

#### Important Change of Commanders.

The late order directing Capt. Ousley to occupy Fort Gaston, and assume the management of the Indians in Hoopa Valley is fraught with much interest to the citizens of that place, and all along the Trinity and Klamath. Relying as we do upon his judgment, and knowledge of Indians, as well as his full determination to protect, as far as possible, citizens from suffering further depredations from them, we have every confidence that no rash means will be adopted by him which will be likely to precipitate an Indian outbreak. ~~Neither do we believe, as some intimate, that the men will be likely to go contrary to his orders and commit depredations which will arouse the Indians. It is true their hatred for these Indians is most inveterate, but however anxious they may be to bring about a collision with them, and make a treaty with bullets instead of beads and blankets, they are well aware that this is the wrong season of the year, and that such a step before the battalion is full and ready for service would be unwise for many reasons. We know Capt. Ousley's programme, and it cannot fail of success unless the insolence of the Indians becomes intolerable before the time arrives for action.~~

It is unfortunate, both for the citizens of Hoopa and all others who have suffered by Indian depredations, that a proper man could not have been placed in command of Gaston years ago. If so, matters there would be in a different shape to-day. If an officer had ever been in command there who had an idea above an oyster, the Redwood hills would not now be strewed with dead carcasses, nor murdered men's graves mark the road side. The first commander of that post—Capt. Underwood—went there at a time when the Indians were peaceable. Instead of instituting a rigid system of obedience to his authority from the Indians, he divided his time between drinking whisky and associating with squawmen, thereby, in the estimation of the Indians, putting himself on an equality with them. All his information concerning Indians and Indian movements were obtained through the channels above indicated. The Indians were allowed to mingle freely with the soldiers having the liberty of the post, and thus

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