tell him the whites did not want to make war upon the Indians and they must all go back to the reserve.

From Mr. White chief farmer on the Umatilla Indian Agency I learned that the Dreamer and his band have persistently refused for several months to go upon the reserve, refusing all the while to acknowledge his treaty obligations. ...

George B. Currey.

depredations" (in ~~the~~ *Indian* ~~alms~~)

War of Rebellion, Series L, Vol I, Part 2 I p 160

Umatilla Indian Reservation, August 4, 1862

William H. Barnhart, U.S. Indian Agent, Umatilla Reservation
to Col J. Steinberger, U.S. Army, Commanding Fort Walla Walla,
Request detachment of 25 or 30 mounted men to proceed to Grande Ronde
Valley for the purpose of arrest certain refractory Indians who are
creating a serious disturbance among the settlers in that valley.
These Indians belong to the Umatilla Indian Reservation but do not
recognize their treaty obligations. They have refused to allow white men
to settle in the valley... Band belonging to the Cayuse tribe, driven off
white settlers. The chief Tenounis, is leader..

citizens, C.E. Fox, D. Chaplin, G. Arnold and 20 others petitioned for
troops.

Capt. George B. Currey, First Oregon Cavalry went..

orders to arrest.. attempt resulted in killing four Indians,
among the Tenounis or the Dreamer or Big Talk on Four Mountains.

He had 80 ~~xx~~ staked off land, claiming whites had no right to it..

Dreamer and accomplice, Wainicut-hi-hi

Attempted to tie him, Dreamer leveled his piece at me, but ball from
my revolver striking him in the breast shook his nerves so he missed.

(George B. Currey. Captain, first cavalry Oregon Volunteers commanding
detachment..

Aug. 19, Oct 11, 1862-Expedition against the Snake Indians in Idaho.

Report of Col. Justus Steinberger, First Washington Territory Infantry.
(War of the Rebellion, Series 1, Vol 1, pp. 166-^[part 1]

Fort Walla Walla, Aug 23, 1862..A very large number of emigrants are on their way to this valley and many stop in the neighborhood of and divert to the Salmon River and Powder River gold mines. They appear in good condition ..with single exception of a scarcity of provisions. Reports were current on the Owyhee of the murder of eight or nine emigrants supposed to be by Indians and one instance is related of the killing of a white man and his being robbed of between \$7,000 and \$8,000 in gold and treasury notes(\$20 gold pieces) A few Indians had been seen attempting to exchange the treasury money. The emigrants express much relief in the presence of troops on the road...

Report of Lt. Col Reuben F. Maury, First Oregon Cavalry commanding expedition.....

On the 19th Aug moved from Camp Owyhee, arrived at Camp Bruneau, Snake River, Sept 22, 1862...Captain Crawford commanding the escort from Omaha City arrived at our camp on Fall River on the 8th instant. Sent a detachment up the road 40 miles scouting for emigrants. None. Nothing definite has been heard of the Van Orman children. Their uncle Z Van Orman has gone through to Salt Lake City. One Indian at the falls said that it was the Indians who live in the vicinity of Harney Lake who committed the massacre and that the children were taken prisoner.

The emigration for Oregon and Washington is very large amounting to 1,300 wagons with 5,000 people. They have met with little trouble from the Indians and that at or near Raft River, Fort Hall, appearing to be the focus of their operations east and west. ...R.F. Maury,
Lt. Col. First Cavalry Oregon Volunteers..

January 29, 1863

Engagement in the Bear River, Utah
territory.

Report of Col. P. Edward Connor, Third California Infantry, commanding
district of Utah

Headquarters, Dept. of the Pacific S.F. Feb. 20, 1863

Adj't. Gen. L. Thomas U.S. Army, Wash D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to inclose herewith the report of Col. P.E.
Connor, Third Infantry, California Volunteers of the battle fought
on the 29th of January on Bear River, Utah Ter. between U.S. troops
and hostile Indians. Our victory was complete, 224 of the enemy left
dead on the field. Colonel Connor's loss was heavy. Out of 200 men
engaged 14 were killed on the field and four officers and 49 men
wounded; 1 officer and five of the men wounded have since died. Col.
Connor's report of the suffering of his troops on the march and the
gallant and heroic conduct of both officers and men in that terrible
combat will commend the Column from California and its brave commander
to the favorable notice of the General in Chief and War Department.

G. Wright

Brigadier-General, U.S. Army, commanding.

Indorsement

March 29, 1863. Respectfully referred to the Secretary of War with
the recommendation that Col. Connor be made a brigadier-general
for the heroic conduct of himself and men in the battle of Bear River.

H.W. Halleck, general in chief.

Approved, ordered:

Edwin M. Stanton

Headquarters, District of Utah

Camp Douglas, Utah Ter. Feb. 1863

Colonel: ..to report the information received from various
sources of the encampment of a large body of Indians on Bear River in
Utah Territory, 140 miles north of this point who had murdered several

miners during the winter passing to and from the settlements in this valley to the Beaver Head mines east of the Rocky Mountains and being satisfied that they were a part of the same band who had been murdering emigrants on the Overland Mail Route for the past fifteen years and the principal actors and leaders in the horrid massacres of the past summer I determined, although the season was unfavorable for an expedition in consequence of the cold weather and snow, to chastise them if possible.

Feeling assured that secrecy was the surest way to success I determined to deceive them by sending a small force in advance, judging and rightly, they would not fear a small number. On the 22d ultimo

I ordered Company K. Third Infantry California Volunteers, Capt. Hoyt, two howitzers under command of Lt. Honeyman and twelve men of the Second Cavalry California Volunteers with a train of fifteen wagons carrying 20 days supplies to proceed in that direction. On the 24th ultimo I proceeded with detachments from Companies A, H, K and M, Second Cavalry California volunteers numbering 220 men, accompanied by Major McGarry, Second Cavalry California Volunteers; Surgeon Reid, Third Infantry California Volunteers; Captains McLean and Price and Lts. Chase, Clark, Quinn and Conrad, Second Cavalry, Calif Vols.; Maj. Gallagher, Third Infantry, California Volunteers and Captain Berry, Second Cavalry, Calif. Vols. who were present at this post attending general court martial as volunteers. I marched the first night to Brigham City, sixty-eight miles distant. On the second night's march from Camp Douglas I overtook the infantry and artillery at the town of Mendon and ordered them to march again that night. I resumed my march with the cavalry and overtook the infantry at Franklin, Utah Territory about 12 miles from the Indian encampment. I ordered Capt. Hoyt with the infantry, howitzers and train to move at 1 o'clock the next morning intending to start with the cavalry about two hours thereafter in order to reach the encampment about the same time and surround it before daylight but in consequence of the difficulty of procuring

a guide to the ford of the river Capt. Hoyd did not move until after 3 a.m. I moved the cavalry about one hour afterward passing the infantry, artillery and wagons about four miles from the Indian encampment. As daylight was approaching I was apprehensive that the Indians would discover the strength of my force and make their escape. I therefore made a rapid march with the cavalry and reached the bank of the river shortly after daylight in full view of the camp about one mile distant. I ordered Maj. McGarry to advance with the cavalry and surround before attacking them while I remained a few minutes in the rear to give orders to the infantry and artillery. On my arrival on the field I found that Major McGarry had dismounted the cavalry and was engaged with the Indians who had sallied out of their hiding places on foot and horseback and with fiendish malignity waved the scalps of white women and children and challenged the troops to battle at the same time attacking them. Finding it impossible to surround them, in consequence of the nature of the ground he accepted their challenge. The position was one of strong natural defenses and almost inaccessible to the troops being a deep dry ravine from six to 12 feet deep and from thirty to forty feet wide with very abrupt banks and running across level table land along which they had constructed steps from which they could deliver fire without being exposed. Under the embankments they had constructed covers of willows thickly woven together from behind which they could fire without being observed..... but few tried to escape, however, but continued fighting the troops until killed in their hiding places. The most of those who did escape from the ravine were afterward shot in attempting to swim the river or killed while desperately fighting under cover of the dense willow thicket which lined the river banks. The fight commenced about 6 o'clock in the morning and continued until 10. The hands of some of the men were so benumbed with cold that it was with difficulty they could load their pieces. They suffered during the march beyond

to exceed 200 men engaged. The enemy had about 300 warriors mostly well armed with rifles and having plenty of ammunition which rumor says they received from inhabitants of the Territory in exchange for the property of massacred emigrants. In consequence of the deep snow the howitzers did not reach the field in time to be used in the action.

P. Edw. Connor

Colonel Third Infantry, California Volunteers, Comdg. District

(To Lt. Col R.C. Drum, U.S. Army, Assistant Adjutant General dept. of Pacific.)

Addenda:

~~.00000~~ I congratulate you ~~on your command~~ and your command on their heroic conduct and brilliant victory on Bear River. You are this day appointed a brigadier-general.

H.W. Halleck. General in chief.

[I, L, I, p 195]

Report of Capt. Henry Flynn, Second California
infantry, Camp Baker, April 1, 1863..

.... in the four engagements (operations in the Humboldt military reserve)
46 of the enemy were killed and 37 captured.

Indian chasing

War of Rebellion, ~~Vol. I~~, Series L, Vol. I, Part 1

Feb 16-23, Expedition from Fort Walla Walla to Snake River

Band of Indians surprised and driven from their work some miners on the north bank of the Snake River, 20 miles above the Palouse crossing.

Captain George B. Currey, First Oregon Cavalry, second from letter written by T.C. English, lieutenant Colonel First Washington Territory Infantry commanding Fort Walla Walla..

command of 59 enlisted men from Companies A and E, First Oregon Cavalry, left in Feb. reached Palouse crossing of Snake..

fearing Palouse Indians would notify those hunted said going to Colville after dark marched for five hours. Fourth day story, short drive. Fifth day came upon camp, seven lodges,

quiet. fired rifle shots. Enough to sight 31 men and 40 women and children. Jaws of dogs tied together so they would not bark.

Citizens who had been driven from mines recognized three of the party. Their camp 80 miles from Snake, 10 miles below the

line of the old Nez Perces Reserve

Indian Chasing

Series L, Vol I, part I

1864..Campaign concluded Nov. 6, 1864

Military expedition into Indian country under command of Jno M. Drake, Captain, 1st Oregon Cavalry, commanding, returned to Fort Dalles and closed campaign on 11th October

Expedition directed in Special Orders 33, headq District of Oregon, in March 19, 1864 to march.

Aggregate of 119 officers and men, joined by detachment of 25 men under 1st Lt James A. Waymire, Oregon Cavalry, Company D, 1st Oregon Cavalry, stationed at South Fork of John Day's River were to join and 24 of Company B, 1st Oregon Cavalry, command of Second Lieut Stephen Watson was sent from Fort La Couver to the Warm Springs Agency...

Main object to protect whites in mining, to explore and occupy the country not included in reservations, and afford protection to Warm Springs Indians...

Depredations near Canyon City

Two persons found, Louis Scholl and Mr. George Rendell who had been employed as guides with similar expeditions into that country in 1859 and 1860

destination, Harney Lake country, route taken by Captain Walen in 1859

Depot established at Camp Maury, 175 miles from The Dalles, on small tributary of Crooked River, five miles above the forks of the river

Depredations committed previous winter on white settlements on John Day's River and Canyon City road..

May 17th, engagement at one of the crossings on Crooked River, May 18th... Second Lieut S. Watson and Private Bennett Kennedy and

Eno James Markinson, company B, 1st Oregon Cavalry were killed and 100 mules, 100 horses and 100 cattle were killed, stock hit by,

a chief of the Warm Springs Indians mortally wounded; and a citizen of Salem Oregon, Parker, wounded..

Polini's camp discovered though small, Ol large routed..or fell back
Command of 108 officers and men left Camp Maury
on 7th of June.

Returned, with reinforcements met in Harney Valley, drove
Polni and band to south side of the desert

Several bands large area, polini largest, 50 or 60 fighting men and
some women and children..Snake Indians, united under able leadership
for plunder with renegades from other tribes. Their home
is the upper part of the Crooked River Valley, they are the Indians
who committed depredations on the Canyon City Road, John
Day's River and the Warm Springs Reservation within the past two years.

Eastern Oregon, The Desert, a strip of country extending from
the mouth of Crooked River in a southeast direction to the Humboldt
Mountains, a distance of 250 miles and varying in width from 30 to
100 miles. It separates the Klamath Lake Country from the Crooked
River and Harney Lake basin, is an undulating plain, riced
irregularly with high ledges of volcanic rock and covered with stunted
growth of sage and juniper, opposite the Three Sisters

Harney Lake Basin, inclosed on north and east by some rambling
spurs of the Blue Mountains, on the southeast by the Snow Mountains
and on the west by chain of ridges and isolated peaks, circular in form,
fifty or sixty miles. The two lakes, called the Malheur Lakes on
old maps separated from each other by narrow sand bank. Lake Harney
smallest is 10 miles long, four or five miles wide, Tule Lake,
the most easterly, little larger...

Tule Lake a sink of Cricket Creek, originates near Canyon City and flows south.

Snot Mountains, so called by Major Steen, form the southeastern portion of the great rim that incloses the Harney Lake basin. , an elevated portion of chain that forms the connecting link between the Sierra Nevada and Blue Mountains.

Jno M. Drake, Captain First Oregon Cavalry commanding..

also First Lieut John M. McCall and 45 enlisted men; Company G, First Oregon Cavalry Capt. H.C. Small, First Lieut William M. Hand, Second Lieut John F. Noble and 67 enlisted men, Company G, First Oregon Cavalry and two staff officers, Surg John C.C. Drumreicher, U.S. Volunteers making an aggregate of 119 officers and men.

Second Lieut Jame A. Waymire, Company D, Oregon Cavalry stationed on south fork of John Day's River joined later and Second Lieut Stephen Watson sent from Fort Vancouver to Warm Springs

Organization of Troops in the Department of Oregon, commanded by Col. George Wright, Ninth U.S. Infantry, Dec. 31, Dec. 1860

Fort Vancouver, Wash Ter, Maj. William S. Ketchum, 3d U.S. Artillery, Companies A, B, C, D, G and M.

Vancouver Depot, Wash Ter. Lieut William T. Welcker, Detachment of Ordnance, U.S. Army.

Fort Colville, Wash Ter, Bvt. Maj. Ed Pinkney Lugenbeel, 9th U.S. Infantry, Companies A, C, I and K

Camp Picket, San Juan Island, Wash Ter. Capt. George W. Pickett, 9th U.S. Infantry, Company D

Fort Steilacoom, Wash Ter, Lieut Col. Silas Casey, 9th U.S. Infantry, Companies F and H.

Fort Walla Walla, Wash Ter. Maj. Enoch Steen. 1st U.S. Dragoons, Companies C, E and I. 9th U.S. Infantry, Companies D and E

Fort Dalles, Ore. Capt. Joseph H. Whittlesey, 1st U.S. Dragoons, Company H, 9th U.S. Infantry, Company G.

Fort Yamhill, Ore. Capt. David A. Russell, 4th U.S. Infantry Co. K.

Fort Moskins, Ore. Capt. Christopher C. Angur, 4th U.S. Infantry, Companies F and G.

Fort Cascades, Wash Ter. Capt. Henry D. Wallen, 4th U.S. Infantry, Company H.

Camp Chehalis, Wash Ter. Capt Maurice Maloney, 4th U.S. Infantry, Company A

Fort Townsend, Wash Ter. Capt. Lewis C. Hunt, 4th U.S. Infantry, Company C

(Roads)

Fort Walla Walla, Wash^Ter. January 5, 1861.

General Joseph E. Johnston, quartermaster, U.S. Army, Wash D.C.

General: I take the liberty and feel it my duty to call your attention to the Fort Benton wagon road as I believe from experience in the service and crossing the plains frequently for the last thirty years that the cost of sending recruits on horses to this coast by that route will be ten times as much as by the route from Fort Leavenworth via Forts Kearny, Laramie, Hall and Boise to this post; for by the boat to Benton each soldier will cost \$100 and each wagon the same; then to get mules or oxen for the wagons would be double the cost that it would be at Leavenworth. Purchase your horses, wagons and oxen or mule to transport your supplies at Leavenworth and if the transportation is not needed here on its arrival it can be sold at public auction for its full value in the States. By this means each soldier will hardly cost \$10, whereas by the Fort Benton route each would cost \$300 by his arrival here.

One more suggestion. Could not the \$100,000 already appropriated and not yet expended, be transferred to the old road I speak of? It is much the shortest and best route and emigrants come through every season arriving here by the end of September, their animals in very good condition. A post is to be established at Boise in the spring and there will always be troops at Fort Hall to protect emigration and all that is needed are ferries at these posts and very little work on the road.

There will then be grass, water and all that is requisite for a military or emigrant road. I do believe that if the \$100,000 is expended and the Benton road finished, that not ten emigrants will travel it for twenty years to come. But suppose you make the road from Saint Paul to Benton; then you must establish a line of posts through the Sioux and Blackfoot country, requiring at least 1,500 soldiers at a cost

\$300,000,000 or \$400,000,000 more. In a conversation with Major Blake of the Army, who came by the Benton route with 300 recruits last summer, he spoke favorably of the route and said he would apply to bring over horses from Saint Paul via Benton to this department.

Now I am satisfied that the cost by that route will be ten times as much as by the route from Leavenworth via Laramie, Hall and Doise and in addition the major's route is much the longest and in the months of May and June from Saint Paul west say 1,000 miles, you have much wet and marshy prairie which I consider impassable. Starting in July, then, you could not come through the same season and wintering in the mountains northeast of us would cause much expense, the loss of many animals and much suffering among the men.

I am sir, very respectfully your obedient servant, E. Steen, Major, first dragoons commanding.