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CONGRESS.

EXPEDITION TO THE YELLOW STONE.

Report of the Committee on Military Affairs, in relation to the expenditures which have been, and are likely to be incurred, in fitting out and prosecuting the expedition to the Yellow Stone river, and other objects connected with the said expedition; together with a statement of the distribution of the army of the United States, its total strength of garrisons, &c. &c.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

January 3, 1820.

The Committee on Military Affairs have, according to order, inquired into the expenditures which have been made & are likely to be incurred in fitting out & prosecuting the expedition ordered to the mouth of the Yellow Stone river, on the Missouri, and concerning the objects intended to be accomplished by the expedition. The movement of the troops, made and intended to be made, and the incurred and estimated expense, appear by the letter of the Quarter-Master General to the Secretary of War (marked A.) and the statements numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4; the objects of the expedition are fully explained by the letter of the Secretary of War to the Chairman of the Military Committee, (marked B.) The committee have also obtained a statement of the distribution of the army of the U. States, its total strength, and the strength of the garrisons and posts, (marked C.) All which is respectfully submitted.

Letter from the Quarter-Master General to the Secretary of War.

QUARTER MASTER GENERAL'S OFFICE, December 28, 1819.

SIR: In obedience to your order, requiring a statement of the expense incurred by the movements on the Missouri, and an estimate of the sums which will be required for the ensuing three years, I have the honor to report, that several of the accounts connected with those movements have not been received, particularly that of Colonel JAMES JOHNSTON, who was employed as a transporter of troops, provisions, and stores. But, on the most liberal estimate, I am convinced that the whole expense of the movement for the present year, including all the supplies furnished by the Quarter-Master's Department, cannot exceed one hundred and sixty-three thousand dollars. From that sum should be deducted the expense which would have accrued had the troops remained at their former stations, as well as the entire value of the barges, batteaux, and other means of transportation (the property of the government) attached to the expedition; and the remainder will be the amount of expense actually incurred. As the establishments on the Mississippi are included in the plan of defence for the western frontier, it is thought that a statement of the movements made, of the works established, and of the expense incurred, might not be unsatisfactory.

By a reference to the accompanying statements it will be seen that the expenses of the establishments, both on the Missouri and the Mississippi, will diminish every year. Those statements are predicated upon arrangements already made for the supply of a part of the provisions, all the forage, fuel, and quarters, and, after the next year, the greater part of the transportation, by the troops, and at but, trifling expense to the public.

No. 1. shows the movements, and the works established by the troops on both rivers.

No. 2. is a statement of the expense incurred by the movement on the Missouri, and an estimate of the probable expense for the ensuing three years. You will perceive that the two regiments have cost fifty-four thousand two hundred and twenty-six dollars more than they would have cost had they remained at their original stations. With that additional expense one of the regiments has been moved nearly three thousand miles; barracks have been erected for a thousand men, and an important work has been established, which will enable us to hold in check five powerful and warlike nations of Indians.

No. 3. is a statement of the expense incurred in making the establishment on the Mississippi with an estimate of the amount required for the next three years. The troops on that river have cost less than they would have cost at their former stations, in consequence of their having provided boats, fuel, quarters, &c. without expense to the government. The greater part of the transportation on the Mississippi will be done, in future by the troops, by which a considerable sum will be saved.

No. 4. is a statement of the works on which it is proposed that the troops be employed. It is believed that those works may be accomplished in less than three years; they will be important in any plan of defence, particularly the roads, and the avenue formed by the Fox & Ouisconsin rivers, which will be necessary to afford a communication between the several frontier posts, and between those posts and our settlements.

I have the honor to be, Sir, your obedient servant,

THOMAS JESUP,

Quarter-Master General.

The Hon. J. C. Calhoun,
Secretary of War.

No. 1.—Statement showing the movement of the Troops composing the Missouri and Mississippi expeditions, in the course of the year 1819.

COORS.	Where the movements were commenced.	Routes by which the movements were made.	Present stations of the troops.	Distance from the points of departure to the present stations.
5th Regiment of Infantry	Plattsburgh, N. York	New York, Plattsburgh, and Saint Louis	Council Bluffs	2,628
Detachment of Riflemen	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh and Saint Louis	Council Bluffs	2,350
Detachment of Riflemen	Prairie du Chien	Belle Fontaine and Missouri	Council Bluffs	1,270
Detachment of Riflemen	Bell Fontaine	Missouri River	Council Bluffs	670
Detachment of Riflemen	Marth Cantonment	Missouri River	Council Bluffs	280
Detachment of 5th Infantry	Philadelphia	Pittsburgh and Saint Louis	Council Bluffs	2,180
Large detachment of the 3d Regiment	Detriot	Green Bay, Fox, and Ouisconsin rivers To Prairie du Chien, thence by the Mississippi	Prairie du Chien	2,180
			Saint Peter's	1,270

REMARKS.

At Council Bluffs a strong work has been erected by the troops, for the security of the cantonment, and barracks sufficient for the accommodation of one thousand men.

Provisions, clothing stationary, and camp equipage, for one year and ordnance, and ordnance stores, to complete the establishments, have been forwarded to the respective posts.

At Prairie du Chien the barracks have been repaired by the troops, and the wheat in cultivation secured, sufficient for the subsistence of the garrison for the ensuing winter.

At St. Peter's, barracks have been erected for the accommodation of the troops, and a work commenced for the security of the post.

[Tables No. 2 and 3 exhibit a saving, by the Expedition to the Mississippi, for 1819 and the three succeeding years, compared with what their expenses would have been, had the troops remained at their former stations, of \$73,847 84; and an extra expense for the Missouri expedition, estimated for the same term, of \$31,362—resulting in a saving, in the course of four years, in the two expeditions, of \$12,485 84.]

No. 4. Summary of the movements which will be made by the troops composing the Missouri and Mississippi expeditions, in the course of the ensuing season, and the manner in which it is proposed to employ them.

It is proposed to move the rifle regiment from the Council Bluffs to the Mandan villages and to erect barracks there, properly defended for five hundred men.

To remove some of the principal obstructions to the navigation of the Missouri river, such as planters, sawyers, and rafts; this work may be accomplished by the troops on the Missouri, in the course of three winters.

To open a road from Chariton, in the Missouri Territory, to the Council Bluffs, and thence to the Mandan villages.

To open a road from the Council Bluffs to the post at the mouth of St. Peter's, on the Mississippi.

To improve the navigation on the Ouisconsin and Fox rivers, and connect them by a canal, or good road, in order to facilitate the communication between Fort Howard, at Green Bay, and Prairie du Chien, on the Mississippi; those rivers are navigable for batteaux, within one mile of each other.

B.

Letter from the Secretary of War to the Chairman of the Military Committee.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,
29th December, 1819.

SIR: In reply to your letter of recent date, requesting to be informed of the expenditures which have been, & which are likely to be incurred in fitting out & prosecuting the expedition ordered to the mouth of the Yellow Stone, on the Mississippi river, and of the objects intended to be accomplished by the expedition, I have the honor to make the following statement:

The enclosed report estimates from the Quarter-Master General, marked Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, with a statement of the duty performed, and that which is contemplated, exhibit the expense of the expedition, up the Missouri, for the last, and the next succeeding three years, with a similar statement in relation to that on the Mississippi. Though the last is not referred to in your letter, yet, as the two movements constitute a part of the same system of measures, I believed that it would not be unacceptable to the committee to receive a statement of the whole of the expenses incurred, or likely to be incurred, in its execution.

The expedition ordered to the mouth of the Yellow Stone, or rather to the Mandan village, (for the military occupation of the former, depending on circumstances, is not yet finally determined,) is a part of a system of measures, which has, for its objects, the protection of our northwestern frontier, and the greater extension of our fur trade. It is on that frontier only that we have much to fear from Indian hostilities. The tribes to the southwest are either so inconsiderable, or so surrounded by white population, and, what is of not less importance, so cut off with intercourse from all foreign nations, that there are reasonable grounds to believe, that we shall, in future, be almost wholly exempt from Indian warfare in that quarter. Very different is the condition of those on our northwestern border. They are open to the influence of a foreign power, and many of the most warlike and powerful tribes, who, by the extension of our settlements, are becoming our near neighbors, are yet very little acquainted with our power.

To guard against their hostility, it has been thought proper to increase our forces on that frontier from one to three regiments; and to occupy new posts, better calculated to cut off all intercourse between the Indians residing on our territory, and foreign traders or posts; and to garrison them with a force sufficiently strong to overawe the neighboring tribes. With this view, measures have been taken to establish strong posts at the Council Bluff and the Mandan village, on the Missouri; at the mouth of the St. Peter's, on the Mississippi; and at the falls of St. Mary's, between Lakes Superior and Huron. The posts at Green Bay, Chicago, Rock Island, and the Prairie du Chien, will still be continued. The posts at the mouth of the St. Peter's & at the Council Bluff, have already been occupied; & that at the Mandan village will probably be, the next summer. The position at the falls of St. Mary's has been reconnoitred, and it is intended to make preparation the next summer to occupy it. The occupation of these posts with an adequate force, will, it is believed, by establishing over the various tribes in that quarter the influence of our government, and preventing or diminishing that of others, have the most beneficial effects. The position at the Council Bluff is a ve-

ry important one, and the post will consequently be rendered strong, and will be occupied by a sufficient garrison. It is about half way between St. Louis and the Mandan village, and is at that point on the Missouri, which approaches the nearest to the post at the mouth of the St. Peter's, with which, in the event of hostilities, it may co-operate. It is besides not more than one hundred and eighty miles in advance of our settlements on the Missouri, and is in the centre of the most powerful tribes & the most numerous Indian population, west of the Mississippi. It is believed to be the best position on the Missouri to cover our flourishing settlements in that quarter, & ought, if it were wholly unconnected with other objects, to be established for that purpose alone.

The position at the Mandan village, has been selected for a military post, on account of the many advantages which it is supposed to possess. At that point, the Missouri approaches nearest to the establishment of the Hudson Bay Company, on the Red river of the Lakes, near the mouth of the Assinaboin, and, at the same point, it takes a direction to the south, which, in the event hostilities, would render it more difficult, for any force which might be brought against it from the possessions of our northern neighbors, to interrupt its communications with the posts below. It is besides well situated to protect our traders, and to prevent those of the Hudson Bay Company from extending their trade towards the head waters of Missouri, and along the Rocky mountains, within our limits, which tract of country is said to abound more in fur, and of a better quality, than any other portion of this continent. The post at the mouth of the St. Peter's is at the head of navigation on the Mississippi, and, in addition to its commanding positions, in relation to the Indians, it possesses great advantages, either to protect our trade, or prevent that of foreigners. The post contemplated at the falls of St. Mary's, will, it is believed, be of very great importance. The position, it has been stated, has been reconnoitred, and it is found that the communication between the two lakes can be commanded from our side, as the channel passes close under the western shore. The post may be established and maintained at a very little additional expense. When these posts are all established and occupied, it is believed, with judicious conduct on the part of our officers, that our northwestern frontier will be rendered much more secure than heretofore, and that the most valuable fur trade in the world will be thrown into our hands.

Trade and presents, accompanied by talks calculated for the purpose, are among the most powerful means to control the action of savages; and, so long as they are wielded by a foreign hand, our frontier must ever be exposed to the calamity of Indian warfare. By the treaty of 1794, G. Britain obtained the right of trade and intercourse with the Indians residing on our territory; which gave her nearly a monopoly of the trade with the various tribes of the lakes, the Mississippi, and Missouri, and a decided control over all their measures. The effects of this ascendancy over them must be remembered & lamented, so long as the history of the late war shall be perused. The most distressing occurrences, and the greatest disasters of that period, may be distinctly traced to it. This right of intercourse and trade with the Indians, which has proved to us so pernicious, terminated in the war, and was not reserved by the treaty of Ghent; and in the year 1816, Congress passed a law which authorized the President to prohibit foreigners from trading with the Indians residing within our limits, and instructions have been given, under the act, to prevent such trade; but it is obvious that the act and instructions to Indian agents can have but little efficacy to remedy the evil. Without a military force, properly distributed, the trade would still be continued, and, even, if it were prevented, that which is more pernicious would still remain—Indian talks at the British posts, accompanied with a profuse distribution of presents.

This intercourse is the great source of danger to our peace; and, until it is stopped, our frontier cannot be safe. It is estimated that upwards of three thousand Indians, from our side of the lakes, visited Malden and Drummond's Island, the last year; and that, at the latter place alone presents were distributed to them to the amount of ninety-five thousand dollars. It is desirable that this intercourse should terminate by the act of the British government; and it is believed that it has been continued by its agents in Canada, rather in consequence of the practice before the late war, under the treaty of 1794, than by the direct sanction and authority of that government. Its attention has,

however, been called to it, through the proper department; and as it is wholly inconsistent with the friendly relations between the two countries, it is hoped that it will not be permitted in future. The occupation of the contemplated posts will, in the mean time, put into our hand the power to correct the evil. The posts on the lakes will enable the government, not only to check effectually all trade with foreigners in that quarter, but also to restrain the Indians from passing our limits. On that side, the remedy will be complete. On the Mississippi and the Missouri, the posts at the St. Peter's and Mandan village are well selected for the same purpose. From the Lake of the Woods, westwardly, the 49th parallel of latitude is the boundary established by the late convention between the United States and the British possessions. The Hudson Bay and the North West companies have several posts & trading establishments, which are believed to be much to the south of this line, and consequently within our territory. When the boundary is ascertained and marked, the policy of the act of the 29th April, 1816, already referred to, may, by means of these posts, be effectually enforced; and in that quarter, as well as on the side of the lakes, we shall have the power to exclude foreigners from trade and intercourse with Indians residing within our limits. The facility of communication, by the Mississippi and Missouri, with our posts on those rivers, is so much greater than that between Hudson Bay or Montreal, (particularly without passing through our territory,) and the British posts north of ours, that our ascendancy over the Indians of those rivers, both as to trade and power, ought, with judicious measures on our part, to be complete.

I deem it my duty respectfully to suggest to the committee, as it is intimately connected with the subject of the present inquiry, that the present system of Indian trade is defective; and that, besides endangering the peace of our country, it cannot meet, on equal terms, the well organized trading associations of our northern neighbors. I will, however, forbear from presenting any additional observations on this point, as the report which I had the honor to make to the House of Representatives on the 5th December, 1818, contains my views in relation to it.

The ultimate success of the contemplated measures must, necessarily, depend very much on the manner in which they are executed. With this impression, great care has been taken to select officers every way calculated to effect the objects of government. Strict orders have also been given to use every effort to preserve peace with the Indians, and impress them favorably with our character; & it affords me much pleasure to state to the committee, that the conduct of Colonel Atkinson (who has received every aid, in the Indian department, from Major O Fallon, the agent,) and Colonel Leavenworth, the former of whom commands the troops on the Missouri, and the latter those on the Mississippi, as well as that of their officers & men, has been very satisfactory, and has fully justified the confidence reposed in them. There is every reason to expect that, under their judicious conduct, the posts will be established and maintained, without exciting the hostility or jealousy of the Indians.

J. C. CALHOUN.

Honorable A. SMITH, Chairman of the Committee on Military Affairs.

[The return of the strength of the army gives, including Engineer Department, Ordnance Department, and excluding Cadets, the following aggregates:

Total of Commissioned officers, 627
Non-Commissioned officers and privates, 7,557

Grand Total, 8,184

LETTER TO THE EDITORS OF THE NATIONAL INTELLIGENCER.

U. S. Arsenal, Watervliet, N. Y.

January 4, 1820.

Messrs. Gales & Seaton: While journeying to the westward of Albany, in this state, last fall, I stopped at a small tavern about three miles west of Schenectady, on Mohawk turnpike, where by the communicative disposition of the landlady, I discovered a well executed Portrait of the last Col. Forsyth, of the Rifle Corps, who was killed upon the northern frontier during the late war. The good woman told me that the Colonel left it with her, when on his way to the frontier, and that he intended to have called for it on his return, not being able to carry it further without injury. As it may be very desirable to his relatives to know this fact, and not knowing the place of their residence, I take this method of conveying to them the intelligence.

Your obedient servant,
JAMES DALRYMPLE, Maj. U. S. Ordnance