

HEADQUARTERS, DEPARTMENT OF THE PACIFIC,
Ecnicia, June 17, 1856.

COLONEL: For the information of the Lieutenant General of the Army and the War Department, I have received a report in detail, dated the 22d May, from Lieutenant Colonel R. C. Buchanan, in command of the troops in southern Oregon, of his operations against the Indians in Rogue River valley. It would appear from the conferences which he had with the several tribes in Rogue River valley, that he became impressed with the belief that all would surrender at discretion, excepting the band of the chief Old John, including the Klamaths, numbering 26 or 29 warriors.

The chief, Old John, is very hostile and appears determined to hold out to the last. He says the whites are determined to kill him and his band, and he may as well die fighting as in any other way.

Captain Smith with his company of dragoons, 90 strong, under the impression that several of the tribes were prepared to surrender, was ordered by Colonel Buchanan to the Big Bend on Rogue river to receive and escort them to Fort Lane. Soon after his arrival he was attacked by a considerable force of Indians, which was continued from the morning of the 27th to the afternoon of the 28th, when he was relieved by the timely arrival of Captain Augur, 4th infantry, with his company, and the Indians were repulsed. Captain Smith lost 11 killed and 18 wounded. The number of Indians killed was not ascertained. On the 4th and 5th of June Brevet Major Reynolds and Captain Augur had two skirmishes with the Indians, when twenty of the latter were killed and several taken prisoners, with four canoes, rifles and ammunition. These facts, however, have not been communicated officially, but from private letters from officers.

On the 29th May, Captain Ord with his company had a brush with the Indians, when five warriors were killed on Pistol river, near Chetioe, some provisions taken, with four horses, a quantity of fish, potatoes, and other food, besides some ammunition.

On the 5th June Lieutenant Colonel Buchanan wrote to Lieutenant Colonel Coffee, paymaster, that "he had with him more than two hundred Indians, more than sixty-five capable of bearing arms, and expected to treble that number from below." He further remarked that "he expected 28 men, and a proportionate number of women, the next day, which would include the whole of the upper Indians, excepting the band of Old John and the Klamaths, numbering 26 warriors." (See letter addressed herewith to the colonel, relating to the hanging of an Indian, marked No. 1.)

Colonel Wright was on the 30th May still on the right bank of Nahchess river, not being able to cross on account of high water.— (See his letter, No. 2, herewith forwarded.)

Lieutenant Colonel Casey considers the war in Puget Sound nearly closed. Major Garnett, with two companies of the 9th infantry, has joined Colonel Wright. I trust by the next steamer, the 5th July, to be able to report the war nearly or quite at an end in Oregon and Washington Territories.

I herewith forward a letter relating to the condition of the Indians

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REPORT OF THE

on Klamath river from Second Lieutenant C. H. Rundell, 4th infantry, dated June, 1856. This communication, No. 3, like many others transmitted, shows how little attention is paid by Indian agents to the condition and wants of the Indians in northern California. If one-half of the money appropriated for the Indians in California were properly and judiciously expended, it appears to me we should have no trouble with them.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN E. WOOL,
Major General.

Lieutenant Colonel L. THOMAS,
*Assistant Adjutant General,
Headquarters of the Army, New York City.*
