



powered by

A Freely Accessible Repository  
of Digitized California  
Newspapers from 1846 to the  
Present



Sacramento Daily Union, Volume 7, Number 983, 18 May 1854 — Treaties with California and Oregon Indians, pending before the IT. S. Senate. [ARTICLE]

**Treaties with California and Oregon Indians,  
pending before the U. S. Senate.**

Below may be found the details of several treaties providing for the extinguishment of the Indian title to a large body of valuable land in the northern part of this State, and the southern part of Oregon. They were, says the *San Francisco Herald*, obtained by our well informed Washington correspondent, in advance of the action of the Senate, and will be found of special interest to the inhabitants of Northern California, and to all desirous of putting an end to Indian disturbances, and thereby developing the fruitful resources of that section of the State.

WASHINGTON, April 4, 1854.

There are now pending before the Senate of the United States two treaties with Oregon Indians, which will probably be ratified ere long. The first is with the Rogue River tribe—made with them by Joel Palmer, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, and Samuel H. Culver, United States Indian Agent, on the 10th of September

last. By this treaty the Rogue River Indians, for the consideration of sixty thousand dollars, cede and relinquish to the United States all the lands lying in that part of the Territory of Oregon, and bounded by lines designated as follows, to wit: commencing at a point one mile below the mouth of Applegate creek, on the south side of Rogue River, and running thence southerly to the highlands dividing the waters of Applegate creek from those of Alt-house creek; thence along said highlands to the

house creek; thence along said mountains to the summit of the Siskiyou range of mountains; thence easterly to Pilot Rock; thence north-easterly to the summit of the Cascade range to Pitt's Peak; continuing northerly to Rogue river; thence westerly to the head waters of Jump-off-Joe creek; thence down said creek to the intersection of the same with a line due north from the place of beginning; thence to the place of beginning.

The Indians are allowed to occupy temporarily that portion of the above described tract of territory bounded as follows, to-wit: commencing on the north side of Rogue River, at the mouth of Evans creek; thence up said creek to the upper end of a small prairie, bearing in a northwesterly direction from Table Mountain or Upper Table Rock; thence through the gap to the south side of the cliff of said mountain; thence in a line to Rogue River, striking the southern base of Lower Table Rock; thence down said river to the place of beginning. This tract is to be deemed an Indian Reserve until a suitable section shall have been made, under the direction of the President, of a place for their permanent residence. Of the money to be paid for the extinguishment of the title, fifteen thousand dollars is to be retained to pay for property of the whites, destroyed by the Indians during the Indian war of last fall. The money is to be paid to the Indians in \$25,000 instalments, in clothing, blankets, farming utensils, etc. It is agreed also, that the United States shall erect a dwelling house for each of the three principal chiefs, to cost not exceeding five hundred dollars each. On the removal of the Indians to their permanent place of location, the United States agree to pay \$15,000 more, in annual instalments of \$3,000 each.

The usual conditions are made, that the Indians shall not take private revenge or retaliation for injuries; and that Indians or whites violating the laws, shall be given up for trial by the proper judicial authority.

The other treaty was made with the Cow creek band of Umpqua tribe of Indians, on Cow creek, Umpqua Valley, Oregon, by Joel Palmer, on the 19th September last. These Indians agree to relinquish to the United States all their

lands in the region named. A temporary reserve is made on their behalf also, bounded as follows, to-wit: commencing on the south side of Cow creek at the mouth of Council creek, opposite Wm. H. Riddle's land claim; thence up said creek to the Summit Canon Mountain; thence westerly along said summit two miles; thence northerly to Cow creek at a point on the same one mile above the falls; thence down said creek to place of beginning.

The consideration for this concession by the Indians is \$12,000, to wit: \$1,000 to be expended in the purchase of 20 blankets, 18 pair pants, 18 pairs shoes, 18 hickory shirts, 18 hats or caps, 3 coats, 3 vests, 3 pairs socks, 3 neck handkerchiefs, 40 cotton flags, 120 yards prints, 100 yards domestic, 1 gross buttons, 2 pounds thread, 10 papers needles, and such other goods and provisions as may be deemed by the Superintendent or Agent most conducive to the comforts and necessities of said Indians, on or before the first of October, 1854. The remaining \$11,000 to be paid in twenty equal annual instalments in blankets, clothing, provisions, stock, farming implements, etc. In addition to the aforesaid, two houses are to be erected for the use of the tribe, at a cost not exceeding \$200 each. The usual stipulations that the Indians will restrain from private war, and will give up all violators of law, are made

Extracts from a letter of Joel Palmer, the Superintendent, communicating these treaties to the Indian Department, dated Dayton, Oct. 8, 1853, follow the above. It recites the causes that impelled him to the negotiation of the treaty with the Rogue River tribe—their power—the frequent murders and robberies committed by them on the trail between Oregon and California in the commencement of the settlement of the country—the controversies which ensued between them and the white settlers—hostilities that existed in 1851, and temporarily ceased on the negotiation of a treaty, which was of short duration—the jealousies, &c., that

originated a revival of hostilities—and, finally, |



originated a revival of hostilities—and, finally, the treaty of peace agreed upon between them and Gen. Lane on the 24th and 25th of August, 1853, by which it was stipulated that a treaty of purchase for the extinguishment of the Indian title should immediately follow.

Indian title should immediately follow.

“The lands purchased of the Rogue River tribe, according to the best information received, includes about 3,500 square miles, one-third of which is well adapted to agricultural purposes, and susceptible of a high degree of cultivation, and much of the remainder may be regarded as pastoral country, but mountainous, abounding in numerous fertile valleys, heavy forests of valuable timber, and nearly all rich in gold, being emphatically a gold region.

Should this Treaty be ratified and observed by the whites, I have good reason to believe that it will be closely adhered to on the part of the Indians.

The Indians throughout this Superintendency, so far as known, are fully advised of the failure on the part of Government, to fulfil the stipulations of Treaties entered into by the Commissioners, and my predecessor in office; and as they are unable to comprehend the reasons for such non-compliance, they place but little reliance on the promises of the agents of the Government.

The temporary reserve, secured to the Rogue River Indians in the Treaty, embraces about one hundred square miles, ten or twelve only being suitable for cultivation, and the remainder rough and mountainous. The land around Table Rock, upon the reserve, abounds in the variety of roots used by these Indians, and the mountains are well stocked with wild game; while Rogue River, on the west, yields an abundance of salmon and other varieties of excellent fish. With great reluctance they consented to remove from this choice spot; but by explaining to them the great difficulty of maintaining peace between two people whose manners and customs, desires and feelings, are so dissimilar, residing in such intimate neighborhood; and on being informed that if they desired it, they would be furnished, as the Treaty provided,

would be furnished, as the Treaty provided, with farming utensils, such as teams, ploughs, etc., and taught the use of them; and that they should be protected, in all their rights, from the encroachments of the whites, and the incursions of other tribes of Indians—they finally consented. But the head Chief expresses a hope that he might be allowed to occupy his old house the remaining days of his life, or till a spot should be found affording equal facilities for the subsistence of his people.

The Treaty for the purchase of the country claimed by the Cow Creek band of Umpqua Indians seemed to be demanded, both as a matter of safety to the band, and as security for their conduct.

“ This band is no ways formidable, consisting only of eighteen warriors, nineteen women, and

fifteen children, nor are they warlike or unusually troublesome. But being in the vicinity of the Grave Creek bands, who have ever been regarded as the inveterate foes of the whites, thefts, robberies and murders committed on travelers and recently on settlers in the vicinity of the Cow Creek, led many of them to believe them implicated in these acts, and this feeling was strengthened by the fact that their usual place of residence is along the road leading from the Willamette Valley to Rogue River and California, the principal scene of the atrocities

“ The occurrences among the Rogue River Indians and Grave Creeks exasperated the whites and continually exposed the Cow Creeks to deeds of violence.

“ They justly complain that the whites had driven them from their homes, and deprived them of their usual means of subsistence, and said if anything was to be paid them as a remuneration for their losses, it should be now when they are in need; that in a few years they would all be dead, and then the purchase of their country could profit them nothing.

“ A Treaty of purchase was accordingly agreed on; the tract to which the Indian title was extinguished containing about 800 square miles, nearly half being an excellent farming country, and the other portion mountainous,

but of good soil and well timbered; gold is generally diffused, and at a few points mining has been successfully carried on.

"The price of purchase is \$12,000. The building of two cabins, costing each about \$200, and the fencing and ploughing of a field of five acres, and the furnishing of proper seed, all costing \$225.

"No presents were made, but clothing and blankets were to be furnished immediately, the cost of purchase to be on account of first payment for their lands.

"It is proper to state that all articles purchased for the Rogue River Indians, Cow Creek Band, were to be delivered on or near their respective reserves, the cost of transportation to be paid by the United States. This, though not embodied in the Treaties, was fully understood by the parties."

---