

THE TELLER.

VOL. 1.

LEWISTON, NORTH IDAHO, SATURDAY JUNE 23. 1877.

NO. 36.

THE TELLER.

Published Every Saturday

—BY—

A. LELAND & SON,

MONTGOMERY STREET

LEWISTON I. T.

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Good clean wheat, good butter, pre-delivered to us at Lewiston, will be received in payment for subscriptions at Lewiston cash rates at time of delivery.

ALONZO LELAND. CHAS., F. LELAND.

June 16th 1 o'clock A. M.

THE WAR BEGUN.

Indians Aggressors, Five Men Killed One Mortally Wounded, One Woman One Man and one Child Badly Wounded. Camas Prairie in the Possession of the Indians.

Thursday's stage brought down the news that the Indians, embracing Joseph's band and the Salmon river Indians were assembled on Camas Prairie and were making demonstrations of hostility. Friday morning news came that Lary Ott and three other white men had been killed on Salmon river near the mouth of White Bird and that the settlers on Camas Prairie had become so much alarmed that they were gathering at Mt. Idaho and asking for troops to come to their rescue. No troops were ordered upon the request. About 5 P. M. of Friday an Indian messenger came through to the Agency with a letter from L. P. Brown Esq., to the effect that the Indians had made an attack upon the settlers on the prairie, had killed Ben. Norton, shot his wife and broke both her legs, shot Mr. Moore through the hips, had badly wounded Norton's child, and mortally wounded a Mr. Day, had attacked all the teams on the road and forced the men to abandon them, and at the time of writing had full possession of Camas Prairie save Mt. Idaho, and were threatening attack upon that town, and demanded immediate aid to be sent to their rescue. It stated that the roads were blockaded by Indians and urged that the mail and express do not start from Lewiston on Saturday unless under strong escort. Upon the receipt of this letter orders were given at the garrison that two companies of cavalry be ready and start for the scene of hostilities forthwith. The alarm has been generally given so as to reach settlers throughout the country. To-night Lewiston is under a guard of 20 night police. Several have gone to accompany the troops to the seat of war.

LATER.

June 17th 4 o'clock P. M.

Rumors are and have been for the last 36 hours very conflicting in relation to where the Indians are and what they have done. Many of them are very exaggerated; the truth is bad enough to alarm the whole country. The most authentic are that on Friday eve at 8 o'clock a military force of 100 troops, 20 friendly Indians and several citizens left the Lapwai garrison under command of Col. Perry for Mt. Idaho. Various letters brought through by Indian messengers to the Agency and the garrison from Mt. Idaho and the Kamia, some of them having come through since the arrival of the troops at Mt. Idaho. The following is the substance from Mt. Idaho: That a part of the Indians had gone to attack the settlers on Salmon river and a part had gone to a fortified place on Cotton Wood creek below Chapman's. That Capt. James Baker, Samuel benedict wife and four children, Harry Mason, Henry Elfres and the Warrens expressman had been killed on Salmon River, that a pack train of 40 mules had been attacked near Cold Spring and the two white men, Davenport and Ousley killed and two half breed Indians escaped, and the cargo captured, that the Indians and settlers were fighting below Chapman's. After the arrival of Col. Perry a dispatch came to the effect that he arrived at Mt. Idaho Saturday morning, found the reports of killed true and that the Indians had gone to Salmon river, that the troops were in pursuit of them in hopes of overtaking them at the crossing. Messages from the Kamia brought also by Indian runners to the Agency state that it had been ascertained that 29 whites had been killed so far as known, that the whites had killed white Bird the chief of his band and his family. Al. Dunwell the Oro Fino expressman came through safely on Saturday eve, unconscious of trouble till he arrived on the Lapwai, Although he saw on the mountain a mounted and nude painted Indian in the brush near the road. The Indian would not respond to his salutation, yet he was allowed to pass on without molestation. Mr. Lydle come through a few hours afterwards and saw several Indians on the Prairie at a distance, two of them pursued him but he out rode them and made his escape. The different Indian messengers tell many things giving particulars which are not contained in the written messages which may or may not be true. Lewiston has an organization of about 60 men poorly armed for home duty in case of an emergency. Two companies of Infantry are expected here on the steamer from Wallula to-night, 25 cavalrymen from Walla Walla to-morrow, 500 Indians on Hangman Creek, No hostility there yet.

STILL LATER.

Half past 6 P. M.

The troops with 15 men from Mt. Idaho encountered the Indians at the head of White Bird Canyon, troops dismounted and left a few soldiers and the 20 friendly Indians to hold their horses. The Indians opened the fire upon the troops and fighting was continued for some time, the friendly Indians became alarmed and the soldiers guarding horses could see that the Indians were getting the best of the fight and the soldiers retreating. The citizens Captain, Sergeant Lydle and one soldier was known to be killed and the whole horse guard of Indians and whites broke and run, some for Mt. Idaho and some for Lapwai,

leaving all the horses to run loose over the prairie. Those coming to Lapwai never stopped till they reached the Post. The result of the fight is not known. Many of the houses on the prairie are burned.

8 o'clock A. M., June 18.

D. Monroe arrived from the garrison at 1/2 past two this morning and tells us that a third soldier had arrived at the garrison last eve from the fight and reported the troops on foot are surrounded by the Indians in the canyon and in a hand to hand fight. Col. Perry and about one half of the command said to be killed and the remainder surrounded in the canyon and fighting against odds when soldier left.

Mount Idaho June 16th 1877. 8 o'clock P. M.
TROOPS DEFEATED.

LELAND.—Sad news to-night via Florence from Salmon River. The killed so far as known are Dick Devine, Henry Elfres, Bob Bland, Henry Strowbridge nephew of Elfres, Osborn, Harry Mason, Hardy Brown, Jack Manuel, Samuel Benedict, Old man Baker, Pat Price, Victor and Joe Oulds. Wm. George wounded. No women and children killed on Salmon river, reported yet. Mr. John Chamberlain and child were killed same time Norton was, wife and other child wounded. Lew Day very low, Joe Moore a severe wound in hip, Mrs. Norton shot in both legs, not serious, Linn Bowers and Hill Norton were found on the Prairie by our pickets, not hurt. Troops arrived to-night. The Indians have left this afternoon attempting to cross Salmon river, so we think, some effort should in our opinion be made to check them from Walla Walla as we think they will go towards Wallowa or that country and may commit other depredations. They have a large band of horses belonging to people here, so thought, and will be pursued by the people from here. It is Joseph's band with other renegades. McPherson goes for a doctor. The people are here fortified up.

Yours Truly,

L. P. BROWN.

Mount Idaho June 17 1877. 9 o'clock A. M.

COMMANDING OFFICER FORT LAPWAI.—Col. Perry, with his command and some of our men engaged the Indians at white Bird about day light were fighting about three hours, and were repulsed with heavy loss of men and horses. Col. Perry when last seen by the men who have come in was cut off, had with him some 20 to 25 men. We need more help, and any volunteers with arms that can be had should come at once. The Indians had killed, up to yesterday on Salmon river 12 men reported, don't know how many more. Great need of a surgeon, no doctor here, nor none with the troops. Chapman in command of scouts who was in the fight says he thinks some artillery two mountain howitzers, should be brought up. Some of the men who returned estimated the loss in killed wounded and missing at sixty men. Of the volunteers wounded and returned are T. D. Swartz shot in the leg H. A. Faxon in hip. Lew Day is yet alive. We send with this dispatch a line to A. Leland written last evening giving names of killed and wounded. Please furnish him with a copy of this for public information. Since writing this Col. Perry has come in safe, but we hear that Theller and Trimble are missing. The people are all here and have a very good Fort thrown up. I fear no attack on the town.

Very truly in haste,
L. P. BROWN.

LELAND.—This was written before we heard that Perry was safe, but as he is in Camp presume he will send his own dispatch, therefore send this to you for information, can send extra below from your office and use my name, that all is true that I have written.

L. P. BROWN.

June 18th 1877.

Wm. Igo who brought these letters says he was a scout on his own hook and was in the fight, that it took place at the foot of the White Bird canyon instead of the head. That upon the first fire of the Indians the soldiers broke ranks and retreated and the officers could not rally them to face the enemy, that the Indians pursued them about 16 miles to J. M. Crook's lane, firing constantly, that the Indians had better guns and their aim was deadly from the first, that there was about 125 Indians in pursuit well mounted, that after the fight the Indians had a war dance on the prairie, that he with Knifong brought dispatches through from Col. Perry to the post, that off the road 4 miles North of the Board House they were attacked by five Indians just as the moon was going down, that they entrenched themselves behind some rocks, Knifong strengthening their position and he firing with his Henry rifle till he fired 75 shots by the declining light of the moon. At day break the Indians fell back carrying one of their number dead or wounded upon a horse. They then came on without further molestation. We have before us Gen. Howard's dispatch to Col. Wood of date June 18 at 11 A. M., giving the number of the command killed and missing at 27, exclusive of Lieut. Theller who was killed. This differs from Mr. Brown's statement as the estimate of the killed and missing, although both dispatches came by the same messenger and left at the same time. A letter from Father Cataldo says the Indians are all quiet up on Hangman creek, although many of the Nez Perces and Palouses are there, messenger just through in two days. This morning the Almota arrived with 75 more regulars who proceeded directly to the Garrison, and are to leave there this eve for the scene of action. Volunteers have come from Columbia Co. W. T., and more are on the road. The settlers in Paradise valley are stockaded and have sent to town for ammunition. Genesee valley settlers are here with their families. We feel no danger imminent in this section. What the effect of this victory of the Indians may have upon those now friendly, remains to be seen.

NOTICE.

U. S. LAND OFFICE,
Lewiston I. T. June 9 1877.

COMPLAINT HAVING BEEN ENTERED at this office by JOSEPH FISCO against JOHN HARDIN for abandoning his Homestead Entry, No. 42, dated July 13 1873, upon the south half of south east quarter of section 26, and north half of north east quarter of section 35, township 28 north, range 5 west, in Nez Perce County I. T., with a view to the cancellation of said entry, the said parties are hereby summoned to appear at this office on the 23rd day of July, 1877, at 11 o'clock A. M., to respond and furnish testimony concerning said alleged abandonment.

J. M. HOWE,
Register.

R. J. MONROE,
Receiver.

35-4w

J. W. POE,

Attorney-at-Law,

AND DISTRICT ATTORNEY

For 1st Judicial District. Office in Clark's block 3d street Lewiston, I. T. Will attend to business before the Land Office.