

OCCUPANCY OF SAN JUAN ISLAND.

LETTER
FROM
THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

RELATIVE TO

The occupancy of San Juan island, number of troops, &c.

MARCH 25, 1868.—Referred to the Committee on Military Affairs and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington City, March 18, 1868.

SIR: In reply to the communication of December 10, 1867, from the chairman of the Military Committee, enclosing a resolution of the House of Representatives, of November 30, 1867, inquiring into the expediency of terminating the joint occupancy of San Juan island, also the number of troops stationed there and the cost of supporting the same, I have the honor to state that the General of the army reports adversely as to the abandonment of the joint occupancy.

The accompanying report of January 13, 1868, from Major General Halleck, exhibits the strength of the military force stationed on the island and the cost of maintaining the same. It is proper to remark that the Commissary General of Subsistence estimates the cost of subsisting the command at about four thousand dollars more than General Halleck.

Your obedient servant,

EDWIN M. STANTON,
Secretary of War.

HON. SCHUYLER COLFAX,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

HEADQUARTERS MILITARY DIVISION OF THE PACIFIC,
San Francisco, California, January 13, 1868.

GENERAL: I have this day received a copy of a resolution of the House of Representatives, passed November 30, 1867, in regard to the number of troops we now have stationed on San Juan island, and the cost of supporting the same, with your indorsement directing an immediate report on the same.

By last returns, dated December 8, 1867, the company (battery I, second artillery) stationed on San Juan island consisted of five officers and fifty-eight men; total, sixty-three.

The only cost to the government during the past year in keeping up this post, besides the ordinary pay and allowances of the officers and men, has been some fifteen hundred or two thousand dollars for the repairs of the hospital and quarters, and three thousand dollars for the transportation of the mail, officers, and soldiers between that place and Victoria. No civilian employes of any description are now allowed at this post.

The average cost of the ration in San Francisco is 20.8 cents. To this should be added about three-quarter cent for transportation and delivery at San Juan island. The annual allowance of clothing for each soldier costs \$75, to which should be added \$3 for cost of transportation. This would give :

Annual pay for 58 men.....	\$10, 920
Annual cost of rations for 58 men.....	4, 519
Annual cost of clothing for 58 men	4, 500
Annual pay and allowances of 5 officers	7, 728
Annual cost of fuel for the garrison.....	1, 200
Annual cost of forage for public animals.....	2, 000
Annual cost of mail communication, &c	3, 000
Annual cost of repairs of public building.....	2, 000
Total.....	<u>35, 867</u>

Some of the above items are only approximate estimates, as the exact figures could not be obtained without sending to the post, which would have delayed this report, which you direct to be made immediately. It is, however, sufficiently correct for the purpose desired.

In regard to that part of the resolution which refers to the expediency of terminating the present joint occupation, I respectfully refer to my communication of November 18, 1867, in which the matter is fully discussed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. W. HALLECK,

Major General U. S. A., commanding

Military Division of the Pacific.

ADJUTANT GENERAL OF THE ARMY,
Washington.