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WAGON ROAD FROM FORT DEFIANCE TO THE COLORADO RIVER.

2/1/58

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF WAR,

TRANSMITTING

The report of the superintendent of the wagon road from Fort Defiance to the Colorado river.

MAY 12, 1858.—Ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 10, 1858.

SIR: Referring to my letter of the 24th ultimo, in relation to the report of Edward F. Beale, esq., superintendent of the wagon road from Fort Defiance to the Colorado river, I have now the honor to transmit a copy of said report and of the accompanying map.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN B. FLOYD,
Secretary of War.

HON. JAMES L. ORR,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

WASHINGTON, April 26, 1858.

dition to the mess fires, give a very pretty effect, especially as each fire has a dozen logs of the fattest pine upon it.

September 12—Camp 13.—Up at 4 a. m.

Being doubtful of the country ahead I sent off Thorburn and five men to look for water. We unfortunately have no guide, the wretch I employed at the urgent request and advice of every one in Albuquerque, and at enormous wages, being the most ignorant and irresolute old ass extant.

This obliges us to do the double duty of road making and exploring, which is very arduous, besides adding infinitely to my anxiety and responsibility.

The dew last night was so heavy that on turning out this morning I at first thought it had rained during the night; on inquiry, however, I found it had been perfectly clear. The morning air is keen; but the sky bright and clear. Thorburn got back at 10, reporting plenty of water ahead and a good road, so that we shall start immediately.

Leaving our last night's camp, which I called Stacey's spring, after one of my party, and travelling west by south seven miles, over a country of the same character as that of yesterday, we came to the beautiful valley of Leroux's spring, in which I encamped to water and graze the animals for two hours and a half. The road to the spring, from our last camp, is rough with loose stones of volcanic origin for half the way; but the grass as luxuriant throughout as elsewhere. The timber still retains its large size and abundant quantity. I measured to-day a pine nineteen feet in circumference and of very great height.

Leroux's spring is one of transparent sparkling water, and bursts out of the side of the mountain and runs gurgling down for a quarter of a mile, where it loses itself in the valley. To reach it we found it necessary to turn from the course we were steering, and go up into a little mountain glen from which it flows into the valley. The soil, though stony on the hills, like that of yesterday, is a rich loam in the valleys. The day is bright, clear, and warm.

We left our last night's camp at 11, and arrived at Leroux's spring at 2. We left Leroux's at 4 and a half p. m. and encamped at 7. Our road for the evening lay entirely through a heavy forest of pine, and was rough with loose stones. The grass, however, was as good as usual and very abundant. The road was over a rolling or rather undulating country, and excepting for stones would have been excellent.

Our camp, which is in the midst of the forest, and five miles from Leroux's spring, was soon as brilliant as day with the fires of the rich pine logs. Our animals having drank heartily, did not feel the want of water, and we, having brought some with us, found no inconvenience from it.

September 13—Camp 14.—Up at 4, and off at 5.30 a. m.

Emerging from the pine forest, we came upon a rolling country dotted with isolated hills, and breaking into fine meadow lands, the borders of which were fringed with a heavy growth of pine and, occasionally, a few oak groves.

Passing to the north of Mount Sitgreaves, and between it and Mount