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Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 5, Number 622, 22 March 1853 — Our Shasta Corrcimoilclciicc.

[ARTICLE]

Our Shasta Correspondence.

SHASTA, March 14, 1853.

Messrs. Editors:—We are in this region enjoying the blessings of a fine storm of mixed rain and snow, the hills around town being quite white. Business has continued good; flour has sold within the last few days for 12½ cents per lb.; though the ruling rates are now about 16 cents. The stock of goods on hand is large and rapidly increasing.

I notice an attempt is now being made to induce the Legislature to make an appropriation for the improvement of the overland immigrant road; of course all the improvement is to be made upon the Carson route. If there be any appropriation made for such purposes, simple justice requires that it should be divided and expended upon all the practicable routes.

The most practicable of all is undoubtedly the one terminating at this point. This route was first opened during the past season, and a large number of ox, mule and horse teams come through upon it. The road first leaves the Humboldt, about eighty miles above its sink; from thence it pursues an almost direct west course, across the Sierra Nevada, to this place; the road has twenty miles less of desert than either the Carson or Truckee routes, having little or none of the heavy sands which render the desert portions of the two last named routes so tedious and difficult. It also escapes the eighty miles of road towards the sink of the Humboldt, which, during the earliest portion of the season is but little better than a desert, and when the main body of the immigration is upon that portion of the road, is nothing but a burning waste; the few willows found upon the banks of the rivers being eaten down to the ground by the famishing stock. Three or four days travel from the Humboldt, upon the Shasta road, brings the traveler to Honey Lake Valley, which, in point of fertility, extent, and beauty, rivals the far famed Carson Valley. From the Humboldt to Honey Lake Valley good grass and water may generally be found every ten or fifteen

water may generally be found every ten or fifteen miles, the longest stretch being but twenty four miles. From Honey Lake Valley to this place, one hundred and twenty miles, good grass and water may be had in abundance upon the road, at no place more than three or four miles distant. Upon the whole distance from the Humboldt to this place, there are no natural obstructions of a serious nature; the road being generally level; even at the point where the road crosses the line of the Sierra Nevada the depressions in the mountains is so great, and the passes so easy, that no hills are found upon the whole road so bad as those which are daily crossed by the stages and teams between this place and Sacramento.

In addition to all these advantages, the road is at least one hundred and fifty or two hundred miles shorter than the Carson, and much shorter than any other route to the Sacramento Valley. By tracing the routes upon a map, it will readily be seen that this route is the only direct one, while all the others are more or less circuitous, some making a circuit of hundreds of miles.

There can be no doubt of the propriety of the Legislature in making an appropriation for the improvement of the various immigrant routes, but no good reason can be advanced for expending all the money and labor upon Carson alone, a route which will require an hundred thousand dollars to make any sensible impression upon its greatest difficulties, whilst the expenditure of a few thousand dollars upon the Shasta route would make a road unsurpassed by any in the State. The comparative advantages of the Shasta road over any other, are well understood by our citizens, and we have some hope that our delegation in the Legislature will attend to the interests of this section of the State, in this and some other matters.

During the last week I have heard of no serious depredations having been committed by the Indians. I am happy to find that the officers at Fort Reading have at last got an official organ in the *Shasta Courier*. In the last number we are duly informed that the aforesaid officers "are high-minded American gentlemen," that "Gen. Hitchcock's diseased, mandlin sympathy for the squaws and children of these savage murderers and constitutional thieves induced him not to send troops to our relief;" and yet that "the idea prevailing in this community that the commanding officer at Fort Hall had not the full authority to pursue and chastise the Indians for depredations committed against the whites, is entirely erroneous. This is precisely what these troops are stationed here for."

The same number of the *Courier* announces nu-

merous Indian murders and depredations, matters universally notorious, and then officially announces the reason why these troops have done nothing, is because they have been in utter ignorance, thus far, of any murders or depredations having been committed, but expresses the opinion that when they are enlightened something will be done. "When ignorance is bliss," etc. And yet this very organ berates the *Union* for slandering these officers in having simply published the facts, which the *Courier* officially announces and endorses "the officers at Fort Reading as being high-minded American gentlemen." Whoever hinted or supposed that they anything else? Or, is the *Courier* in fear that the community here may possibly soon entertain some such idea, judging from their want of "information" and activity, if not officially informed to the contrary? Probably it would be far more satisfactory to the people in this northern region, if this organ would attend more strictly the interests of this region.

MINER.

MINERS' CONVENTION.—The special committee to whom this subject was referred have reported unanimously against calling a convention. We shall endeavor to lay the names of the committee, for so reporting, before our readers at an early day.

OUR THANKS are returned to Rhodes & Lusk's Express for an interior favor.

WELLS, FARGO & Co. will accept our thanks for several interior letters.

WE ARE indebted to Adams & Co. for copies of the Bay papers, letters, and our regular Benicia correspondence.