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Sacramento Transcript, Volume 2, Number 27, 25 November 1850 — latest from Col. Rodgers' Volunteers. [ARTICLE]

Latest from Col. Rodgers' Volunteers.

We have intelligence from Col. Rodgers' Battalion up to the 22d, from which it will be seen that that officer has been actively engaged in prosecuting his orders from Head Quarters. Those who are at all familiar with the condition of our mountain roads, and the Indian trails over which the troops have marched, and been sent on scouting parties, will be satisfied that theirs has been a duty of any other than a pleasant character. Camp life, at best, is one of toil and privation; but the soldiers in the present campaign have more than is ordinarily found to contend with, as they have been for the past week, and are now, exposed to all the inconveniences incident to the rainy season.

It may all be well enough for those who are comfortably sheltered from the storms to indulge in mirth at the soldiers expense—but these same gentlemen who seem to regard the movement with no favor, have been vastly careful to keep their own persons out of harm's way, and to enjoy comforts which are not to be found in the arduous duties of a camp life.

The command under Col. Rodgers were at Grass Valley, in Calaveras county, at the last dates, from which point scouting parties were daily despatched. The want of success in not meeting the foe was surely no fault of the Col. or any of his command. It

only proves that the foe is more subtle and gifted with a higher order of reason than has generally been awarded them.

It will be observed that several chiefs had been captured, one or two of whom in attempting to break the guard, were shot.

Hopes were entertained that Casuse, the most power chief in that section of country, could be iuduced to enter into a treaty of peace; but the messenger who had been despatched for the purpose had not returned when the communication found below was written. The messenger had intermarried into the Indian race, and it is presumed that he will have considerable influence with the chief referred to.

The Miners of Volcano, Grass Valley, and along all the principal streams in that section of the country, were in a state of great alarm for their future safety—predicting that the Indians would attack them in a after the withdrawal of the troops. Several puplic meetiugs were called for the purpose of taking some definite action in regard to the matter.

It will be seen that Col. that Col. Rogers cesigned crossing over the lofty spurs of the mountain, to the emigrant road on the Carson route. It is understood that the Indians are quared in large numbers in some of the vallies nearer the summit of the mountain, and Col. R. is determined to dislodge them, if the weather will permit his undertaking the expedition. It will be one of great toil, but a more inflexible and untiring officer could not be found, and we feel assured that all will be done that the advanced state of the season will permit,

HEAD QUARTERS, 2d Brig., 1st. D. C. M. }
Sacramento City, Nov. 24th, 1850. }
GOV. BURNETT

Gov. BURNETT,

Dear Sir:—Enclosed I send you the Report of Maj. Kelly, whom, on the tenth of this month, I appointed special Aid-de-camp, and ordered him to Col. Rodgers camp, and to remain near him so as to be able to report to me daily (if possible,) what transpired, and to render all the assistance he could to Col. Rodgers and his command. The Major has faithfully performed his duty.

This unimportant affair (as it is called) meets with ridicule on the part of some of our best citizens; but I have to learn as yet, how many deaths it requires to command the *hostile* approval of a coward. He that has no disposition to meet dangerous emergencies of any kind will always find excuses to justify his course. If a war is small, (as all Indian wars must be, compared with our people,) *then* ridicule is the great weapon for the purpose of meeting the popular will. If two *Nations* meet in conflict, then praise of those in command suits their purpose best. In this case, no man, or set of men, could have done better than Col. Rodgers and his command have done. He has paid his own expenses, and spent his money and his credit without assurance that the State will recompense him. And though the inhabitants of towns—secure from Indian depredations—may feel disposed to find fault with the course pursued by Col. Rogers, yet the poor immigrant who loses all he has in the world by the Indians, and meets with assistance from Col. Rogers and his command, will not forget the *source* of *ridicule* or *assistance*.

I regret that the messenger carrying your orders through me, had not reached Col. Rogers when Maj. Kelly left camp. He had, however, reduced his number of men to below your first Order; and I am assured that as soon as your order is received he will reduce the number to 100, as you directed in your last Order: and it may be possible that, in a few days, he will disband the whole force, unless the scouting parties now out find it necessary to keep the whole force or a greater one in the field.

With great respect, I have the honor to be your obedient servant,

A. M. WINN, BRIG. GEN.

A. M. WINN, BRIG. GEN.

[No. 3.]

HEAD QUARTERS, GRASS VALLEY, }
 Calaveras Co, Nov. 22, 1850. }

GEN. A. M. WINN :

In report No. 2, from Mud Springs, I stated that the volunteer force under Col. Rodgers, was en route southwardly. Leaving Mud Springs, the line of march extended along the North Fork of the Cosumnes, until the confluence of the Middle and South Forks—thence along Indian Creek and other tributaries—Dry Creek and its numerous branches—Bancherie Creek, &c., At Lower Rancherie the mounted men under Capt. Graham were detailed to scour the country between that point and Volcano; and rejoin the main division at this point. By the direction of Col. Rodgers I accompanied Capt. G.'s command, which composed some twenty mounted men. In

the course of the march the command discovered a number of Indian rancheries, some of them consisting of half a dozen tenements, but in every case the Indians had decamped, or were in the act, before our arrival. In some instances we were so close upon them that we found meat broiling on the coals, and bread of peculiar composition, in a state for baking; but all efforts to capture them in a body, proved fruitless. An Indian chief named Soleto was taken, but upon examination he proved to be friendly, and was subsequently discharged.

The Infantry captured a few Indians on their route, who were brought into camp. Two of the number were chiefs, Dani and Pelouti. It was ascertained that the first-named chief had been in the first skirmish near Johnson's Ranch, (South Fork); and from other information it appeared that he had been harboring a number of hostile Indians. He was instructed by Col. Rodgers to despatch three of his tribe to bring in the hostile Indians. He accordingly gave directions in Indian dialect to three of his men, the substance of which we learned the next morning to be, that they should gather all the warriors they could arm—repair to within a short distance of this camp, and secrete themselves in a cañon—send in

secrete themselves in a canon—send in three of their number as though friendly, and, as is now presumed, make an attack, when we least expected it.

The rain on the night of the 19th injured the fire arms of the soldiers very materially, and the next morning an order was issued to discharge all the pieces. A large number were discharged, which the prisoners took advantage of, broke the guard and decamped. Two of the three, however, who attempted the escape, were pursued and shot a short distance from the main camp. The chief Dan escaped, possibly wounded. Firing was heard in a south-western direction the next morning, and a body of troops despatched, but the Indians fled before the arrival of the soldiers.

The heavy and constant fall of rain during nearly the entire period from our arrival here up to this time, has prevented any general demonstration on our part—altho', each day, from three to five scouting parties have been despatched in various directions. Some of these parties came suddenly upon rancheries of Indians, who decamped at once, taking to the heights, where they snapped a few caps, which proved that their fire arms were in a bad condition.

Scouting parties have been along the Mokulumne and its tributaries, but they report that the Indians have generally left their rancheries and gone farther east into the canons and valleys of the Sierra Nevada.

Col. Rodgers despatched a messenger yesterday for Casuse, the most noted chief in this region, but it is very doubtful whether he will leave his mountain home. If he comes in, it is contemplated to enter into a treaty with him.

Should the rain cease, and it be considered at all practicable, Col. Rodgers meditates a direct march from this point, over the mountains, to the emigrant road on the Carson route—intending to strike the head of Pleasant Valley. The route will be a most toilsome one—over craggy heights and descending into canons of great depth, lined with chapparel and dense undergrowth. It is reported that the Indians have repaired to these spots with large herds of stock,

and deem themselves safe in these almost impregnable mountain fastnesses. From these points it is contemplated they will make incursions on the mining districts during the rainy season. Col. R., intends, if possible, to rout them, but I fear greatly that the season is too far advanced to accomplish much.

Considerable excitement and trepidation is felt in this entire region of country, lest after the withdrawal of the troops, the Indians will make fresh attacks on the miners, committing murders, stealing stock, &c. A large number of citizens at the Volcano, two miles distant, and in this neighborhood, have a petition they contemplate sending the Governor, asking for the establishment of a small garrison in this section.

Allow me to remark, that a more resolute and efficient officer could not have been obtained than Col. Rodgers—he is the soul of honor—in judgment strong—his probity and honesty unquestionable.

I have the honor to be,

Your obedient servant,

J. H. KELLY,

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