

Shasta Courier, Volume 2, Number 7, 23 April 1853 — The Appropriation to the Siskiyou Volunteers. [ARTICLE]

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The Appropriation to the Siskiyou Volunteers.

By referring to the Legislative proceedings to be found on our first page, it will be seen that the Senate bill appropriating \$23,000 for the relief of the Siskiyou Volunteers, has passed the Assembly. The justice of the claim of these noble men of Siskiyou, who hazarded so much in defending the emigrants of last season against the violence of the savages on our Northeastern frontier, is so manifestly righteous and just that we were wholly unprepared for any opposition from a respectable quarter. We must therefore express our astonishment at the following article from the *Alta California* of the 15th inst.:

“An exhibition of the spirit of economy which has marked our Legislature during the winter was made on Tuesday last in the House. Two bills granting in the aggregate about \$50,000 to individuals, were forced through the Assembly. That one granting \$27,000 to William Waldo for services rendered to emigrants was doubtless just enough. He is represented as having impoverished himself to relieve the destitute, and it seems but just that the moneys expended in such a cause should be refunded. But the idea of giving those persons \$23,000 who took a notion to go on a raid among the Indians up in Siskiyou was perfectly absurd. If such claims are to be allowed, then we may well despair of ever seeing the State finances improved. We hear every week of expeditions against the Indians, and if a number of men who get up a party for recovering stolen horses, or for any other purpose, are to be paid by the State, then we may look for Indian wars in abundance. We

wonder if this act is to be a precedent for future Legislation?"

We have no doubt that the *Alta*, as a general thing, would rather censure than praise any act of the Legislature. But we think it rather ungenerous, in order to abuse that body, to sneer at a number of brave and whole-souled gentlemen, and place them in a false position before their country. The *Alta* clearly has not examined this matter, notwithstanding it expresses a most positive opinion relative thereto. Otherwise it would never have written an article so unjust and inconsistent.

We inform the *Alta* that those persons "who took a notion to go on a raid among the Indians up in Siskiyou," only did so after the people of that portion of the State had repeatedly but ineffectually called upon the State and Federal authorities for protection against the Indians, and after some fifteen or twenty men, women and children—emigrants just arriving from the Plains—had lost their lives at the hands of the savages. It was in response to the piteous cry of distress—to save life—that those men in Siskiyou left their claims lying idle when they "took a notion to go on a raid among the Indians up in Siskiyou." Like William Waldo, they went out to render service to the emigrants; but unlike William Waldo, who only risked his time and money, they—the men of Siskiyou—risked their *lives* as well as their time and property. And yet, strange as it may appear, the *Alta* is willing that Mr. Waldo shall be paid, but protests that it is "perfectly absurd" to reimburse Capts. McDermitt and Wright and their noble companions! Both parties had the same object in view—the relief of the distressed. Mr. Waldo spent his money in caring for the sick

and helping them into the settlements. Capts. Wright and McDermitt not only done this, but they risked their lives, placed themselves in a position of extreme danger, hunted and fought the Indians for days through swamps and over mountains—and all that our countrymen might get safely into the settlements with their families. Surely these were “services rendered to emigrants.” Why then, while consenting to compensate the one, object to deal in like manner with the other?

THE WASHINGTON QUARTZ COMPANY.—Mr. Fehley, of this company, exhibited to us during the week, a large mass of gold—a fraction less than 15 lbs.—the result of the labor of six men for eight days. At present they have but six stampers in operation, and these much worn. In a few weeks the company will have twelve additional stampers at work, when we expect to record facts in regard to the richness of this lead, that will astonish operators in Quartz generally. Another pleasant fact about this lead is, that it is inexhaustible—or at least that it cannot be dug out for many years. A shaft has already been sunk more than fifty feet, and thus far it has gradually increased in richness. From the surface of the hill to the depth of some thirty or forty feet, the vein gradually decreased to a width of about two feet, when it commenced slowly expanding, which it continues to do at its present depth. They have got to go some 350 feet before they reach the level of the creek, while the vein has been traced on the opposite side of the hill for a distance greater than 600 feet.

THE WEATHER.—We have had most disagree-