

REPORT

OF THE

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

1893.

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REPORT
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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL
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CAMP AT MINERAL KING,
Tulare County, Cal., August 26, 1893.

SIR: Agreeably to your request under date of the 18th of July, I have the honor to submit the following report of operations in the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks since I assumed control.

I was informed by letter from the Department of the Interior of April 20 that I had been designated as acting superintendent of the Sequoia and General Grant national parks. On June 6, in compliance with Special Orders No. 44, Headquarters Department of California, I started for my post of duty, being in command of Troop B, Fourth Cavalry, comprising 2 officers, 50 men, 2 packers, 2 teamsters, and a complement of wagons and pack mules.

On June 20, after a march of 280 miles, I arrived at Three Rivers, Tulare County, Cal., when I took charge of the park.

The season was very late in the Sequoia Park. The heavy snows of the preceding winter still lay on the mountains, and the numerous swift streams were difficult, and in many cases impossible, to cross. The road to Mineral King was blocked with snow, the Hockett Meadow country was covered, and access to the Giant Forest and the northern part of the park was difficult if not impossible.

While for some weeks this prevented patrolling by the troops in the higher levels of the park, it largely did away with the necessity for such patrolling, since it also made it certain that no intrusions by sheep and cattle had taken place. Grant Park, however, was open, and a detachment of 3 men, under Sergt. Wilson, was sent to occupy it on June 26.

Before detailing further operations a short description of the parks would not be out of place, and is necessary to supplement the explanations of the peculiar features of the region given by my predecessor.

Sequoia Park is a tract 24 miles long, by from 6 to 12 miles broad. A glance at the map accompanying will show that it is shaped like a letter Z. It consists of seven townships, each 6 miles square. Four of these townships form the upper branch of the Z, two townships the lower branch, and one township the connecting branch. The center of the park is narrowest, being but 6 miles across.

Generally speaking, the Sequoia Park may be said to be composed of three great mountain masses, each totally distinct from the others, and

to all intents and purposes inaccessible from the others except by making a long detour outside the park. These are, first, the portion south of the canyon of the East Fork, or the Hockett Meadow country; second, the portion between the canyon of the East Fork and of the Middle Fork or the Castle Rocks country; third, the portion north of the canyon of the Middle Fork, or the North district.

Trails there are, indeed, passing from one to the other of these divisions inside the park, but trails hardly worthy of that designation, so steep are they, overgrown by bushes and tenacious undergrowth, rocky, dangerous to life and limb, and difficult and tedious to traverse. These trails, formerly were beaten down and kept open by cattle, but since the exclusion of cattle from the park they are difficult to find, washed out, overgrown, and rapidly becoming totally impassable.

Looking at these peculiarities in the conformation of the park, its peculiar shape, taking in sections of territory entirely separate, distinct, and inaccessible one from the other, it is difficult to understand why the park was laid out in this fashion and for what purpose.

Another peculiarity: No place exists within the confines of the park where it is practicable to obtain a fair camp for troops accessible by wagons. The only practicable wagon road which reaches the park runs through the canyon of the East Fork on steep side slopes all the way, and the remarkable spectacle is afforded of the troops detailed to guard the park being obliged to establish their main camp on land outside the park, land which is sometimes owned by private parties and which is occupied by the troops at their will and pleasure.

It is easy to see how these peculiarities increase enormously the difficulties of patrolling and guarding the park. The main, or supply, camp must be established on a wagon road, since it is by wagons alone that the great quantities of forage and rations necessary can be delivered at the camp, the energies of the small force of pack animals being sufficiently taxed in distributing supplies thence to the outposts.

This main camp must be either at or near Three Rivers or near Mineral King, either on the east side or the west side of the park. A detachment is necessary to guard Grant Park, another to guard the northern district, another to guard the southern district. These outposts at from two to four days' march from the main camp, are reached by difficult trails, and supplied by the pack trains. A troop of fifty men, detailed to guard the park, must thus be divided into one large detachment and three or four small ones, about one-half of the troop being thus detached.

THE GIANT FOREST ROAD.

These difficulties of guarding the park could be greatly decreased by the establishment of a road to the Giant Forest. Such a road would make it possible to have the main camp there. It is not only a central point, and a most desirable place for a camp, but it would insure the protection and preservation of that one great curiosity of the park.

The Giant Forest is probably the most magnificent body of timber in the world. It occupies an area of about 3 miles square, on an elevated plateau east of the Marble Fork. It is a continuous, dense forest of splendid trees, mainly red wood and sugar pine; nearly all these trees towering 300 feet or more above the ground, dwarfing by their majesty even the hills they stand upon. The giant sequoia here attains its finest growth and greatest dimensions, and one experiences a sense of mingled awe and amazement, standing beside these tremendous trunks, 15 to 25 feet in diameter, to gaze up the long shaft to where,

higher than the highest church steeples, the first branches leave the trunk, and higher yet to where the delicate tracery of the leaves seem to pierce the very heavens. This is the great point of interest of the Sequoia Park. To preserve this beautiful creation, this remarkable natural curiosity, to keep it intact for the pleasure and profit of its citizens, the Government established this park, this place of resort, for the word "park" admits of no other definition. That was well enough in its way, but having protected this natural curiosity, some way should now be provided to reach it. Not only is this not at present the case, but owing to the neglect of the Government the Giant Forest is not nearly as accessible as formerly. The Government has allowed the wagon road, which formerly led to a point 9 miles from the forest, to go to ruin, so that now it is impossible to get with a wagon to a point nearer than 19 miles distant, the 10 miles of this road intervening being so washed out as to be scarcely passable for pack mules. So inaccessible is the Giant Forest now, that during the whole of the present season, up to date, only two parties of visitors have entered it. The Government when it established the park took possession of this road, which had just been completed, failed to reimburse the builders, and allowed it to go to ruin, thus cutting off access to the very feature which it proposed to secure to the public.

This road, the Kaweah Colony road, runs up the North Fork from near Three Rivers for 10 miles, where it leaves the river and enters the park. It is narrow, but was laid out with rare engineering skill, ascending by an easy grade along the slopes of Ash Mountain, 10 miles further to the Colony sawmill. This point is 2 miles in a direct line, 9 miles by trail, from the Giant Forest. It is said that this road cost the Kaweah Colony \$30,000, and it is certainly true that its virtual confiscation by the Government wrecked the association and impoverished its members. It is a pity, for the park would have lost none of its value and picturesqueness if township 16 S., R. 29 E., which this road traverses, had been not included in the reservation. This township is brushy, rocky, and barren, except a small strip of pine near its eastern boundary. If it had been left unincorporated the Colony road would, without doubt, have been kept in a state of repair, and the forest would now be accessible to the traveler.

The people of this vicinity say very truly that it is well that Mineral King was not included in the reservation, or no part of the park would now be accessible save by trail, the Mineral King road being now kept up by the county.

APPROPRIATION FOR THE GIANT FOREST ROAD.

I beg leave to call the particular attention of the honorable Secretary to this very important matter. The Government has reserved this park, and if it is to be held as a park it should be made accessible. A large amount of money—sometimes as much as \$75,000—is appropriated each year for the Yellowstone Park. The Yosemite Park has toll roads, built and kept in order by incorporated companies. Both these parks have been made accessible. Not a cent has ever been appropriated for the improvement of the Sequoia Park. As it can not be expected that toll roads will be established here, at least for the present, an immediate and liberal appropriation is necessary, in order that this park may fulfill the design of those who established it.

The Colony road from the crossing of the main Kaweah, near Three Rivers, to the old sawmill, is 20 miles in length. An iron bridge is

needed across the Kaweah near three Rivers. For four miles from this point the road is fairly good. A wooden bridge is there needed across the North Fork. For the next six miles the road requires but slight mending as far as Ha ha Falls. Thence to the sawmill the road is in a bad state. In places the retaining wall has fallen; in others small landslides have come down from the upper bank, depositing dirt on the road. Nearly everywhere great ruts have formed, which the rains of each winter increase in size. Probably \$300 per year would have sufficed to keep this road in the condition it was in when troops first came here. But it has gone from bad to worse; even now extensive repairs are necessary to prevent its washing away altogether. From a careful inspection of the road, I am of opinion that \$5,000 are needed to put it in good condition. The bridges are needed to make the road available before the 1st of July, when the rivers subside sufficiently to be forded. These two bridges will cost about \$4,000.

From the Colony sawmill to the Giant Forest is a distance in a direct line of 2 miles, by trail 9 miles. The canyon of the Marble Fork, 3,000 feet deep, intervenes. To cross this canyon a road 15 miles long, at a cost of \$30,000, is necessary. It is recommended that an officer of the Engineer Corps of the Army be detailed to make the necessary preliminary surveys of this road.

THE NORTHERN DISTRICT.

From the Giant Forest there is access by comparatively easy trails to the different parts of the northern district of the park (except on the west, where the bushy and rocky country bordering the northern part of the canyon of the North Fork is almost impossible to traverse). This northern section of the park is as a rule a picturesque, interesting country, well watered and timbered, mountainous, with frequent meadows, affording fine feed for horses. The numerous fine streams in this country are naturally well fitted for trout, but unfortunately have never been stocked. With a road to the Giant Forest and plenty of trout in these streams, this would be a delightful resort. I am in correspondence with the U. S. Fish Commission on the subject of stocking these streams. I have also been promised by the Sportsmen's Club, of Visalia, a small number of trout, which, if obtained, I propose to plant this fall. I also have written to the California State fish commission without success. In case other resources fail, I propose to obtain a few young trout in September from the North Fork and place them in the tributaries of the Marble Fork. Numerous high falls have prevented the fish from ascending the Kaweah River to this elevated country. This country was guarded this summer by a patrol under command of Second Lieut. Rutherford, Fourth Cavalry, their camp being at Halstead Meadows. In consequence of the thorough and conscientious work of my predecessor, Capt. Dorst, Fourth Cavalry, and his command during the last two years, sheep and cattle men have religiously respected the boundaries of the park thus far this season. But one or two small bands of sheep have up to date come within the park, and that only for a few hours, probably by accident.

THE CENTRAL DISTRICT.

This is little else than a sharp mountain ridge between the Middle Fork and the East Fork. It is well timbered and has a few meadows, necessitating an occasional visit by patrols to keep off sheep and cattle.

This mountain ridge and the canyons on the north and south sides are at present an almost impassable barrier to direct communication between the north and south districts. A trail should be cut from the Giant Forest to Hockett Meadows in the southern district. With an appropriation of \$3,000 for rock-blasting, etc., supplemented by the labor of the troops, it is believed a fair trail could be constructed. If the limits of the park are not extended, this trail is urgently needed. The only way to prevent further intrusions by a band of cattle, which is constantly drifting on to the park, and at the same time punish the owners, is to drive the cattle across the park and out on the other side. A trail leading through the park is necessary for this purpose, for the cattlemen could and would resist any attempt to drive the cattle into the park after having driven them out; which would be the case if, for instance, it were attempted to drive a band of cattle from Hockett Meadows via Three Rivers to the northern boundary of the park.

THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT.

This is a well-watered, well-timbered country lying south of the East Fork. A considerable portion of it consists of a high plateau easily traversed. Its natural boundaries, however, consist of very steep and rocky canyons. It abounds with large, grassy meadows, and fine trout streams, well stocked with fish. On account of its altitude and the amount of snow lying there, this part of the park was not occupied by troops until July 22, since when it has been kept constantly patrolled by First Lieut. Alexander T. Dean and his detachment. No sheep or cattle have thus far intruded into this part of the park. It is reached by a very steep, difficult trail via the South Fork, 26 miles from Three Rivers to Hockett Meadows, or preferably by an easier trail via Mineral King, 18 miles to Hockett Meadows. An appropriation of \$200 for blasting powder and tools would make it possible to construct a good trail from Hockett Meadows to Mineral King, 10 miles long, thus diminishing the present length of route by one-half.

GRANT PARK.

This is a small reservation 2 miles square, distant 6 miles northwest in a direct line from the northwest corner of Sequoia Park. It is reached by wagon road and daily stage from Visalia, 55 miles, or by trail from Three Rivers via Eshom Creek, distance 28 miles, or by trail from Giant Forest, distance 33 miles. It is, generally speaking, a level plateau, covered by a dense forest, in which there are many fine examples of the *Sequoia gigantea*. Being more accessible, especially from the city of Fresno, it is much oftener visited by tourists than is the Giant Forest. At the same time, on account of its small size and isolated position it is much more liable to be overrun by cattle. The detachment stationed there has been constantly employed in running cattle out of the park, an endless task, for as soon as one band was run out another would make its appearance. In the event of the Sequoia Park not being enlarged so as to include Grant Park, I recommend that a wire fence be erected around Grant Park. The cost of such a fence 8 miles in length would be: For wire and nails, \$800; for labor, \$800. There is plenty of fallen timber from which to make posts, which are included in this estimate.

EXTENSION OF THE PARK.

I learn from the report of the superintendent of the Yellowstone National Park that on the 14th of April, 1891, the limits of that park were enlarged by order of the President by adding thereto a portion of a timber reserve previously set apart by the President under the timber-culture laws. There is no doubt that this can advantageously be done in the case of the Sequoia National Park, and that the limits can thus be enlarged without materially interfering with the interests of any class of citizens, save sheepmen and cattlemen, who are making use of Government lands. The present park is too small to well perform the functions of a game reserve, since the cold weather forces the deer from the high altitudes within the park to the low foothills outside the park, where they are hunted assiduously. Besides, it is too small; an area 24 miles by 9 being scarcely sufficient for the purpose. By taking in a portion of the forest reserve east of the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks there would be included a country devoid of inhabitants or settlements, without roads, but naturally suited for a game reserve. It would include and preserve the sources of the Kern River, a stream which is much depended on for irrigation. It would reclaim from the sheepmen an area now almost impassable to the traveler, to such an extent is every living thing eaten off the face of the earth and trampled under foot by the hundreds of thousands of sheep which every year roam over that territory. (I am told that this year the ravages of the sheep have been extraordinary, and people visiting the Kern River to fish have to depart hurriedly to prevent their horses from dying of hunger.) This extension of the park would include what is perhaps the finest fishing ground of America, or of the world, the Kern lakes and the upper waters of the Kern River. It would include some very picturesque country, notably about Mount Whitney, and much country in which, by reason of its comparatively low altitude, deer can winter.

By making this extension, the Sequoia Park will become about equal in area to the Yosemite. I inclose a blue print showing the proposed enlargement. Beginning at the northwest corner of Grant Park I would propose that the line run due east to the eastern boundary of the forest reserve; thence south along the boundary of the forest reserve to the point where the southern line of the park prolonged intersects that boundary; thence due west along the southern line of the park prolonged to the southwest corner of the park; thence northwest along the western boundary of the forest reserve to the southwest corner of Grant Park; thence north along the west lines of Grant Park to the point of starting.

This extension would include Grant Park and the Mount Whitney military reservation, a reservation which I believe has not yet been thrown open to occupancy by settlers. A few years of exclusion of sheep and cattle would make this a grand natural fishing and hunting resort, the source of health and pleasure to great numbers of citizens.

INFANTRY, NOT CAVALRY, NEEDED.

To guard and police such a reservation infantry, not cavalry, are necessary. On a rough trail the cavalryman is impeded by having to dismount and lead his horse half the time. The cost of infantry would be less. To subsist a force of 50 men requires the transport from the plains, by wagon and pack train, of 1,500 pounds of supplies per day

for cavalry, against 200 pounds for infantry. The cost of transportation is, therefore, in the case of the cavalry nearly eight times as great. After they have become habituated to the mountains, infantry can do as good or better work than cavalry, penetrating in search of cattle or sheep to side canyons, and on mountains where horses can not follow. Our infantry needs practice in marching, and this mountain work is calculated to improve in *morale* and physique any body of men who are engaged in it. Entire regiments of infantry in the French and Italian services are devoted to Alpine work. For the thorough guarding and policing of the enlarged park, two companies of infantry would be sufficient and their provisioning would cost the United States much less than one troop of cavalry. Such a force, provided with plenty of cheap jacks or burros as pack animals, could do most efficient work. It is believed that troops can be of little use in the park before the 15th of June nor after the 15th of October, on account of the snow.

GAME AND FISH.

From all accounts the numbers of bear and deer in the park have increased materially since last year. This is the principal game. Grouse and quail are found, but not plentifully, owing to the high altitude.

As already stated, the streams in the northern district of the park need to be stocked with trout. I request that the attention of the national Fish Commission be called to this matter. It is a shame to find such fine trout streams devoid of trout. My guide, Mr. West Warren, of Visalia, can be of assistance in this matter; he knows the country and the streams thoroughly.

POINTS OF INTEREST.

This park is not picturesque to the same degree as the Yosemite. Still some very striking views can be had from a few high points, notably Mount Silliman, Mount Baldy, Moro Rock, Castle Rocks, the heights near Mineral King, and a point near Hocketts Meadows. Most of these points are accessible by trail.

FIRES.

There were no forest fires in the park up to date.

SURVEYS, CLAIMS, ETC.

The boundaries of the park should be run by a competent surveyor and marked. This has never yet been done, and until it is done the force guarding the park is likely to be annoyed by intrusions of ignorant sheep and cattle men. Plenty of copies of the rules and regulations of the park should be sent the officer in charge, in order that they may be posted on all trails and roads entering the park.

A number of people filed claims on lands that now lie within the park, before it was established. One aged man, Mr. Daniel Hiten, has for eight years been trying to gain full possession of a place near Oriole Lake, on which he has a house and barn and numerous improvements. His claim, and all others of the kind, should be passed upon and settled one way or the other, that the applicants should not be kept in suspense. It would also be proper, in my judgment, to reimburse the Kaweah colonists for the road on which they have spent so much money and labor.

OPERATIONS.

I will give here a brief résumé of the operations of this troop during the year.

The outpost at Grant Park of Sergt. Wilson and 3 men was established June 26. I inclose his report of operations since. He deserves commendation for the manner in which his duties were performed.

The outpost at Halsteads Meadows, for the guarding of the northern district of the park, consisting of Lieut. S. McP. Rutherford and a detail of 8 men, was established July 10. I inclose Lieut. Rutherford's report, dated August 12. His patrols traveled up to that time about 720 miles.

The outpost at Hocketts Meadows, to guard the southern district of the park, was established July 22. It consists of First Lieut. A. T. Dean, Fourth Cavalry, and detachment of 6 men. I inclose Lieut. Dean's report, dated August 20. His patrols up to that date had traversed 408 miles.

My thanks are due these two officers for the efficient manner in which they have performed their duties.

In addition to the patrols reported by these officers, numerous patrols and scouts have been made from the main camp and elsewhere.

The total number of miles traversed by this troop and independent detachments up to August 22 was about 4,000 miles. Personally I have been able to visit most portions of the parks.

MAPS.

I inclose for file with my report a map prepared by topographical assistant Private Blake, of the Sequoia and General Grant parks and the country contiguous. Also a map of General Grant Park. A large map of the Sequoia Park in detail is in course of preparation. When finished a copy will be forwarded.

RÉSUMÉ OF RECOMMENDATIONS.

In conclusion I take the liberty of making a résumé of the recommendations I have made in regard to this park.

(1) That \$5,000 be appropriated and expended for the repairs of the Giant Forest Road.

(2) That this road be extended to the Giant Forest and that the Government appropriate \$30,000 for this purpose.

(3) That a bridge across the main Kaweah River be constructed at a cost of \$3,000.

(4) That a smaller bridge be thrown across the North Fork, costing \$1,000.

(5) That a good trail be built between the Giant Forest and Hocketts Meadows, at a cost of \$3,000.

(6) That \$200 be appropriated for blasting, etc., on short trail from Mineral King to Hocketts Meadows, to be built by labor of troops.

(7) That a wire fence be constructed about Grant Park, at a cost of \$1,600.

(8) That \$3,000 be appropriated each year for the repair of roads and trails.

(9) That an engineer officer of the Army be detailed to survey and lay out roads and trails.

(10) That the park be enlarged by taking in that portion of the For-

est Reserve east of the park, and that the Sequoia and General Grant parks be consolidated under the name of the Sequoia Park.

(11) That the National Fish Commission be requested to stock the many fine streams in the park, now without fish.

(12) That the boundaries of the park be surveyed and marked by a competent surveyor.

(13) That the claims of all parties to land within the park be settled without delay.

(14) That the Kaweah Road be paid for.

(15) That infantry as well as cavalry be used to patrol the park, being better adapted to that work.

My thanks are due to Capt. J. H. Dorst, Fourth Cavalry, who preceded me as superintendent of the park, for much information and assistance.

I append tables of distances of the different routes through the park.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES PARKER,

Capt. Fourth Cav., Act. Supt. Sequoia and General Grant National Parks.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

APPENDIX.

TABLES OF DISTANCES.

Three Rivers post-office is at the entrance to Sequoia Park. Stages leave for Three Rivers from Exeter railroad station, distant 20 miles, and from Visalia railroad station, distant 28 miles, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays.

Guides and animals may be secured in Visalia. The best guide to this country is Mr. West Warren, of that town.

Road from Three Rivers to Mineral King.

Inter- vening dis- tance.	To—	Remarks.	Total dis- tance.
<i>Miles.</i>			<i>Miles.</i>
3	Washburns.....	Good camp; rough road.....	3
2½	Red Hill.....	do.....	5½
2½	East Fork Bridge.....	do.....	8
3½	Kanes Flat.....	Good camp; road rough and steep.....	11½
2½	Lake Canyon.....	Good camp; road fair.....	14
1	Cold Spring.....	Road enters Sequoia Park.....	15
3	Trangers.....	Ranch; road fair.....	18
2	Slap Jack Creek.....	Fair camp; road fair.....	20
1	Red Wood Canyon.....	do.....	21
1½	Davenport.....	do.....	22½
1	Atwells Mill.....	do.....	23½
1½	Ground Hog Cabin.....	Road leaves Sequoia Park.....	25
5½	Mineral King.....	Good camp; road poor.....	30½

NOTE.—This road has been kept in repair up to date by the county of Tulare.

Three Rivers to Hocketts Meadows.

2½	Blossoms.....	Good camp; road very poor.....	2½
5½	Alles.....	do.....	8
5	Redwood Cabin.....	Very rough trail.....	13
3	Lady Bug.....	do.....	16
4	Top of Hill.....	do.....	20
8	Hocketts Meadows.....	Good camp; good trail.....	28

Mineral King to Hocketts Meadows.

Inter- vening dis- tance.	To—	Remarks.	Total dis- tance.
<i>Miles.</i>			<i>Miles.</i>
1	Soldiers Camp	Fair road	1
3	Farewell Gap	Steep trail	4
4	Little Kern River	Fair camp; rough and stony trail	8
2	Wet Meadows	Fair camp; steep trail	10
8	Hocketts Meadows	Good camp; good trail	18

Distances from Hocketts Meadows.

From Hocketts Meadows to—	<i>Miles.</i>
Milk Ranch	5
Quinns Horse Ranch	8
Mineral King (short trail)	10
Evelyn Lake	2
Davenport, via Tar Gap	8

Three Rivers to Giant Forest via Colony Road.

Inter- vening dis- tance.	To—	Remarks.	Total dis- tance.
<i>Miles.</i>			<i>Miles.</i>
1	Kaweah River Ford	Fair camp; good road	1
3	North Ford Fork	do	4
1	Davis Ranch	do	5
3½	Progress Creek	Good camp; road washed out in places	8½
1½	Haha Falls	Fair camp; road washed out in places	10
1	Park line	Road enters park	11
1	Little Spring	Fair camp; road badly washed; good trail	12
1	Maple Caynon	do	13
3½	Cedar Creek	Good camp; road badly washed; good trail	16½
4½	Colony Sawmill	Fair camp; road badly washed; good trail; water 400 yards north of sawmill.	21
4	Auld Lang Syne Cabin	Rough trail; fair camp	25
3	Crossing Marble Fork	Rough trail; good camp	28
2	Round Meadow (Giant Forest)	do	30

Colony Sawmill to General Grant Park.

4	Auld Lang Syne Cabin	Rough trail; fair camp	4
4	Halsteads Meadows	Rough trail; good camp	8
4	Half-way Meadow	do	2
3	Top of North Fork Hill	do	5
1	Crossing North Fork	do	6
6	Woodards Ranch	do	22
10	General Grant Park	do	32

Distances from Halstead Meadows by trail.

	<i>Miles.</i>		<i>Miles.</i>
To Pond Meadow	2	To Horse Meadow	6
To Sheep Meadow	3	To Upper Cahoon	7
To Cabin Meadow	6	To Clover Creek	6
To Wet Meadow	5	To Lower Cahoon Meadow	1

Round Meadow to Upper Cahoon Meadow.

Inter- vening dis- tance.	To—	Remarks.	Total dis- tance.
<i>Miles.</i>			<i>Miles.</i>
1	Circle Meadow	Fair trail; good camp	1
2	Long Meadow	do	3
2	Horse Meadow	do	5
1	Wet Meadow	do	6
2	Clover Creek	do	8
1	Upper Cahoon Meadow	do	9

Giant Forest (Round Meadow) to Hocketts Meadows.

1	Circle Meadow	Fair trail; good camp	
4	Upper Hackleberry Meadow	do	5
7	Middle Fork	Very rough trail; poor camp	12
6	Top of Mountain	Very rough trail; good camp	18
2	Atwells Mills	Very rough trail; fair camp	20
1	Davenport's	Good road; fair camp	21
8	Hocketts Meadows	Very rough trail; good camp	29

Giant Forest (Round Meadow) to Red Hill.

2	Moro Rock	Fair trail	2
7	Wolvertons Ranch or Middle Fork	Very rough and dangerous trail	9
9	Red Hill	do	18

HOCKETT MEADOW.

Sequoia National Park, August 20, 1893.

SIR: Pursuant to orders the following detachment from Troop B, Fourth Cavalry, marched from Mineral King to Hockett Meadow on July 22, 1893, reaching the latter place the same date: First Lieut. Alex. T. Dean; Sergeant Charles J. Fulle; Privates Joseph Simon, Frank Ridgely, Paul Schickram, and Martin W. Olsen, to patrol and guard the southern part of the Sequoia National Park.

The detachment has made the following marches:

July 24. Sergt. Fulle and Private Simon marched to the South Fork and southern boundary of the park; found one cow trail and lost it in the heavy rain storm; distance traveled, 16 miles.

July 25. Private Ridgely marched from Hockett Meadow down South Fork trail to Alles Ranch; distance 20 miles. Lieut. Dean and Private Simon, on the above date, marched to the Milk Ranch and patrolled that part of the park near Homers Nose, Milk Ranch, and Evelyn Lake; distance 20 miles.

July 26. Private Ridgely returned from Alles Ranch via South Fork trail to camp at Hockett Meadow; distance 20 miles.

July 28. Sergt. Fulle marched over trail from Hockett Meadow to Davenport Ranch on Mineral King Road, via Tar Gap, and patrolled meadows along Horse Creek; distance 15 miles. Privates Simon and Ridgely marched to Quinns Horse Camp and patrolled near there and Soda Creek; distance 22 miles.

July 29. Sergt. Fulle, Privates Simon and Ridgely marched to the Milk Ranch, and patrolled vicinity of Homers Nose and Evelyn Lake; distance 22 miles.

August 2. Lieut. Dean and Private Simon marched to Quinns Horse Camp and Soda Creek; distance 18 miles. Private Ridgely marched to the Milk Ranch and patrolled near there; distance 15 miles.

August 5. Privates Simon and Ridgely marched down South Fork and up to Chisel Peak Meadow on the southern boundary of the park; distance 20 miles.

August 6. Sergt. Fulle and Private Simon marched down South Fork trail and patrolled meadows between Hockett Meadow and Lady Bug; distance 18 miles. Private Ridgely marched to the Milk Ranch and patrolled near there; distance 15 miles.

August 9. Lieut. Dean and Privates Ridgely and Schickram marched to Quinns Horse Camp, and patrolled near there and Soda Creek; distance 22 miles.

August 10. Sergt. Fulle and Private Simon patrolled near the southern boundary of the park; distance 12 miles. Private Ridgely marched to Mineral King; distance 20 miles.

August 11. Private Ridgely returned from Mineral King; distance 20 miles.

August 13. Sergt. Fulle and Private Simon marched to the Milk Ranch and patrolled near there; distance 12 miles. Private Ridgely went to Chisel Peak Meadow, and patrolled southern boundary of the park; distance 18 miles.

August 14. Lieut. Dean, Sergt. Fulle, and Privates Simon, Ridgely, and Olsen marched from Hockett Meadow to Horse Creek, followed the same up to lake near Mount Vandever, west of Farewell Gap; distance 18 miles.

August 15. Private Ridgely marched to Mineral King; distance 20 miles. Private Ridgely returned from Mineral King on foot, via new proposed trail south of the White Chief; distance 10 miles.

August 16. Lieut. Dean and Private Olsen marched to Quinns Horse Camp; distance 18 miles.

August 18. Lieut. Dean, Privates Simon, Ridgely, and Olsen marched to Milk Ranch and patrolled near Homers Nose and Evelyn Lake; distance 17 miles.

Total number of miles marched by the detachment from July 22 to August 19, 408 miles.

No sheep or cattle were seen.

The conduct of the enlisted men of the detachment has been excellent. The horses and mules are in first class condition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

ALEX. T. DEAN,

First Lieutenant, Fourth Cavalry, Commanding Detachment.

COMMANDING OFFICER,

Troop B, Fourth Cavalry.

CAMP AT HALSTEAD MEADOW, *Sequoia National Park, August 12, 1893.*

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the work done by the detachments under my command between the 10th of July and the 12th of August, 1893:

I left the main camp at Washburn's Ranch on the 10th of July with a detachment of 6 men, the pack train, and a guide. We marched to Cedar Creek, on the Colony Road, and went into camp; distance traveled, 18 miles.

On July 11 I marched to Halstead Meadow and made a permanent camp; 12 miles. The same afternoon I started to go to the top of Little Baldy, but there being no trail, and not knowing the country, I was obliged to turn back, as it was getting late. (3 miles.)

On July 12 I took a detachment of 4 men and a guide and went to Pond Meadow; from there to Sheep Meadow, and down the North Fork to Dougherty Meadow, returning to camp by way of Halfway Meadow. (12 miles.) On the way back I met Capt. Parker, who told me there had been large bands of sheep north of the park, he having come from Grant Park that day.

On July 13 I sent the guide and 1 man to the Marble Fork to see whether it was fordable at the trail leading to Giant Forest. A short time previous it had been too high to cross. They reported it fordable. (11 miles.) I sent the pack train to Auld Lang Syne for grain. (8 miles.)

On July 14 I took a detachment to Giant Forest, and camped at Thorpes Meadow. (10 miles.) On the way through the forest I scouted the country in the vicinity of Round and Circle meadows, and that afternoon I sent a detachment to Hackberry Meadow. (3 miles.)

There were signs of two horses having been there, but I judge it was parties visiting the forest. The pack train brought a load of grain. (8 miles.)

On July 15 I took the detachment to Wet Meadow by way of Long and Horse Meadow. (6 miles.) I sent a detachment on foot to scout the country west of camp, in vicinity of Lower Cahoon Meadow, and one to the northeast, in direction of Mount Silliman; distance traveled by each, 5 miles.

I had ordered Corporal Farrel to take a detachment and scout the country north and northwest of the main camp, in the vicinity of Pond, Sheep, and Cabin meadows, which he did. (12 miles.)

The pack train was sent for grain. (8 miles.)

On July 16 I took the guide and went to Clover Creek Meadow, sending the remainder of the detachment to Upper Cahoon Meadow, where I told them to camp. I joined them there, and sent two men to scout country north and west of camp. (8 miles.) The pack train brought grain. (8 miles.)

On July 17 I took the detachment back to camp at Halstead Meadow, by way of Pond Meadow. (10 miles.) The pack train brought grain. (8 miles.)

On the evening of July 17 I noticed signs of fire in the forest to the northwest of camp, and on the 18th I went to the top of Little Baldy to discover where it was. I found that it was in Dry Creek Valley, some distance from the park. (6 miles.)

I had sent a detachment to scout the northwestern part of park the same morning. (12 miles.) The pack train brought grain. (8 miles.)

On July 19 I hunted a way from the main camp to the trail leading from Wet Meadows, the only trail leading from there being unnecessarily long. We found that a trail could be made that would shorten the distance at least 4 miles. (8 miles.)

On the following morning, July 20, I sent a detachment to cut the trail and to scout the vicinity of Clover Creek and Upper Cahoon Meadows. (15 miles.)

On July 21 I took a detachment to Giant Forest and camped at Round Meadow. (9 miles.) After dinner I took a detachment and scouted through the forest. (6 miles.)

On July 22 I sent two men with the pack train with orders to camp there and went to Thorpes and Hackberry Meadow, in Giant Forest, from there to Huckleberry Meadow, thence to Wet Meadow, where I camped for two days. (13 miles.) Before leaving camp I had ordered Corpl. Farrel to take a detachment and scout the northwestern part of park. (12 miles.)

Having heard that there was a large band of sheep east of the park I sent a detachment to Clover Creek and Upper Cahoon Meadows on the 23d of July, which returned that afternoon. (8 miles.) I went to east of Mount Silliman, but found no sheep in the park. (7 miles.)

On July 24 I returned to the main camp at Halstead Meadows. (6 miles.)

On July 25 Mr. Hadley, the owner of a large band then ranging northwest of the park, came to camp to ascertain the boundary of the park. I sent a detachment with him to show him the boundary and to see that he was not in the park. They found that the band was several miles outside to the northwest of Big Baldy. (15 miles.)

July 26 I remained in camp.

My horses and mules having been stampeded on the evening of the 26th of July, I sent several detachments on the 27th to look for them.

A great deal of the northern part of the park was thus gone over as the horses had wandered around and broken into bands.

They were found some 5 or 6 miles outside of the park late that day and did not reach camp until evening.

The next day I started for Mineral King, by way of Washburns, leaving the detachment in charge of Corpl. Farrel, with orders in regard to scouting. I camped at Washburns that night. (30 miles.)

On July 29 I marched to Mineral King. (30 miles.)

The following is the work done by the detachment during my absence from July 28 to August 9.

On July 28 three detachments were sent out to look for the mules which had not been found the previous day.

They were found by one of the detachments late that afternoon.

On July 29 a detachment was sent to Grant Park with some articles for the detachment there (25 miles).

On July 30 a detachment scouted the country in the vicinity of Pond and Sheep Meadow. Distance, 10 miles.

On July 31 the detachment came from Grant Park by way of Cabin Meadow (25 miles).

On August 1 a detachment went to Giant Forest, camping at Circle Meadow (9 miles).

After dinner a detachment was sent to Thorpe's and Hackberry meadows (5 miles).

Fresh cattle tracks were discovered, but no cattle. I judge these were Thorpe's cattle, which had been driven up the Moro Rock trail and across the park to their range east of it.

On August 2 the detachment went to Horse Meadow and camped. Part of it was sent to Upper and Lower Huckleberry Meadow, the pack train being held at Long Meadow (9 miles).

On August 3 the detachment went to intersection of trails leading from Wet and Halstead's meadows, where the mules were unpacked and left in charge of one man, while the remainder of the detachment scouted the country north and west of Mount Silliman. On returning, the mules were packed and the detachment returned to Halstead's Meadow (12 miles).

Some of my horses were now lame, having been unshod for several days.

The blacksmith arrived from Mineral King on the 5th and shod them.

On August 7 a detachment scouted northwestern part of park, going by way of Pond Meadow (12 miles).

On August 8 the detachment remained in camp, with the exception of the pack train, which brought a load of grain from Auld Lang Syne (8 miles).

I left Mineral King with the pack train, from there loaded with rations for the different detachments, and marched to Washburn's on the 7th (30 miles).

On August 8 I marched to Cedar Creek on the Colony Road (18 miles.)

On August 9 marched to Halstead's (12 miles).

On August 10 I sent a detachment of 2 men to scout country north and west of Mount Silliman.

They returned late that afternoon and reported a band of sheep in the park in the vicinity of Clover Creek Meadows. They could find no herders, and the band was too large for them to handle.

I took a detachment the next day, August 11, to the place where the sheep had been, but found none. They came in by Upper Cahoon Meadows and were driven out the same way.

From the looks of the country over which they passed I judge it was a small band that had strayed away, and were driven out as rapidly as possible. They did very little grazing. Distance traveled, 16 miles.

I sent a detachment to Giant Forest, which returned this afternoon (18 miles).

On August 12, I sent a detachment to Pond and Sheep meadows, (8 miles).

I took a detachment and went to Cabin Meadow. I found sign of several cattle having been there but they had evidently been driven out 10 miles.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

L. MCP. RUTHERFORD,
Second Lieutenant Fourth Cavalry.

Capt. JAMES PARKER,
Fourth Cavalry, Acting Superintendent Sequoia, National Park.

CAMP IN GENERAL GRANT PARK,
August 15, 1893.

SIR: In compliance with instructions I have the honor to submit the following report:

I left camp at Washburn's ranch June 26 with a detail of three privates and two wagons, with supplies, en route to General Grant Park, marched to Townsend's ranch, 22 miles, arriving at 1:30 p. m.; road good, no grass, water from wells.

The next day, June 27, marched to the Old Comstock Mills, 28 miles, arriving at 4 p. m., up a steep mountain road; no grass, plenty of wood, and good water.

On June 28 marched to the park, 10 miles, placed the detail in camp near the old camp of last year, on the Shadbeigh Meadow; plenty of good grass, water, and wood.

June 29 I entered on my duties as guard to the park by sending out my regular patrol, which has been continued ever since.

The greatest trouble we have to contend with is the cattle, as there is no place to which we can drive them without their returning in a few days. In order to keep them out as long as possible we drive them into a corral whenever we get a bunch of thirty or forty head, and keep them until the owner comes after them (whom we notify), or failing the arrival of the owner until they are starved out, when we drive them some distance from the park; they then stay away some time before returning. There seems to be about two or three brands of cattle which roam in the park. They belong to a Mr. Persian, Woodward, and Dunn, and are branded as follows: *P M D*. They have been notified several different times. The first two or three times they came after their cattle, but since that time they have paid no attention to the notices, but have allowed their cattle to be starved and then run out.

There has been no sheep near the park this year; the nearest band is about 10 miles on the Halstead Meadow trail. We have visitors in the park daily, but so far have committed no damage. Tourists going to Kings River Canyon, as a rule, do not stop in the park, but go to a meadow about 5 miles outside the park. Only two parties of ladies and gentlemen, from Fresno, have camped over night.

There was a picnic from the Sequoia Mills here on July 4 and August 13. I took charge of that part of the park personally.

The park comprises 4 square miles. The eastern lines run about half way up the side of a steep and rocky hill, which is so covered with underbrush as to make it almost impassible. The southern line is open, and that is the principal place by which cattle enter the park. The western line runs close to Smith and Moores Lake and is very steep and rocky; also covered with a thorny underbrush. The north line is open, but there is no cattle in that part of the mountains.

The park is comprised of a series of small rocky hills, between which the meadows lie. There are about thirteen, ranging in length from 100 to 500 yards, and about 50 to 100 yards in width, covered with an abundant growth of grass, with streams of fine cool water running through them.

There is no large game in the park. Partridges are plentiful this year.

The lines of the park are very indistinct. In some places it is impossible to find the corners or follow the blazed lines of the park; the corner posts are limbs of trees set into the ground, projecting about 2 feet above the surface; some of the section posts are out altogether, and it would be a great help to all parties if the park was resurveyed and marked plainly. A fence about three-fourths of a mile in length placed at the south end of the park would keep the cattle out, and with the fallen timber at hand, would cost but little.

The men of the detail have been enjoying good health and are contented.

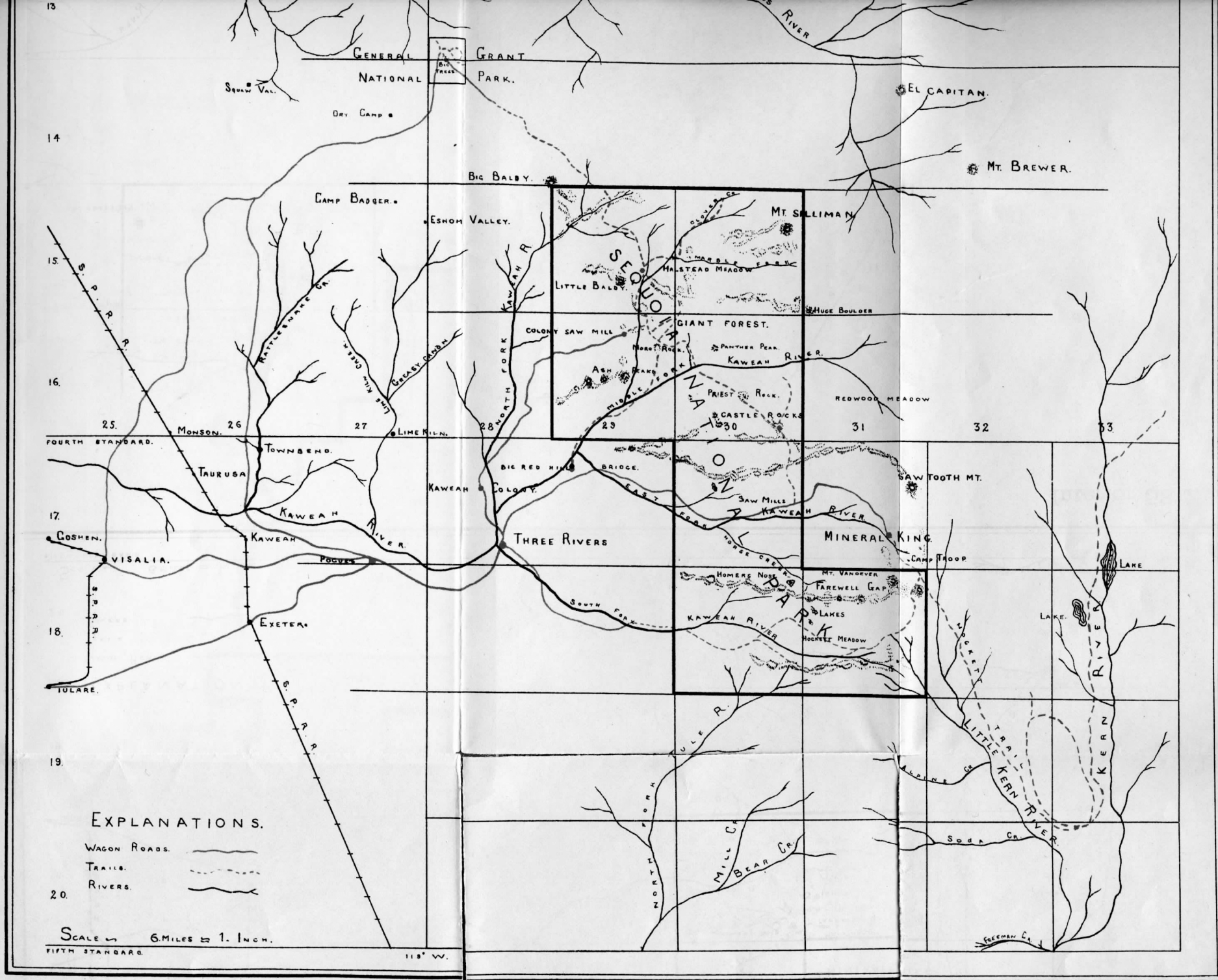
I have no breach of discipline to report. They have performed their duties cheerfully and willingly. The horses are in good condition, and have had no sickness nor injury among them. From June 26 until July 8 I fed full forage; from July 8 until July 29, half forage; after my hay was exhausted on July 29, they were placed on full grain.

I have on hand rations for the men to include August 31, and for the horses 1,604 pounds of barley and 220 pounds of hay.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

WILLIAM WILSON,
Sergeant Troop B, Fourth Cavalry,
in charge of detail.

Capt. JAMES PARKER,
Fourth Cavalry, Acting Superintendent of the Sequoia
and General Grant National Park.



Map showing Territory embraced in proposed extension of Sequoia Park, etc.