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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 278

DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE
TREATY OF NOVEMBER 18, 1854, WITH THE CHASTA,
SCOTON, AND UMPQUA INDIANS

Oregon Exp. P. 321
S. M. Palmer
Wayton C. T. Dec 29. 34.

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Enc. Treaties of purchase
entered into 18th & 29th
M^{os}, respectively - That
of the 18th with the
coastal bands, uniting
them with the Rogue River
Indians. - That of the 29th
with certain confederated
bands of the Umpqua tribe
of Indians and of the Cala-
porras residing in Umpqua
valley

Rec'd Dec 10. 35
Report to Secretary of the
Interior Feb 11. 35.
Ans. 21 Feb 15. 35.

Office Superintendent Ind. Affairs
Dayton O & Dec 29th 1854

Sir

I have the honor herewith to transmit treaties of purchase entered into on the 18th and 29th ultimo respecting for the extinguishment of Indian title to all the unpurchased country, between the summit of the Calaveras Mountain, on the North, and the Southern boundary of Oregon on the South, and from the main ridge of the Cascade Mountains on the East, to within about twenty miles of the coast on the West, except a narrow strip claimed by the Mio-lal-la-las, on the Western slope of the Cascade Mountains, between the waters of Wupfua and the North fork of Rogue River.

The treaty of the 18th, unites six bands, and confederates them with the Rogue River Indians embraced in the Treaty of 10th Sept 1853. The numerical strength of the six bands is two hundred and thirty four, and by my late census the Rogue River number five hundred and eighty one, and one in nine bands, making a total of those confederated, of eight hundred and fifteen.

It is highly probable, that there may be relatives of these bands residing in distant districts, so as ultimately to swell the number to nine hundred souls.

This treaty provides for carrying out the stipulations of agreement made with the Rogue River on the 18th ultimo the objects of which were set forth in my communication of the 25th inst accompanying that agreement. The similarity

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of habits and persons of these bands, and alliance by marriage, notwithstanding their tribal distinctions and jealousies give reason to believe they may be induced to reside peaceably together. As with other tribes, they urge serious objections against leaving their accustomed haunts, and evince great skill and cunning in meeting arguments designed to induce them to do so.

The country they inhabit is rich in gold, and portions of them have acquired a knowledge of mining, so as to enable them to realize for a few days labour, an amount equal to any possible share of ^{to the} utility derived from the sale of their country; hence we are unwilling to leave it; but while a few only avail themselves of the advantages surrounding them, the greater mass are too indolent and unmindful of the future to profit by it.

The reckless habits of a portion of the mining population from whom the natives have received so many severe chastisements and sorrows, together with the prospects of being provided with a home, an asylum for their aged and infirm, protection for their women and children, as well as the prospects afforded by cultivating the soil of an abundance to ^{God} against hunger; induced the more considerate to listen favourably to our proposals.

The individual interest in spots of ground, with the prospect of being aided in the improvement of them, and the proposal to establish schools, and a hospital among them contributed very much ₁₋₂ to

To overcome their objections.

The country purchased of these bands may be regarded a mountainous region, it nevertheless contains numerous fertile valleys already partially occupied by a thriving white population. Among the most noted valleys are the Illinois or as it is called on the map of the Surveyor General Tootose, Deen Creek, Grove Creek, Lump of La Creek, and the Pogue River Valley below Apple Gate Creek.

The agricultural capacities of this region have been underrated, and while the mountains, hills, prairies, and River Bass, afford an inexhaustible deposit of the precious Metals; the numerous the small, fertile valleys, when brought into cultivation will yield an abundant means upon which to subsist an immense population.

The authority given by this ^{Treaty} to the President of the United States, is believed sufficient to enable him to so direct the annuity payments, and control the funds provided for by the treaty, for other purposes, as to secure the objects to be attained. The equal annual payments secured by the Treaty of 10th Sept. 1853. to the Pogue River Indians, with whom these bands are confederated, opposed an obstacle against graduating the payments, and they expressed a desire that we would pay them in the manner we had ^{promised} to do with the Pogue River Indians. I made them a small payment, the goods for which were purchased in the market,

and transported in wagons and by pack animals.

The Treaty of 29th ultimo unites eleven bands, numbering three hundred and thirty seven, which with the Cow Creek band of Umpquas, numbering one hundred and fourteen, designed to be located with them, make an aggregate of four hundred and fifty one souls.

These bands are scattered from Scottsburg, situated at the head of tide water on the Umpqua River, to the Cascade Mountains, and are frequently found in isolated families, a few have commenced the cultivation of the soil, and evince a disposition to pattern after the whites. The district embraced in this Treaty includes the entire unpurchased portion of Umpqua Valley, and is regarded by many as the best portions of Oregon.

In this Treaty I have endeavored to be guided as far as possible by your instructions. In accordance with the suggestions made in my Annual report, I have engrafted in the last clause of Section Eight, a provision by which the Government of the United States may, provide such laws, rules and regulations for said Indians, as may be deemed wise and proper.

I have designated for these bands, a small temporary Reserve isolated from the settlements, and containing agricultural lands sufficient for their use, but they will necessarily be required

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to settle along the Nassau River bottom and on small creeks too sparse to make it a desirable location; but I believe it the only tract west of the Cascade and east of the coast range of mountains of sufficient extent unoccupied by the whites, suitable for an Indian settlement.

The head chief is favorable to a settlement east of the Cascade Mountains, in the district around Clameth and Yaqua Lakes. He has spent one winter in that region and thinks it highly favorable to an Indian settlement. He represents the winter as having been mild, but frosts continued late in the spring. I have great hopes of being able to induce all the Indians included in this treaty to give their assent to a removal to that district should the treaty be ratified during this session of Congress and appropriations made to carry it into effect.

I have also made these bands a small payment which when distributed among so many is a mere pittance hardly satisfying them for one day's travel at this inclement season of the year, but the ratification of the treaties with the Rogue River and Cow Creek Indians, and the payment of their annuities, have inspired them with a hope of realizing something in future. The country purchased ^{by the U.S.} embraces it is believed, an area of not less than seven thousand square miles, the Mukqua Reserve about forty five square miles,

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The unique River meanders through the latter, in a westerly direction a course of fifteen miles, while the distance by a direct line does not exceed eight miles. The mountains are high and precipitous but portions of them are coated with grass, and appear well stocked with wild game; the stream affords excellent opportunities for fishing.

In an other communication I have submitted a list of articles deemed essential for these Indians, which should be purchased in the eastern markets, should the treaty be ratified.

I have the honor to be
Dear Sir
Yours
Loeb Palmer
Superintendent

Hon. George M. Manypenny
Commissioner Ind. Affairs
Washington City
D.C.