

tary force in this division will depend entirely on the selection the Government may make of the means to be employed here.

With respect, your obedient servant,

PERSIFER F. SMITH,

Brevet Major-General Commanding Pacific Division.

Brevet Major-General R. Jones,

Adjutant-General of the Army.

No. 8.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,

San José, California, March 1, 1851.

SIR: The disturbed condition of our entire Indian frontier, of the state of which you must be already advised by the immediate agents of the Federal Government here, has compelled me to make the matter the subject of a special and urgent despatch to your excellency.

The rapid settlement of an extensive country, until within a few years savage, has brought into close and sudden contact two races of entirely opposite pursuits and character: that this contact has resulted in a mutual and determined hostility, the accompanying papers will afford your excellency most disagreeable proof.

The valley of Los Angeles, of the San Joaquin, of the tributaries of the Sacramento, and the country around the main sources of that river, and the northern coast contain an Indian force estimated at not less than one hundred thousand warriors, all animated by a spirit of bitter hostility, and whom pacific and forbearing policy encourages into renewed acts of outrage.

Rendered bold by impunity and encouraged by success, they are now everywhere rising in arms, and every day brings the report of some new outbreak. There is no alternative but to coerce submission, and in my efforts to accomplish this, I confidently ask the aid and support of the general Government.

Experience of Indian character in the settlement of all new States had unavoidably warned all what was to be looked for in the settlement of this. Yet, notwithstanding, I am ignorant of any adequate steps having been taken by the general Government to avert evils so plainly imminent.

Of the regular force at the disposal of the commanding officer of this military division, and the character and amount of arms and ammunition I am not officially advised, not having received a reply to my communication to that officer upon these subjects, bearing date the 28th January past, a copy of which is forwarded herewith. I, however, take occasion to state that the number of troops originally sent to California, considered in relation to the frontier to be protected, was totally inadequate.

This has been, by desertion, almost reduced to nothing, and the few soldiers who remain are posted at stations on the coast, where they are entirely unavailable.

I can well appreciate the difficulties under which the Executive Department of the general Government must labor, in any attempt, however earnest, to meet and discharge the obligations of the general Government to our remote and peculiarly situated State. Yet the discharge of these

obligations has become a matter of urgent necessity, and, as Governor of this State, with the whole body of my fellow-citizens looking to me for the interposition of some governmental relief, I must be allowed earnestly to insist that some relief must be afforded from the general Government.

I regret to state that it is my clear conviction, derived from personal observation and experience, that no aid to be derived from the present military system of the United States will meet the present necessities of California; and further, that the regular troops of the United States are unfit for a desultory Indian war, to be carried on among the fastnesses of our mountains. While this is true, we have among our citizens a large number of hardy and experienced frontiersmen and mountaineers, also a number that have distinguished themselves as officers in our past frontier wars.

Were the other requisite facilities at hand, it would not be difficult to organize and properly officer, here, a temporary force of rangers, who, in a shorter time than the Government troops would commence operations here, might settle the whole of our difficulties. This the State cannot do; she is already seriously embarrassed by the extraordinary expenses of her organization, and the expenses of the Indian wars she has already been forced to undertake, and she is without either credit or money to accomplish the purpose.

I know of no way to resolve these difficulties other than this: Give to the Executive of this State the authority to call out and organize the proper number of troops, the number to be determined by him and to be called out as emergencies shall arise — to be disbanded by him immediately upon their services becoming unnecessary, and to be equipped, provisioned and paid by the general Government.

It may seem to your Excellency that this is an extraordinary suggestion, but you will remember that we occupy an extraordinary situation — very far removed from the seat of the general Government, with conditions peculiar to California, and necessities that admit of neither question nor delay.

Protection by our people is regarded as their constitutional right; it is about the only benefit they can derive from their relation to the Federal Government, while their burthens are not light ones.

It is not to be disguised that there is a feeling, and that a growing one, of dissatisfaction here with the general Government. They are aware and feel that they have been taxed, but not protected.

These considerations have led me to make suggestions that may seem extraordinary, but believe me, sir, nothing but the deep sense of my duty to this State and to the Federal Union have induced me to adopt my present course.

In connection with this subject, allow me to call your attention to the matter of the quota of arms and ammunition to which this State is entitled. For reasons that must be well understood our militia has not been regularly organized, neither have our census returns yet been made, yet the necessities to which I have before adverted bear with equal force upon this matter. Our census returns will show a population of about 175,000, of whom not less than 100,000 are capable of bearing arms and subject to military duty. The peculiar force of our country and the nature of our present and prospective difficulties, makes it desirable that we be furnished with arms somewhat different from those usually distributed, and I request that you may also take this matter into consideration.

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That the matters herein brought to the notice of your Excellency may be fully and in detail laid before you by a gentleman well informed and of reliable authority, I have commissioned Mr. P. Rodgers, Esq., a citizen of this State, well acquainted with our Indian relations and the character of our Indian enemies, on the part of this State, to make all proper representations and give all required information, and on the part of this State to aid in the execution of such measures (if any) as your Excellency may think proper to adopt for our relief.

I have the honor to be, with great respect, your obedient servant,
JOHN McDOUGAL.

To his Excellency MILLARD FILLMORE,
President of the United States.