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Sacramento Transcript, Volume 2, Number 23, 20 November 1850 — Latest from El Dorado Co.

[ARTICLE]

Latest from El Dorado Co.

THE TRUE STATE OF THE CASE.

Capt. Lyman B. Munson came down from El Dorado County yesterday, bearing important dispatches from Maj. Kelly to Gen. Winn, relative to the military operations in the frontier country.

Before leaving head quarters Capt. Munson resigned his office as Captain of company C, inasmuch as orders from head quarters require a reduction of the number of troops in the field. He is ready, however, to take the field again if necessary. It will be remembered that Capt. Munson was a Lieutenant in Capt. Sherwood's company during the Squatter difficulties in August last, and that he remained on duty until disbanded by Brigadier General Winn.

We learn from Capt. Munson, that it was George Goodhill, of Company C, who killed the Indian held in the arms of Col. McKinney, after the Col. had received his death wound.

Capt. B. F. Stewart and his Company have been disbanded, to comply with the Governor's orders, as recommended by Gen. Winn, for reducing the number of troops in the field to one hundred men.

Capt. D. Allison, the Guide, wounded in the jaw bone, has had the ball extracted and is doing very well. He will no doubt

recover, but must be considerably disfigured.

OFFICIAL DISPATCHES FROM MAJOR
J. H. KELLY.

[NO. I.]

HEAD QUARTERS, (Johnson's Ranch,) }
November 14, 1850. }

Gen. A. M. Winn :

Sir: In obedience to your order, I repaired to this point—Head Quarters of Col. Rodgers—and finding that officer absent, reported myself to Lieut. Col. Boone, in command of the post.

The troops have been in a state of inactivity for some days past, owing to the absence of Col. Rodgers, who it is understood left this point for the purpose of receiving further instructions from the Executive of the State.

The impression seems to be somewhat general that the first movement of the army will be southeast of this place, along the tributaries of the Cosumnes—particularly the south fork of that stream, where it is reported the Indians are gathered in large warlike parties. The Indians have large rancheries along the Cosumnes, and it is said that one division numbers some five hundred warriors, who have at least two thousand head of stock, which they have stolen from immigrants and ranches. It is a matter of entire certainty, that the Indians have been concentrating their forces for the last two months, and equally true that they have been the first to make an attack, and consequently are the aggressive party.

It seems to me that sufficient importance has not been attached to the warlike character and ability of the Indians with which the soldiery have been recently engaged. They have by some means received a misnomer in being called Digger Indians; for it is entirely certain that the Indians quartered along the Cosumnes submit, not upon roots and acorns, as is the case with the tribe referred to, but upon meats, both wild and tame. They are possessed of all those powers of endurance peculiar to the red man, and when aroused have lost none of that natural vindictiveness which forms a striking trait of Indian character.

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It may be proper to remark upon the situation of this section of country three weeks since as compared with the present. At that time within a circuit of three miles of this point, there were from five to six hundred persons engaged in mining; at this moment, from the most authentic evidence before me, there appears to be only one company, twenty in number, thus engaged, within the prescribed limits. On the breaking out of the Indian disturbances, the miners deserted their claims—their cabins

ins—thousands of bushels of thrown up earth—their all—seeking personal safety at the sacrifice of much, in a pecuniary point of view.

It is an established axiom that every Government is bound to protect her people and cherish her peculiar institutions. The peculiar institution of this country is the mining interest, and Government should afford all possible aid to those engaged in this highly laudable pursuit. The mines around which the largest part of our population have gathered, although not entirely exhausted, do not afford such yields as are expected by the hardy pioneers of this country. The old mining range has been so thickly settled that the more enterprising are not content to remain within their confines, but are desirous of prosecuting where white men have never trod before; but in the present unsettled condition of the country, it would be madness to engage in such a project.

Should the State Government deem it proper to establish posts for the purpose of keeping the Indians in a state of subordination, it seems to me that the head of Pleasant Valley, about ten miles east of Webersville, would be the most central location for Head Quarters. Provision depots might also be established at Johnson's Ranch, (El Dorado county,) on the north, and some point south of the Cosumnes. The troops might then move with great facility from one point to the other, and a large body of Indians, comprising several tribes, be kept in a constant state of awe. This would entirely obviate the transportation of military

irely obviate the transportation of military stores, an item of no ordinary expense. The additional expense of maintaining the two additional posts referred to, would not be more than the cost of a sergeant and file of men. Thus then that whole mining region, extending from the South Fork of the American River on the north, to the South Fork of the Cosumnes on the Mokulimne on the south, would be amply guarded and protected, and thousands of waiting miners would quickly avail themselves of the protection thus afforded, and engage in the further development of the rich mineral resources of the State.

Should Government fail to provide a mil-

itary post for this section of country, and should the troops in service be disbanded without an exhibition of their power, many of the miners will be compelled to remain in a state of inactivity (in the more thickly settled villages,) during that season of the year which is most propitious for mining in what are termed gulch or dry diggings. Those occupying the eastern frontier will be kept in a constant state of alarm and fear from the hostile demonstrations of the Indians; and the rainy season will be the signal for general depredations, during which period many valuable lives will be lost.

The troops assembled at this point constitute an efficient force, and are composed of the material best adapted for Indian warfare—they hail principally from the extreme west and north-western States.

Within the last week preparations have

been made for the erection of a block house at this point—timber has been felled, and all the preliminary arrangements made.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. KELLY,

Maj. 2d Brig. 1st Div. Cal. Mil.