REPORT

OF THE

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS,

CALIFORNIA,

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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REPORT

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ACTING SUPERINTENDENT OF THE SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS.

CAMP AT MINERAL KING, CAL.,
September 1, 1895.

SIR: In compliance with letter of request dated July 1, 1895, I have the honor to submit the following report of the condition of affairs and of the management of the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks from the day of my assumption of duty as acting superintendent up to the present:

The command, consisting of Troop I, Fourth Cavalry, provided with the necessary transportation and supplies, reached Carter's ranch, near Three Rivers, Cal., on the 23d day of May last. The road to Mineral King not yet being open and the streams being found too high to cross, the command remained in camp until the 29th, when it moved 6 miles up the Kaweah River and established camp at Red Hill.

Scouts were at once dispatched to test the routes of travel to the usual permanent camps. As a result of their reports a detail consisting of Sergeant Soyer and three men was sent to General Grant National Park, with orders to establish camp and carry out the rules and regulations issued for its guidance by the Interior Department.

On June 4 Lieutenant Carson, with a detachment, was sent to Halstead Meadows, with instructions to locate camp and patrol the northern sections of the Sequoia Park.

A party was also started to Hockett Meadows, up the South Fork of the Kaweah, but could not get through, owing to high water.

The transportation was kept busy supplying the camps at Grant Park and Halstead Meadows.

The troop remained in camp at Red Hill until July 10, when, the road being practicable, it started to Mineral King. This place was reached and camp established next day.

On the 13th I started with a detachment, and marching by way of Quinn's Horse Camp reached Hockett Meadows on the 14th. A party consisting of Sergeant Singer and three men having been established, I returned to camp on the 15th.

On July 22, with Lieutenant Nolan as guide and a detail of ten men, I set out to make the rounds of the park in order to familiarize myself with its limits and conditions. We marched by way of the Atwells Mill trail to Giant Forest and Halstead Meadows, thence to Grant Park, returning by way of Eshom Valley to Three Rivers, thence up the South Fork to Hockett Meadows, getting back to our camp at Mineral King on the 30th.

The total distance covered during this trip was 180 miles over some of the roughest and most difficult country it has ever been my experi-

ence to travel. From the appearance of the country it is evident that the sheep men moved their herds within the park as soon as it was evacuated by the troops last fall.

Such open and shameless defiance of the law should not be tolerated by the Government. The names of these men can be ascertained and witnesses obtained. It would be a wise act to bring them to trial. Just one trial and conviction would have more effect on these law breakers than all the proclamations which could be issued in a lifetime.

If I am permitted to remain in charge of the parks until about December 1 I think I can at least prevent a recurrence of this lawlessness.

The parks have been kept practically free from invasion up to the present. Some parties have been arrested and ejected and some cattle driven out, but no harm has been done the reservation.

I found the underbrush on fire near Grant Park, but the detail was able by hard work to exclude it from the park limits. This fire had been started by sheep herders.

Although the park has been kept free from the invasions of these vandals, the whole Forest Reserve has been overrun, and in open disregard of the Secretary's proclamations.

As has been pointed out before in reports of my predecessors, these sheep men are mostly foreigners, who skillfully avoid paying taxes and care no more for the Secretary's proclamation than they would for a Fourth of July oration.

If these men are not made to feel the strong right arm of the law it would be a most wise and excellent plan to put the Forest Reserve on the same status and issue to the troops the same rules and regulations for its preservation as now apply to the parks.

The recommendation of my predecessor, Captain Parker, that a guardian be appointed for the protection of the parks during the late fall and winter is one in which I most earnestly concur. The usefulness of such an agent is too apparent to need recommendation.

I concur also in the following recommendations:

1. That the boundaries of the parks be surveyed and marked.
2. That a wire fence be put about Grant Park.
3. That all claims to land within the parks be settled.

The reports of Lieutenant Carson, Assistant Surgeon Flagg, and the two noncommissioned officers in charge at Grant Park and Hockett Meadows, respectively, are appended hereto.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. LOCKETT,
Captain, Fourth Cavalry, Acting Superintendent
General Grant and Sequoia National Parks.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

REPORT OF SECOND LIEUT. THOMAS G. CARSON, FOURTH CAVALRY.

CAMP AT HALSTEAD MEADOWS,
Sequoia National Park, Cal., August 15, 1895.

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

On June 4 I left the main camp at Red Hill with a detachment of one noncommissioned officer, four privates, two packers, and ten pack mules, with about seven

days' supplies, for the purpose of patrolling the two northern townships of the park, and also to determine the suitability of Halstead Meadows as a permanent camp for a small detachment.

I proceeded up what is known as the Old Colony Sawmill Road as far as Maple Canyon, where I camped the first night. This road scarcely deserves the name of road now, as it is washed out in so many places that it would require a great deal of work to make a wagon road of it. But it is an excellent trail for pack animals, there being plenty of grazing and water all the way from the line to the Meadows. I arrived at Halstead Meadows about noon on the 5th of June. I found good grass and in sufficient quantities to graze about fifteen horses during the entire summer. The snow had almost all disappeared, with only a small patch here and there remaining.

No sheep or cattle had been in this place this year, but several thousand sheep had run over this country for an indefinite time after the detachment left last year. The herders had used this same place for their camp, and had burned all the bunks, tent floors, and grain shed left by the detachment of last year.

I scouted the park around Mount Silliman and along the north line during the next few days, and found that it was yet too early in the season for sheep and cattle to get up so high. On my application a detachment of one noncommissioned officer and nine privates was sent up to me, and I established my camp on the 9th.

I kept up the patrols of the park to the north and east almost daily, as I found that at this season stock could only enter the park from those directions. The highlands on the east side of the park were covered with snow, and that portion required very little attention during the month of June; but the north line, from Mount Silliman to Big Baldy, was free of snow, and bands of sheep began coming into the Forest Reserve, north of the park, early in June.

On June 9 a band of about 4,000 sheep was seen 2 miles north of the line and working directly toward the park. They belonged to two brothers named Hartwick, of Tulare, Cal. They were warned to keep away, but slipped in for about a quarter of a mile and then drove over toward Kings River. But they came back a few days later and grazed along the north line for the balance of the month. They kept outside the park and near enough to drive in for a day's grazing at the first opportunity. It was only by constantly patrolling that they were kept out. All the sheep and cattle men in these mountains care nothing for posters or the law, and nothing but force keeps them out of the park.

The four northern townships are well stocked with game—bear, deer, grouse, and mountain quail—but up to date I have not seen the sign of a single hunter.

About the last of June I visited the main camp for two days, returning on the 1st of July. I found several bands of sheep had appeared a few miles north of the park. These sheep are owned by Roberts, Martin, and Hartwick, all men who live in Tulare. On the 3d, 4th, and 5th I took a detail and visited General Grant National Park, about 6 miles northeast of this park. I found the country between the two parks entirely bare, having been eaten off by sheep. This is all Forest Reserve land.

On the 7th of July a detail sent out by me to Big Baldy found a band of sheep(2,000) about a mile inside the park. These sheep were branded with an "M" and belonged to a man named Martin, of Tulare, Cal. This man has two herders—a Frenchman and a Portuguese—but the detail could see nothing of them or their dogs. They were evidently in hiding and watching the movements of the soldiers. The sheep were driven out of the park, and they were afterwards seen about 2 miles north in charge of the herders, who made no attempt to conceal themselves at that time.

July 15 I took a detail along the north line, visited some camps outside the park, and then came down south of Mount Silliman. I caught Mr. Martin, owner of sheep mentioned above, near the middle of the park, with two horses and complete camping outfit. He had some provisions and was traveling in the direction of the head waters of the Marble Fork. He could give no good reason for being in the park; in fact, he gave several reasons which contradicted each other, so I arrested him and took him to my camp. I was satisfied he was going before to spy out a way for his sheep over the good grazing on the east line, and this conclusion was verified the next day when I found his sheep near the line and apparently preparing to follow him. I sent him to the main camp at Mineral King to be ejected from the park. His sheep had given us much trouble before, but after his capture they have been content to keep away from the park.

During the summer I was not troubled with cattle until August 1, when I found a bunch of about thirty to thirty-five near Dorst Creek. These I had driven into the corral at my camp, but as we could not determine the owner we drove them out of the park on the Mount Silliman side. I am satisfied these cattle were driven into the park. The nearest ranch is 10 miles distant, and cattle would not stray so far when there is good grazing in the other directions and none at all between this and the ranch.

During the last two weeks of July I found that all sheep and cattle near and around the park had been driven farther back, to the Kings River country.

Since it is impossible to herd in the park while troops are at Halstead Meadows, the sheep herders drive past the park and seem to consider it a sort of reserve, a place where they can graze for a week or two during the Indian summer on their way to the valley, and after the troops have been withdrawn.

I think Halstead Meadows is the best place in the northern townships for the encampment of a detachment. It is necessary to have a detachment hereabouts to enforce the park regulations, and Halstead Meadows is very convenient for supplies and for guarding that point of the park most usually overrun.

I am convinced that we shall have no trouble keeping sheep and cattle out until October and November, when the large herds back in the mountains begin to move toward the valley.

August 4 I left my camp for the purpose of visiting the main camp at Mineral King, Cal., arriving there August 6.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

THOS. G. CARSON,
Second Lieutenant, Fourth Cavalry.

The ACTING SUPERINTENDENT SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

REPORT OF FIRST LIEUT. C. E. B. FLAGG, ASSISTANT SURGEON, UNITED STATES ARMY.

CAMP AT MINERAL KING, CAL.,
August 18, 1895.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report on the condition of the Sequoia National Park as bearing on its salubrity:

Differences in altitude in the park (from 1,000 to 12,600 feet) allow corresponding differences of climate. There are no sudden changes of temperature, except between day and night. The chief similarity of the climate of the different altitudes is the small amount of rain and snow fall between June and October.

From May 28 to July 15, while the main camp of Troop I was at Red Hill, 1¼ miles from the park, at an elevation of 1,060 feet, the average temperature was high, ranging from 18⅝° C. at night to 48⅛° C. in the day. The latter temperature was reached once in a soldier's tent in the line with the others. In the hospital tent, over which a fly was spread, the temperature was 4½° C. lower, and immediately on the banks of the Kaweah River lower still. The river water ranged from 14½° C. to 18⅛° C. The amount of moisture in the air was small.

From July 16 to the present time (August 18) at the main camp near Mineral King (altitude, 8,000 feet), about 1 mile from the park, the temperature has ranged between 0° C. and 24° C., the average temperature during the day being 21° C. or below. The air is moderately moist, heavy dews or frosts occurring nightly. There are occasional showers. Snow is perennial on the surrounding hills at a short distance from camp.

Springs containing carbon dioxide, iron, and other minerals abound in the park. In the lower altitudes of the park is a luxuriant growth of poison oak, which was a constant source of annoyance at Red Hill. Here rattlesnakes are numerous. Water throughout the park is abundant, pure, and cool.

At Red Hill there was one case of diarrhea on sick report and there were thirty others requiring medicine, but not incapacitated for duty. Intense heat was undoubtedly the cause of the trouble.

At Mineral King one case of pneumonitis has occurred. In the detachments sent out to patrol the park and at the subcamps there has been no sickness ascribable to climatic conditions. The sanitary condition of the camps has been exceptionally good.

Under the present conditions of roads, transportation, and lack of suitable hotel accommodations the park is better suited to those of robust constitution than to invalids, although the higher portions possess the necessary requisites for certain selected cases.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

CHAS. E. B. FLAGG,
First Lieut. and Assistant Surgeon, U. S. A.

The ACTING SUPERINTENDENT SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

REPORT OF SERGT. GEORGE A. SOYER, TROOP I, FOURTH CAVALRY.

GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARK, CAL.,
August 14, 1895.

SIR: I respectfully report as follows in regard to the General Grant National Park and the detachment stationed there:

I left camp near Red Hill June 1 en route to the General Grant National Park with a detachment of three privates; arrived there and established camp on June 4. Total distance traveled, 61 miles. I started in to patrol the park next morning, keeping one man on patrol besides myself every day since.

The park covers an area of about 4 square miles and is very much frequented by tourists on their way to Kings Rivers Canyon. These people were not allowed to camp or fish within the park limits except with special permission from the superintendent.

Special care was taken that nothing should happen to the big tree grove standing in the park.

Sheep did not go through the park up to the date of this report, all the herders having been warned beforehand.

On July 19 nineteen head of cattle were found within the park limits by the patrol. I notified the owner, Mr. Arche, who took them outside the park and promised to be more careful.

On August 4 some horses belonging to Mr. Burns strayed into the park and were driven out.

On July 24 a fire occurred on the western line of the park, and was extinguished by myself and detail after nine hours' work. The fire originated through the carelessness of some trespasser, and did very little damage.

The lakes and streams within the park contain an abundance of fish. There is no big game.

Grass on meadows is plentiful.

The park lines are very indistinct, and in some places hardly to be found.

It is respectfully recommended to have the park resurveyed and the boundary lines blazed plainly.

The salubrity of the camp is excellent and the health of the detachment was accordingly.

The conduct of the men was excellent, and the duty intrusted to them was well performed.

Very respectfully, GEORGE A. SOYER,
Sergeant, Troop I, Fourth Cavalry, in Charge of Detachment.

The ACTING SUPERINTENDENT GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARK.

REPORT OF SERGT. PAUL SINGER, TROOP I, FOURTH CAVALRY.

CAMP AT HOCKETT MEADOWS,
Sequoia National Park, Cal., September 1, 1895.

SIR: On July 14 a permanent camp was established at this place for a small detachment, consisting of one noncommissioned officer and three privates, to patrol this part of the Sequoia Park and carry out the instructions of the acting superintendent.

Two men are detailed on patrol every day since and they scout in different directions.

No sheep passed through this part of the park so far. Tourists were allowed to cross and camp in the park with special permission of the superintendent only. No fires occurred within the park limits up to this date.

A man by the name of Martin, who had been arrested at Halstead Meadows by Lieutenant Carson, was turned over to me on July 19, with orders to put him outside of the park limits. Next day this man was escorted out of the park and released at Pates Valley.

On July 25 a party was discovered by the patrol in camp at the Milk ranch within the park.

The party consisted of three men, with six horses and complete camping outfit. One of the party went to Mineral King to get a permit from Captain Lockett, while I left one of my men with the rest of the party to prevent any hunting. Next day the man returned from Mineral King without a permit, and the whole party was escorted outside of the park limits.

On July 29 the acting superintendent arrived here on a tour of inspection of the different detachments and left for the main camp next day.

No cattle were found within the park limits up to August 26, when five head were found by the patrol and driven out of the park.

Big game (bear and deer) is numerous. The fish in the creeks and lakes are in abundance. Grass on meadows is plentiful.

The boundary lines of the park can hardly be traced, and it is recommended to have them blazed plainly.

The health of the men is excellent.

Very respectfully,

PAUL SINGER,
Sergeant, Troop I, Fourth Cavalry, in Charge of Detachment.

The ACTING SUPERINTENDENT SEQUOIA NATIONAL PARK.

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