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LETTER
OF
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

COMMUNICATING,

In answer to a resolution of the Senate of the 6th instant, a copy of the report and journal of Captain Medorem Crawford, commanding the emigrant escort to Oregon and Washington Territory in the year 1862.

JANUARY 9, 1863.—Read, and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, D. C., January 8, 1863.

SIR: In compliance with the resolution of the Senate dated January 6, 1863, I have the honor to transmit herewith a copy of the report and journal of Captain Medorem Crawford, commanding the emigrant escort to Oregon and Washington Territory during the year 1862.

I have the honor to be, sir, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

The Hon. the PRESIDENT of the Senate.

JOURNAL OF THE EXPEDITION ORGANIZED FOR THE PROTECTION OF EMIGRANTS TO OREGON, &c., UNDER THE COMMAND OF MEDOREM CRAWFORD, CAPTAIN, ASSISTANT QUARTERMASTER UNITED STATES ARMY.

Camp Lincoln, near Omaha, Nebraska, June 1, 1862.—This camp was organized on the 25th of May. The men were employed in arranging the various kinds of property already collected into shape for use, and were drilled in the duties of sentry, &c., under the immediate command of Mr. Le Roy Crawford, the principal assistant of the expedition.

June 5, 1862.—Moved camp at 8 o'clock, it being necessary on account of finding grass for stock.

Camp Stanton, four miles from Omaha, June 12, 1862.—The men were to-day mustered, and after taking the oath of allegiance were enrolled into the service of the government of the United States.

June 14, 1862.—In order to avoid confusion, it was deemed best that the saddle animals should be distributed by lot, which was accordingly done, and many a hearty laugh was had at the first attempt at mule-riding.

June 16, 1862.—Left this camp at 7 o'clock. The train consisted of twelve wagons, each drawn by six mules, and one ambulance, drawn by four mules,

with an escort of fifty mounted and armed men. A heavy rain had commenced the night previous, and still continued, which made the road very slippery and heavy. After travelling four miles we crossed Cold Creek, and four miles further the Little Pappillion. Another four miles brought us to the Great Pappillion, where, at 11 o'clock, we camped. Total distance, 12 miles. Soon after camping, Private Edwin Waterbury, of New York, was wounded in the foot by the accidental discharge of his own pistol.

Camp Nesmith, June 17, 1862.—The wound of Private Waterbury having been deemed by the surgeon of too serious a nature to admit of his proceeding, he was taken back to Omaha by Captain Crawford, and furnished with funds to get to his home in New York city. The train started at 6½ o'clock; road good; four miles to Big Slough; six miles to Elk Horn City, where we camped at 10; distance ten miles.

Camp Baker, June 18, 1862.—Left camp at 6 a. m.; fourteen miles to Frémont City, and one mile to our first camp on the Platte river; distance fifteen miles. The road is over a vast level plain; weather quite cool, with high winds.

Camp Union, June 19, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m.; made, over a good road, 20 miles, and camped near the north bend of the Platte river; grass, wood, and water abundant.

Camp Oregon, June 20, 1862.—Left camp at 6 a. m.; travelled over a fine road 18 miles, and camped near Spaulding's ranch; distance 18 miles; no wood; grass and water plenty.

Spaulding's, June 21, 1862.—Moved at 8 a. m.; 9 miles to Columbus City; 1 mile to Loup Fork ferry; crossed without accident; moved 1 mile, and camped at 4 o'clock; grass, wood, and water abundant; distance 11 miles.

Loup fork of Platte river, June 22, 1862.—Moved camp at 6 a. m.; made 10 miles, and camped on Prairie creek; fine camp; plenty of good grass, wood, and water.

Prairie creek, June 23, 1862.—Left camp at 6 a. m. We were this morning joined by Mr. Lores, agent for the Sioux Indians, who was on his way to the agency near Fort Laramie. The Platte river was very high for this season of the year, and overflowed its banks in many places, softening the ground, and making travelling difficult; made 17 miles, and camped 3 miles above Eagle island, on the Platte, at 12½ p. m.

Near Eagle island, June 24, 1862.—Broke camp at 6¼ o'clock; travelled over a good road, and encamped at the Lone Tree Ranch at 2; distance 23 miles. After dark a stampede of mules took place; nearly the whole herd ran off, and 'twas only after great labor that they were recovered.

Camp at Lone Tree, June 25, 1862.—Broke camp at 5½ o'clock; travelled over a good road, and encamped on the Platte at 1 p. m.; distance 23 miles; weather very hot.

Camp on Platte river, June 26, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m.; weather fine; crossed Wood river without difficulty, and camped on Wood river at 12½ p. m.; distance 23 miles.

Camp on Wood river, June 27, 1862.—Broke camp at 5¼ a. m.; road good; made 25 miles, and encamped at 2½ p. m.; weather very hot; heavy thunder shower in the evening.

Camp opposite Fort Kearney, June 28, 1862.—Struck tents at 6 a. m.; travelled over fine road, and encamped at 12½ p. m. on Elm creek, having travelled 20 miles; fine grass, but poor drinking water; alkali made its appearance in great abundance. Here we were joined by the first emigrants.

Camp on Elm creek, June 29, 1862.—Broke camp at 5½ o'clock; crossed Buffalo creek; travelled 28 miles, and camped at 5 o'clock; grass scarce, and Platte water muddy.

Camp on Platte river, June 30, 1862.—Last night we were visited with a tremendous thunder storm, vivid lightning, and heavy rain; struck tents at half-

past 7 a. m.; travelled 18 miles, and encamped half mile from the Platte; grass good; no wood; road sandy and heavy.

Camp near Platte river, July 1, 1862.—Left camp at 6½ a. m.; travelled along the Platte until 12½, when we encamped near the Pawnee swamps, having made 14 miles, over exceedingly heavy roads; great annoyance from flies and mosquitoes; grass good.

Camp near Pawnee swamps, July 2, 1862.—Left camp at 10 a. m., having been detained by our cattle until this time; encamped at 2 p. m. at the Cold Springs, near the head of the Pawnee swamps; distance 10 miles.

Cold Spring Camp, July 3, 1862.—Broke camp at 6 a. m.; travelled until 3 p. m., having made 23 miles; encamped among sand-hills.

Sand-Hill Camp, July 4, 1862.—We had intended to lay by to-day and celebrate this anniversary of our national independence, but having no wood, and, moreover, being vexatiously annoyed by flies and mosquitoes, we broke camp at 6 a. m.; travelled until 12½ o'clock; made 18 miles over a heavy road, and encamped on a fine spring; good grass and water; no wood.

Camp Clear Spring, July 5, 1862.—Left camp at 5 o'clock; nooned at 10½; started again at 12, and travelled until 5 p. m., when we encamped on a fine stream, having made 18 miles over a heavy road; good camp.

Sunday, July 6, 1862.—Broke camp at 5½ a. m.; travelled until 1½ o'clock; made 18 miles over a heavy, sandy road, and through a desolate country, and encamped on the Platte.

Platte river, July 7, 1862.—Struck tents at 5½; passed over heavy sand-hills; nooned at west foot; started again at 2, and travelled until 6 p. m.; made 20 miles; good grass and water; no wood.

Camp on Platte river, July 8, 1862.—Left camp at 5½ a. m.; travelled along the Platte until 11, when we nooned; at 2 started again, and at 5½ made camp; travelled 24 miles; good grass; no wood.

Wednesday, July 9, 1862.—Broke camp at 5½ a. m.; travelled over a good road 12 miles, and nooned on the river; started again at 2, made 4 miles, and encamped near the Castle Ruins; total distance 16 miles; wood and grass poor.

Castle Ruins, July 10, 1862.—Lay by to recruit stock, &c.

Friday, July 11, 1862.—Broke camp at 5½ o'clock; nooned at 11; camped at 6 p. m.; distance 24 miles, over good road.

Saturday, July 12, 1862.—Started at 5½ o'clock; 12 miles to noon; camp opposite Chimney Rock; 12 miles in the afternoon to camp opposite Scott's Bluff; good camp; made 24 miles.

July 13, 1862.—Broke camp at 5½ a. m.; travelled until 11½ a. m.; made 17 miles, and encamped on a stream of clear, cool water; grass plenty; no wood.

Spring Creek Camp, July 14, 1862.—Moved camp at 6 a. m.; travelled over good road, and nooned on the Platte river; in the afternoon travelled over good road 20 miles, and encamped on the Platte; good camp and grass.

July 15, 1862.—Struck tents at 5½ a. m.; travelled over good road 18 miles, and encamped at 2 near a blacksmith shop, where we had some work done.

July 16, 1862.—Broke camp at 6 a. m.; made 8 miles, and nooned opposite Fort Laramie; started again at 3 p. m., and camped at 6 o'clock on a bend of the Platte river; grass scarce; plenty of wood; distance 16 miles.

July 17, 1862.—Struck tents at 7 a. m.; travelled through the Black hills; road rough and hilly; made 16 miles, and encamped on the Platte river; poor grass.

July 18, 1862.—Moved at 6½ a. m. over a smooth but hilly road; made 16 miles, and encamped on a small, clear stream of water at foot of a hill; good camp.

July 19, 1862.—Broke camp at 6 a. m.; travelled over a good road, and nooned at 12 on the Platte; no grass; started at 3, travelled 6 miles, and found a fine camp on the river, with good grass.

Sunday, July 20, 1862.—Lay by to recruit the stock.

July 21, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m.; made 14 miles, and nooned on the river bank; started again at 3, made 7 miles over a hilly road, and camped on the river bottom; distance 21 miles.

July 22, 1862.—Left camp at 6 a. m.; moved over a hilly but good road 12 miles to river bottom; good grass; nooned; started at 3 over a heavy, sandy road 10 miles, and camped on the Platte; poor grass and poor camp; distance 22 miles.

July 23, 1862.—Started at 6, travelling 5 miles to good grass; nooned; again started. We travelled until 6 p. m., when camp was made on the river bank; good grass; distance 14 miles.

July 24, 1862.—Broke camp at 6 a. m.; nooned at 9 a. m. on fine grass; started again at 2, and camped at 7 p. m., on the river; made 10 miles, heavy road.

July 25, 1862.—Struck tents at 7 a. m., 5 miles to North Platte bridge; nooned, and moved again at 2 p. m., 12 miles to the Red Buttes, where we encamped. The road was heavy and sandy; good grass; distance 17 miles.

July 26, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m.; travelled over a hilly but good road to Willow creek; distance 15 miles, 2 miles to Fish creek and camped; good grass and water; distance 25 miles.

Fish creek, July 27, 1862.—Struck tents at 6½ a. m.; travelled down Fish creek 5 miles; 5 miles to camp on Horse creek; good place, and grass plenty; distance 10 miles.

Horse creek, July 28, 1862.—Lay by to recruit the stock.

July 29, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m.; 8 miles to Independence Rock; nooned until 2 p. m., when we again started; crossed Sweet Water bridge; passed the Devil's Gate, and camped on the Sweet Water river at 5; good camp and grass.

Devil's Gate, July 30, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m.; road good; 12 miles to Split Rock; nooned; at 2 started; camped at 5 on the river; distance 20 miles.

Sweet Water, July 31, 1862.—Moved camp at 6½ a. m.; good road; nooned at 10 at the three crossings, 13 miles; started again at 2 p. m. The old road through the cañon being impassable, we had to travel over the hills by a heavy sandy road; made 8 miles, and camped on the Sweet Water; grass scarce; distance 21 miles.

August 1, 1862.—Clear and cool morning; started at 6½ a. m.; made 8 miles and nooned; road good; at 2 started again; kept along the river and camped at 7, 2 miles from the old road; distance 22 miles. Captain and squad gone back to settle difficulties among the emigrants.

August 2, 1862.—Left camp at 7 a. m.; road through heavy sand for 3 miles; made 5 miles further and camped on the river; grass good, no wood; distance 8 miles.

August 3, 1862.—Started at 6½ o'clock; 3 miles to South Pass City, now deserted, not a soul in the city; made 5 miles; nooned at a spring; started again at 1 p. m.; road rough; camped on Rock creek at 4 p. m.; 2 large snow banks near camp; good grass 2 miles up the creek; no wood.

August 4, 1862.—Struck tents at 7 a. m.; made 7 miles, and camped at Gilbert's station, sometimes known as Pacific Springs station, and by some as the last crossing of the Sweet Water. The stock belonging to the troops stationed at this point having been driven off by Indians, Captain Crawford halted to render assistance in recovering them; it was done by guarding their camp, thus allowing all their men to go in search of them.

August 5, 1862.—Guarding the camp of the troops.

August 6, 1862.—Still doing duty as guard to the camp of the troops, who are after their stolen stock. They returned in the afternoon, having found most of their stock, but saw no Indians.

August 7, 1862.—Broke camp at 7½ a. m.; travelled over 13 miles of rough

road, and encamped on Garnet creek on the Lander road, at 12 m.; good grass, but no wood; heavy rain in the evening.

August 8, 1862.—Struck tents at 7 a. m.; hilly road to the Sweet Water, 8 miles; 2 miles to Poor's creek; nooned with fine grass; passed the summit of the Rocky mountains in the afternoon, and camped on Little Sandy creek at 5 p. m.; good grass; distance, 22 miles.

August 9, 1862.—Broke camp at 6½ a. m.; travelled over very hilly road to Big Sandy, 10 miles; 8 miles of sandy road to Grass spring, where we encamped; fine grass; water poor; distance 18 miles.

Grass Spring, August 10, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m. over a good road to the lower ford of New fork of Green river, 18 miles; nooned and prepared for crossing; raised the wagon beds 12 inches and crossed safely, and camped 2 miles below the ford at 7; distance 22 miles.

New fork of Green River, August 11, 1862.—Moved at 7 a. m. over good road to Green river, 9 miles; nooned, and in the afternoon forded the stream without accident; travelled over good road to the crossing of Piney creek, 15 miles; good camp; total distance 24 miles.

Piney creek, August 12, 1862.—Started at 8 a. m. over a good but hilly road for 12 miles to the North fork of Piney creek, and encamped; good grass.

North fork of Piney, August 13, 1862.—Left camp at 7 a. m.; the road through the cañon very much torn up and very bad to travel; a squad of men was kept in advance to repair the roads before the trains could pass; made 8 miles, and camp at Fort Snyder.

Fort Snyder, August 14, 1862.—Struck tents at 7 a. m.; road very hilly, but tolerably good to Lubarge creek, where, at 11 a. m., we encamped; distance 10 miles.

Lubarge camp, August 15, 1862.—Started at 7 o'clock; road very rough, and required much work before it was passable; 12 miles to Smith's fork of Bear river; 3 miles down it to camp at its junction with Little Beaver creek; no grass, and poor camp; distance 15 miles.

August 16, 1862.—Broke camp at 8 a. m.; moved over a mountainous road, which required much repairing, to Salt Creek valley, and camped; fine grass; distance 11 miles.

Salt Creek valley, August 17, 1862.—Started at 10½ a. m.; travelled 2 miles down the valley and camped; lay by the remainder of the day to recruit the stock.

August 18, 1862.—Lay by to-day, the emigrant stock being unable to move, and some emigrants have not yet come up to us.

August 19, 1862.—Started at 7 o'clock down the valley; fine grass on all sides; made, over a fine road, 14 miles, and encamped on Smoky creek; fine grass and camp.

August 20, 1862.—Moved at 6½ o'clock through Smoky Creek cañon; very bad road; moved on Salt Flat; passed through Kinnikinnik cañon; road very bad; camped on Flat Valley creek at 6 p. m.; fine grass; made 18 miles.

Flat valley, August 21, 1862.—A difficulty occurred this morning among the emigrants, which delayed us, but we got started at 8 o'clock; travelled over a good road 20 miles to the crossing of Otter creek, when we encamped at 3 p. m.; good grass and camp.

Camp on Otter creek, August 22, 1862.—Moved at 7½ a. m., over a good road, to a branch of the Blackfoot river, where camp was made at 11 a. m.; fine grass; no wood; distance 10 miles.

August 23, 1863.—Started at 7 a. m.; crossed at Blackfoot river, 5 miles to Granite creek, 13 miles to Portneuf river, and camp at 6 p. m.; grass and water good; distance 18 miles.

Portneuf river, August 24, 1862.—Lay by to-day, and had preaching in the afternoon and evening.

August 25, 1862.—Moved at 7 a. m. over a fine road to Ross fork of Snake river; made 18 miles, and camp at 12½ a. m.; good grass 2 miles up creek. Passed graves of five persons said to have been killed by Indians.

Ross Fork, August 26, 1862.—Started at 8 a. m. over good road; 12 miles to camp on the same stream, at 12 m.; fine grass; no wood.

August 27, 1862.—Lay by the day.
road down the stream to the Portneuf river; we forded it 1 mile above the road

August 28, 1862.—At 6 a. m. we crossed Ross fork, and travelled over a dusty crossing; camped on the west bank, and spent the afternoon assisting the emigrants in crossing; fine camp and grass; distance 9 miles.

August 29, 1862.—Started at 6½ a. m., 12 miles to the crossing of Pannuck river; nooned; no grass; started at 2; road level but dusty; made 18 miles, and camp on the bluff near two small springs; good grass. Total distance 20 miles.

August 30, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m. over a smooth dusty road; passed the Big spring, the American falls, and nooned on a small creek, 9 miles; started again at 1, travelled over a rough road to Rock creek, where we encamped at 5; grass scarce; distance 17 miles.

Rock creek, August 31, 1862.—Moved at 5 a. m. over a smooth road to Raft river, where we encamped at 12 m.; distance 12½ miles; road dusty; grass good.

Raft river, September 1, 1862.—Started at 6½ a. m. over a hilly and rough road; camped on Swamp creek; distance 18 miles; fine grass.

Swamp creek, September 2, 1862.—Lay by to recruit stock.

September 3, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m. over a good road; 8 miles to crossing of Swamp creek, 9 miles to Goose creek, where at 12½ p. m. we encamped. Total distance 17 miles; the grass is very fine and in great abundance.

Goose creek, September 4, 1862.—Started at 1 p. m.; 4 miles to a small bottom on the river with good grass; no camp; road leads off 3 miles to another small bottom; good bunch grass ½ mile from camp; not a good camp for a large train; total distance 7 miles.

Goose creek, September 5, 1862.—Started at 6; road very rocky and sandy; 12 miles to a small sinking creek; poor water; no grass; 10 miles to Rock creek; tolerable camp on west side; grass not the best; distance 22 miles.

Rock creek, September 6, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m. down the stream, 7 miles to the crossing, and 3 miles down the west bank, to camp at 12; distance 12 miles. Good camps can be had for 4 miles further down the creek. The Great falls of Snake river are about 5 miles in a due north course from the crossing of Rock creek.

Rock creek, September 7, 1862.—Started at 7; road very dusty, and in places rocky. The road follows down Rock creek for about 7 miles from the crossing. After travelling about 6 miles we turned short to the left on an old trail which avoided the river, and much dusty; and bad road camped on Snake river at 3 p. m.; distance 22 miles.

Snake river, September 8, 1862.—Started at 4 a. m.; road very rocky in places; 4 miles to Salmon Falls river; good bunch grass up the stream; 1 mile to the crossing, where we found a camp of the Oregon cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Maury; crossed the stream, and camped upon a fine bottom; good bunch grass on the hills; made 5½ miles.

Snake river, September 9, 1862.—Lay by to-day to recruit our stock, and to hear Oregon news.

Salmon Falls river, September 10, 1862.—Started at 8 o'clock; moved down 3 miles and turned out; at 4 p. m., again started; 1 mile to Salmon falls and 1 mile to hill; long and dusty, 19 miles over a high plateau to the river. Many of the emigrants stopped and drove their stock down the high bluff to the river. We moved on over a very heavy sandy road without watering.

September 11, 1862.—Twelve miles to forks of road, the right leading to the river; we take the left; 4 miles to camp at foot of a high hill, near islands in the river; grass very scarce; some very good 1 mile below camp. Emigrants fare badly; many of their stock given out or dead. Total distance 35 miles.

September 12, 1862.—Lay by to-day for the emigrants to come up.

September 13, 1862.—Started at 8; road rocky and sandy; hard for teams; passed Rattlesnake Point, and camped on the river near a slough; some bunch-grass on the hills; distance 8 miles.

September 14, 1862.—Started at 8; crossed the slough and followed along the river; road very hard for teams; camped on the river near a bend; poor camp; distance 6 miles.

September 15, 1862.—Started at 6; road runs over a divide; good camps on the river in 4 miles; nooned on the river near large islands, $7\frac{1}{2}$ miles; made in the afternoon 8 miles, and camped on the Breauno river; good camp; distance 15 miles. Found a detachment of the Oregon cavalry, under Captain Harris, who had been here for some time.

September 16, 1862.—On account of the scarcity of grass, it was found necessary to divide the trains, some of the emigrants in a condition and wishing to travel faster. Lay by to-day to recruit stock and divide.

September 17, 1862.—The trains were divided nearly equally, and the advance portion, under the principal assistant, Mr. Le Roy Crawford, left camp at 8 a. m.; 5 miles to the mouth of the Breauno river; nooned on good bunch grass; 10 miles in the afternoon, and camp on Snake river; distance 15 miles.

September 18, 1862.—Started at 7 a. m.; 10 miles of dusty and sandy road to Burnt Mountain creek and camp; good bunch grass on the hills.

September 19, 1862.—Started at 5 a. m.; road very dusty and hard for teams; 7 miles to Cañon creek; no grass up a very long, hard hill, and over a very dusty road; 18 miles to Old Iron Spring on the river; total distance 25 miles; tolerable bunch grass on the hills two miles off.

Old Iron Spring, September 20, 1862.—Started at 9; road very dusty and in places rocky; made 9 miles and camp on Currant creek; good camp; fine grass 1 mile up the creek.

Currant creek, September 21, 1862.—Lay by to recruit stock, &c.

September 22, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m.; road dusty; 3 miles to a hot spring on the left of the road; 1 mile to another hot spring; 4 miles to a heavy sand-hill; good camp 1 mile to the left of road; 2 miles to good bunch grass and a nooning place on the river; 9 miles over heavy sand with fine bunch grass on all sides to camp on the river; bunch grass abundant; fine camp; distance 19 miles.

September 23, 1862.—Started at 9 o'clock; road very sandy, and hard traveling for teams; fine bunch grass on all sides; made 9 miles and a good camp on the river at 2 o'clock.

September 24, 1862.—Started at 6 a. m. over a sandy and dusty road; good camping places on Snake river for several miles. Boisie river timber in sight; very heavy sandy road to the Owyhee river, where we encamped at 12; distance 13 miles; good grass and water.

September 25, 1862.—Started at 7 a. m.; road over a sage plain covered with deep dust and sand, and the road-side strewn with dead cattle; made 17 miles, and camp on the Malheur river; good camp; plenty of dry bottom grass.

September 26, 1862.—Rainy this morning; started at 10 a. m. up Birch Creek bottom; 4 miles to creek crossing; 6 miles to Blain's Spring; road good; encamped at 4 o'clock; camp good for small trains; water not plenty for our large herd.

September 27, 1862.—Started at 7 a. m.; roads better; 10 miles to Birch creek; nooned 3 miles to Farewell bend of Snake river; 6 miles to Burnt river; 1 mile up to camp; fine place; distance 20 miles.

September 28, 1862.—Started at 7 a. m.; road hilly, but not bad; fine bunch grass on all sides; made 8 miles, and camp at 10 o'clock.

September 29, 1862.—Started at 7 a. m. over the hills; road leaves the river for 4 miles; 5 miles to Hawthorn creek; 4 miles up to camp at foot of the big hill; distance 13 miles.

September 30, 1862.—Started at 7 o'clock up a long hard hill over a divide 3 miles to the river; up the river 12 miles to a fine camp; distance 15 miles.

October 1, 1862.—Cold rain last night, and snow on the peaks around us; the ground, tents, and camp equipage froze stiff; started at 10 up a long hard hill, down a small stream, and up another to camp; distance 5 miles.

October 2, 1862.—Very cold; started at 6½ o'clock up the creek 1 mile, and over a high rolling country 11 miles, to forks of road branching off to the city of Auburn on our left; took the left road; nooned on the Lonetree slough and camped near the road crossing of Powder river; distance 24 miles.

October 3, 1862.—Lay by to give parties time to visit the city of Auburn, and to rest and recruit our tired stock on the fine grass.

October 4, 1862.—The rear division here joined us. Lay by for mainly the same reasons as yesterday; cold and rainy; mountains covered with snow.

October 5, 1862.—Left camp at 10½ a. m.; travelled down and crossed Powder river at the old crossing on the emigrant road, and camped on its banks at 5 p. m., good camps; distance 16 miles.

October 6, 1862.—Started at 7 o'clock over a good but hilly road to Clover creek, and camped at 1 p. m.; distance 16 miles.

October 7, 1862.—Left camp at 7½ a. m., 3 miles, the hill descending into Grand Ronde valley, 7 miles across to camp near Le Grand city, at 11 o'clock; distance 10 miles.

October 8, 1862.—Laid over to-day on account of rain, and to rest the stock; some of our mules had become so reduced, and the season so far advanced, that it was deemed unsafe to attempt the crossing of the Blue mountains with them. Several were abandoned.

Grand Ronde valley, October 9, 1862.—Left camp at 10½ a. m.; passed over high and steep hills; worked hard all day; made 10 miles, and camp on Grand Ronde river at 4 p. m.

October 10, 1862.—Started at 7 o'clock, up and down long steep and hard hills, 20 miles, to Lee's encampment, 2 miles, to a poor camp in the woods; grass scarce, water not the best; distance 22 miles.

October 11, 1862.—Left camp at 7½ a. m., and commenced the descent of the mountain; road very good; camped on the Umatilla river at 12; fine camp; distance 15 miles.

October 12, 1862.—Started at 8 a. m.; road fine; grass plenty on all sides; camped on Wildhorse creek at 11 a. m.; distance 12 miles.

October 13, 1862.—Moved from camp at 8 a. m. 9¼ miles to Prairie creek; good camping place; 4 miles to the Walla-Walla river, where we camped; distance 12 miles.

October 14, 1862.—Moved at 8 o'clock 6 miles to Walla-Walla; camped on the edge of town; stock driven out to a ranch.

October 15, 1862.—Men paid off and discharged.

October 21, 1862.—Stock and property of the train disposed of by an auction sale.

DAYTON, Oregon, November 30, 1862.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of my operations in conducting an expedition for the protection of emigrants to Oregon and Washington Territory.

On the 26th of April I had the honor to receive instructions from the Secre-

tary of War, charging me with the duty of organizing a party to carry out the provisions of the act of Congress, approved January 27, 1862.

Mr. Leroy Crawford, of New York, James M. Pyle, of Oregon, George D. Thomas, of Illinois, and J. B. Ames, of New York, were appointed assistants; Dr. J. A. Chapman, of New York, surgeon; S. G. Crawford, of New York, clerk, and Austin Badger, of New York, wagon-master.

In accordance with my orders, my assistants immediately commenced the work of engaging the men to compose my company, who were required to report in Omaha, Nebraska Territory, by the 20th of May, when they were regularly enlisted.

Upon receipt of the funds from the United States treasury on the 13th of May, I immediately proceeded to St. Louis *via* New York, purchasing at those places such supplies as I deemed necessary for my outfit.

From St. Louis I proceeded to St. Joseph, Missouri; and having been advised by my assistants that a sufficient number of animals and wagons could not be procured at Omaha, I purchased a portion at that place. In consequence of the large number of mules that had been purchased in that section for the use of the government during the last year, I found it difficult to procure a supply suitable for my trip; and the very short time in which I had to complete my outfit made it necessary to send my assistants in different directions through the country to procure the animals.

Having purchased all the mules and wagons I could procure in St. Joseph, on the 2d of June I started for Omaha, where I arrived on the 4th, and found the men to compose my company had been enlisted by my principal assistant, Mr. Leroy Crawford. I there completed my outfit, and on the 16th of June, everything being in readiness, set out on our long journey.

For the transportation of provisions, baggage, &c., I had twelve teams of six mules each; for the use of the sick one ambulance, drawn by four mules. These, with the wagon-master, teamsters, and herders, I put in charge of Assistant J. B. Ames, who brought the entire train to Walla-Walla without accident.

My company consisted of fifty mounted men, with the usual complement of non-commissioned officers, who were organized as a company of cavalry, with Messrs. Pyle and Thomas as lieutenants. The men were instructed in the duties of sentinels, and drilled in the simpler evolutions of the cavalry tactics. Each man was armed with Colt's revolving pistols; forty had Wesson's patent breech-loading rifles, and the remainder with guns furnished by themselves.

The herders were armed with Colt's pistols. The teamsters were not armed, and were required, with the assistance of the herders, to take charge of the animals and wagons during the day, and turn them over to the guard at sunset.

My company was divided into three squads, with a sergeant and corporal to each, one of which was on duty every day and night, under the direction of the officer of the day. So complete was this system of organization, and so vigilant were the officers and men, that no animals strayed or were stolen between Omaha and Walla-Walla.

The first day's travel brought us to Pappillion creek, twelve miles from Omaha, where Edward Waterbury, a private in my company, was severely wounded in the foot by the accidental discharge of his own pistol. The wound was pronounced by Dr. Chapman to be of such a nature as not only to unfit him for duty during the trip, but to endanger his limb if he continued on the journey. I therefore, at his request, carried him back to Omaha, and furnished him funds to take him to his home in New York.

Nothing of interest occurred until we arrived at the ferry of Loup Fork of Platte river. At this point (which is a short distance below the Pawnee reserve) I met the newly-appointed agent for the Sioux, Mr. Losee, and was

able to render him assistance in recovering a Sioux woman, who had been taken prisoner by the Pawnees a short time previous.

The emigration westward was very large. Many were bound to Pike's Peak and Denver; more to Salt Lake and California, but by far the larger portion to Oregon and Washington Territory, attracted thither by the recent gold discoveries on Salmon river.

A very erroneous idea prevailed among the emigrants as to the location of these mines, mainly attributable to a guide of the route which had been published and widely circulated, representing the mines to be 180 miles from Fort Hall, with good road and plenty of grass and water. While the fact is they are about 700 miles from Fort Hall by the nearest practicable road, and over a barren, sandy country. Under this erroneous impression many of the emigrants had overloaded their wagons and taxed their teams beyond their strength; yet so positive were they that they could reach the mines without going down Snake river that they disregarded my counsels to dispose of comparatively useless articles with which many had encumbered their wagons. The result was, that as soon as we left the valley of the Platte and struck into the heavy sand hills and rough roads their wagons and teams began to fail. They were then compelled to do what I had advised long before, but, unfortunately, it was too late to save their teams; and from this point until we struck settlements in Powder River valley article after article of furniture and wagon after wagon were left, and at nearly every camp some kind of property was abandoned.

Some of the emigrants had started in April, thus putting several hundred miles between the advance and rear parties, and feeling it to be my duty to bring up the rear, which all experience has shown to be the weaker party, I did not hasten on the start.

The great amount of travel had cut up the roads, making the dust very deep, which in many places is strongly impregnated with alkali, which makes it nearly fatal for stock. Forty head of dead cattle were counted between the Owyhee and Malheur rivers, a distance of sixteen miles, and we found the proportion nearly as great at other points along Snake river.

Among the emigrants I found many who were more properly traders, having heavy wagons loaded with supplies of all kinds, including liquor; and not the least of my duties was settling difficulties and quarrels among themselves, often growing out of the too free use of this article. On one occasion I found it necessary to destroy a barrel of whiskey, which I did by staving the head in presence of the whole company, after which those having the article were careful to keep it concealed.

At Sweet Water bridge I found a detachment of the 6th Ohio cavalry under Captain Macky, sent out by General Craig on account of reported difficulties between the Indians and emigrants on that stream. All was quiet when we passed.

At South Pass I found another detachment of the same regiment, and at Pacific spring or Gilbert's station the main body, under Colonel Collins, who was then absent on a scout, leaving Captain Hays in charge of the post with about forty men. Immediately on my arrival at this post, August 4th, I received the following despatch by telegraph:

"To Captain Crawford, commanding emigrant escort:

"Report to Captain Hays with your company for immediate service against the Indians.

"By order of Brigadier General Craig:

"FRANK ENO, A. A. G."

I called immediately on Captain Hays, and learned that during the day previous their herd of some 48 mules and 15 horses, which had been sent three miles from camp in charge of one teamster, had been stolen and the man killed,

no information of which had reached Captain Hays until that morning. I informed the captain that my animals were totally unfit for the service he required, and to send them on a forced march would so reduce them as to prevent the possibility of carrying out my instructions, and defeat the whole object of the expedition for which my company was organized; proposing, at the same time, to remain a few days and guard his camp, thus allowing him to pursue the thieves with his whole force. I remained in this position three days when Captain Hays returned, having recovered all but about ten of the animals, when I was released by a despatch from Assistant Adjutant General Eno. During my stay several parties of emigrants had arrived, and, lest there should be some still behind, I sent Lieutenant J. M. Pyle with a detachment back thirty miles. He returned next day and reported no parties in sight, hence I concluded that I had the last of the emigrants, nor have I yet heard of any behind me at that point.

On the 7th of August we left this station and took the Lander road. Many emigrants who had been travelling with me here struck off to Salt Lake and California. From this point I had immediately under my protection 98 wagons of emigrants, with 428 souls and 847 head of stock. I found this road very much injured by the water since last year. Bridges had been carried away, banks of streams so washed out as to render crossing dangerous and frequently impossible; and in many instances emigrants who had preceded us had dug roads along the hill sides to avoid the streams through the cañons.

This route is a great improvement on the old trail in point of distance, as well as for the excellent grass and water it affords at short intervals, but unless some repairs are made the road will have to be abandoned. I was compelled to detail a squad of men with tools each day to go ahead and dig down banks, build bridges, and remove rocks and logs, in order to render the road at all passable; and even with such temporary improvements as I was able to make, it often required all my company to assist my own and the emigrants' wagons over bad places.

On the 11th of August we reached New Fork of Green river. I found our crossing of last year entirely impracticable, and had to go three miles further down the stream, where, by raising the boxes of our wagons some twelve inches, we were able to make the crossing, which we commenced at noon on the 11th and by 3 o'clock p. m. on the 12th all the emigrants were over.

Here we found the first evidence of Indian depredations—a grave, from the inscription on which we learned that Patrick Moran, of Missouri, was killed by Indians on the 18th of July, and two men wounded. On the 15th, near Labarge creek, in the Bear River mountains, we came to the grave of a man found and buried by an emigrant party on the 27th of July; he had been shot in the temple, and also with an arrow. Again, on the 25th of August, within thirty miles of Fort Hall we found the graves of five persons, said to have been killed by Indians on the 9th of August. Some of them had been shot with buckshot, which, with other circumstances, leads me to believe that white men had a hand in this massacre.

On the 26th of August we camped on Ross' Fork of Snake river; nine miles from this point a ferry had been established across Snake river, over which many of the emigrants had passed in search of the Salmon River mines. Many of those who crossed the river finding it impossible to cross the mountains turned northward to the Deer Lodge prairie, thence by Lieutenant Mullan's road to Walla-Walla; others turned down Snake river and recrossed at Fort Boise, some keeping down the north side of Snake river to opposite the mouth of Powder river and recrossing there.

About twenty wagons which had crossed Snake river a few days before my arrival, and had met some parties returning from the Deer Lodge country, were induced to recross the river and join my company. Here I lay by a day and

a half to give the emigrants an opportunity to consult together as to the route they would take, the result of which was they all concluded to follow me down the old road on the south side of Snake river, which I considered the most practicable.

Nine miles from this point brought us to Portneuf river, where General Lander constructed a fine bridge, which we last year found in good order, but has since been destroyed and a ferry established by the same parties who owned the ferry on Snake river. By going up the Portneuf river a mile I discovered a practicable ford, over which I took my own and the emigrant trains, much to the disgust of the ferrymen, towards whom I did not entertain the most favorable opinion.

On the 31st of August, before reaching Raft river, we passed the graves of five men; from the inscription on the headboard of which we learned that they had been killed by Indians on the 9th, and immediately after crossing Raft river we found the grave of a Miss Adams, who was shot on the 9th and died on the 12th of August, doubtless belonging to the same party. On the 3d of September we found a notice that an emigrant train had a skirmish with the Indians, in which one Indian was killed and one white man wounded. Near the same place and about the same time a Mr. Phillips left his camp, alone and unarmed, for the purpose of fishing, and is supposed to have been taken, as nothing has since been heard from him, and fresh Indian signs were found in the vicinity.

These are all the evidences of Indian depredations that have come under my observation, and I am satisfied that many of the statements published on this subject are greatly exaggerated.

From the hostile disposition thus manifested by the Indians towards the earlier emigrants, it is safe to conclude that the later and weaker parties would have been entirely cut off had it not been for the protection afforded them by the government.

Near Salmon Falls I found a detachment of the Oregon cavalry, under Lieutenant Colonel Maury, and at the Bruno river another detachment, under Captain Harris.

For some time before reaching this point I had great difficulty in keeping the emigrants together. Some were able and anxious to go ahead, while others would positively refuse to move, and, notwithstanding the lateness of the season, would insist upon laying by to recruit their stock. In order to relieve their necessities and, as far as possible, give protection to all, I divided my company, and on the 17th of September my assistant, Mr. Leroy Crawford, with twenty-five men and six wagons, proceeded with about one-half of the emigrants, while I stopped with the balance to recruit their teams and repair their wagons.

After remaining two days I got my party under way, but soon found that further delay would be necessary unless teams could be furnished to haul their wagons and families. I had already a considerable amount of their baggage and two entire families in my wagons, and the only means of assistance left in my power was to yoke my six remaining beef cattle and distribute them among the weaker teams. This I did, and, by changing them from one wagon to another as circumstances required, kept them moving until they reached the settlements in Powder River valley, where I found the advance party awaiting my arrival. Here the emigrants were able to procure provisions for themselves and grass for their stock, and as they were out of danger, I left them and proceeded with my company.

I was required by my instructions to protect the emigrants as well against starvation as from Indians. Towards the last of the journey I found several families entirely destitute of provisions, and for the last twenty days there were twelve families, comprising forty-nine persons, dependent upon me for supplies. Besides these, ten families were destitute of meat of any kind. I had expected

this, and supplied myself so as to be able to issue liberal rations of meat and flour to each person.

On many occasions during the journey our physician, Dr. Chapman, was called upon to prescribe for the emigrants, and in one instance to amputate the arm of a child some ten years old, in consequence of a wound from the premature discharge of a shot-gun. They were at all times promptly attended to and supplied with medicines free of charge. Thus, it will be seen, we cured their sick, fed the destitute, hauled their baggage and families, mended their wagons, repaired the roads, hunted, and in some instances drove their teams, settled their disputes, and kept them moving until they reached the settlements, and not a man, woman, or child who travelled in the vicinity of the escort was at any time molested by Indians. Most of the emigrants exhibited a proper appreciation of the objects of the expedition, and received very thankfully the aid and benefits bestowed upon them. I had a small supply of presents for friendly Indians, a part of which I gave to the Pawnees, Sioux, Diggers, and Cayuses, which were all the tribes that came near us.

At Grand Ronde valley I left the company in charge of my assistants, and proceeded, as fast as possible, to Walla-Walla, where I arrived on the 11th of October.

On the 14th the train arrived, and on the 15th I paid off and discharged the men of my company, who had served me faithfully on my long journey. On the 21st the animals, wagons, and other property of the expedition were sold at public auction in the town of Walla-Walla.

And now, sir, in concluding the report of my operations, I may be excused for laying before you my views, the result of two years' experience with emigrants, as to the necessity of the government giving them protection in future, and the best manner by which it can be afforded.

Whatever differences of opinion may exist, or reports be made, as to the practicability of the different routes across the Rocky mountains, the recent discoveries of gold on the tributaries of Snake river will inevitably take large parties up the Platte and Sweet Water rivers and down Snake river, this being the oldest and most direct route to those points of attraction.

This route lays through the country of the Sioux, Snake, and Pannack Indians, the most hostile tribes now known, and the natural result of the great influx of miners now going to the Boise mines will be to inflame the minds of these Indians, who, finding the miners too numerous for them, will revenge themselves upon the emigrants as they approach next year.

For two years past the government has given protection to the rear parties of emigrants, and the Indians will no longer wait as formerly, but fall upon the advance parties as they arrive. A large majority of the persons who start on this trip are lamentably ignorant of the difficulties they must encounter, and I am satisfied that a great portion of their losses and misfortunes could be obviated by proper information being given them at the start how to prepare for the journey.

After getting, as far as possible, such information, they could best be assisted and protected by sending a party ahead to drive off the Indians and repair the roads, the necessity for which I have already alluded to.

From Fort Hall, I believe, a better road can be found on the north than on the south side of Snake river, and, with little exploration, I have no doubt but a practicable ford could be found in that vicinity. A ferry is already established by the miners at Boise, where they could recross Snake river, if they desired to do so. By thus crossing Snake river emigrants would avoid the Sandy desert and alkali dust so fatal to their stock.

From these considerations I would recommend an escort of one hundred men, including teamsters, herders, and workmen, to be divided into two parties—one, the larger party, to leave the Missouri river as early as the grass and roads

would permit, taking only sufficient provisions for, say, sixty days, with necessary tools to repair roads, &c., and proceed as rapidly as possible to the Lander road and engage in the work of putting that road in condition for the emigration to travel over.

As the emigrants arrive they should be advised to organize thoroughly and travel only in large parties, and a detachment from the escort should be sent to act as scouts and guides to the foremost parties, who should be required to submit to such rules and regulations as the officer in charge should establish.

The rear party should remain at the Missouri river until June, giving notice when they would start, and take with them a supply of provisions for the advance party. In this manner the advance as well as rear emigrants can be protected and assisted, and that road, so valuable to the traveller, and upon which the government has expended a large amount of money, can be made permanently useful, and without which it must be abandoned.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

MEDOREM CRAWFORD,

Captain, Assistant Quartermaster United States Volunteers.

Brigadier General L. THOMAS,

Adjutant General.

