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**Message of the President of the United States, transmitting, in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 17th of July, 1848, a report in relation to the number of Indians in Oregon, California, and New Mexico; the number of military posts; the number of troops which will be required in each, and the whole military force which should constitute the peace establishment**

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Ex. Doc. No. 76.

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

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PEACE ESTABLISHMENT.—NUMBER OF INDIANS IN  
OREGON, CALIORNIA, AND NEW MEXICO, &c.

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MESSAGE

OF THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

TRANSMITTING,

*In compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 17th of July, 1848, a report in relation to the number of Indians in Oregon, California, and New Mexico; the number of military posts; the number of troops which will be required in each, and the whole military force which should constitute the peace establishment.*

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AUGUST 2, 1848.

Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, and ordered to be printed.

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*To the House of Representatives of the United States:*

I communicate herewith a report from the Secretary of War, containing the information called for by the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 17th July, 1848, in relation to the number of Indians in Oregon, California, and New Mexico; the number of military posts; the number of troops which will be required in each, and "the whole military force which should constitute the peace establishment."

I have seen no reason to change the opinion expressed in my message to Congress of the 6th July, 1848, transmitting the treaty

of peace with Mexico, that "the old army, as it existed before the commencement of the war with Mexico, especially if authority be given to fill up the rank and file of the several corps to the maximum number authorized during the war, will be a sufficient force to be retained in service during a period of peace."

The old army consists of fifteen regiments. By the act of the 13th of May, 1846, the President was authorized, by "voluntary enlistments, to increase the number of privates in each or any of the companies of the existing regiments of dragoons, artillery, and infantry, to any number not exceeding one hundred," and to "reduce the same to sixty-four when the exigencies requiring the present increase shall cease." Should this act remain in force, the maximum number of the rank and file of the army, authorized by it, would be over sixteen thousand men, exclusive of officers. Should the authority conferred by this act be continued; it would depend on the exigencies of the service whether the number of the rank and file should be increased, and if so, to what amount beyond the minimum number of sixty-four privates to a company.

Allowing sixty-four privates to a company, the army would be over ten thousand men, exclusive of commissioned and non-commissioned officers, a number which it is believed will be sufficient; but, as a precautionary measure, it is deemed expedient that the Executive should possess the power of increasing the strength of the respective corps, should the exigencies of the service be such as to require it. Should these exigencies not call for such increase, the discretionary power given by the act to the President will not be exercised.

It will be seen from the report of the Secretary of War that a portion of the forces will be employed in Oregon, New Mexico, and Upper California; a portion for the protection of the Texas frontier adjoining the Mexican possessions, and bordering on the territory occupied by the Indian tribes within her limits. After detailing the force necessary for these objects, it is believed a sufficient number of troops will remain to afford security and protection to our Indian frontiers in the west and northwest, and to occupy, with sufficient garrisons, the posts on our northern and Atlantic borders.

I have no reason at present to believe that any increase of the number of regiments or corps will be required during a period of peace.

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, *August 1, 1848.*

WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Washington, July 31, 1848.*

SIR: In compliance with your request, I have the honor to present to you such information as can be obtained at this department in relation to the number of Indians in Oregon, California, and New Mexico, and also my views as to the number of military posts that will be necessary in each—the number of troops to garrison them; and the whole military force which should constitute the peace establishment.

For the number of Indians in the above mentioned territories, I have referred the subject to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and herewith submit his report, with the accompanying documents. There are no data in the department on which correct estimates can be made. Those herewith submitted are, at best, but conjectural.

I have adopted, as the best I can offer, the estimate of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The whole number of Indians in the three territories; is put down at 72,139, of which 23,309 are in Oregon, 16,930 in Upper California, and 31,900 in New Mexico.

There has not been any examination of either of the three territories with a view to determine the number and location of military posts, which it may be expedient to establish in each.

It is not believed that more than three or four posts will be necessary in Oregon. One may be required at or near the mouth of the Columbia river—one in the immediate vicinity of the principal settlement, which is in the Willamette valley, and, perhaps, another between the latter place and the Rocky mountains, on the most travelled route from the United States. It is estimated that one thousand men will constitute an adequate garrison for the protection of this territory—to wit: four companies of cavalry, two of artillery, and five of infantry—filled up to about one hundred privates to a company.

In California it will be necessary to establish posts at San Diego, Monterey, San Francisco, Pueblo de los Angeles, and San Luis Rey. It may be proper to have a post, perhaps two, on the Gila river, if it shall be ascertained that a route along this river is the most direct and practical way for transporting troops into California. At present there are scarcely any settlements in the country on either side of the river, at any considerable distance from its entrance into the Colorado of the West, and it is not, therefore, deemed necessary to have more than one or two posts on it, and at these a large force will not be required. In my opinion, a force not exceeding fifteen or eighteen hundred men will be sufficient for the protection of California and the frontier on the Gila river up to New Mexico. This force should be composed of six companies of dragoons, two or three of artillery, and the remainder of infantry.

For the protection of New Mexico, it is believed that not more than three or four posts will be required. The principal one will be at Santa Fé, and the others at Albuquerque and Socorro.

As connected with the defence of New Mexico, it is believed that a post ought to be established on the east side of the Rio Grande, in Texas, nearly opposite to El Passo. It is estimated that twelve hundred men will constitute an adequate garrison for these posts.

For the protection of the lower Rio Grande, and the Texan frontier, I estimate that a force of fifteen hundred men will be sufficient.

I have brought into view all the new posts and lines of defence which require to be garrisoned and guarded, in consequence of the change in our territorial condition, and estimated that about five thousand men will be required for that purpose. The remainder of the force will be employed on the Atlantic and gulf coast, on the Indian and northern frontier, and on the route to Oregon and New Mexico, where three or four posts may be required. In regard to the forces to be sent to Oregon, California, and New Mexico, I would respectfully recommend, that the companies be raised to the maximum, if authority should be given to increase them to one hundred privates in each. This recommendation is made in consideration of the casualties which happen, and the difficulty in filling up the regiments on distant service. In this event, there would be left nearly as large a force for the protection of the Atlantic coast, the northern and Indian frontiers, and the route to Oregon and New Mexico, as the whole military force of the United States before the commencement of the war with Mexico, even if the number of privates in the companies for this service should not be raised above sixty-four.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. L. MARCY,  
*Secretary of War.*

To the PRESIDENT.

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WAR DEPARTMENT,  
*Office Indian Affairs, July 26, 1848.*

SIR: In reply to so much of the resolution of the House of Representatives of the 17th instant, referred to this office, as relates to the Indian population of Oregon, California and New Mexico, I have the honor to submit the accompanying schedules, A, B, C, D, E, F and G.

As the department has no authorized agents in those unorganized territories, these schedules have been drawn up from the best sources at the command of the office. Considerable discrepancies will be observed, both in the names and numbers of the tribes of Oregon and the Oregon region, as well as their relative population. These are attributable to circumstances of observation and position, which will generally appear on examination. As a general fact, the tribes along the Pacific shores, from latitude about 32° to 54°, have rapidly diminished in numbers within the last thirty to forty years, which will account, in a great measure, for the maked dif-

ferences existing between the present and prior estimates. Some of these differences have also arisen from imprecision in the geographical area under consideration by the several observers. Thus, in the wide belt of country which consists of the elevated ranges, valleys and table-lands of the Rocky mountains, the two leading nations of those altitudes—the Blackfeet and the Shoshonees, or Snake Indians—are placed in the lists of population both east and west of those mountains; leading, in all partial views, to a duplication of their numbers. All the estimates heretofore given are, in the judgment of this office, subject to more or less deduction for population which, to some extent, is situated north of the boundary of 49° north latitude. Northern California exhibits the same difficulty in appreciating its true numbers, from the pressure of the Oregon tribes over imaginary lines of demarcation. The mean numbers, according to the statements A, B, C, D and E, within the geographical area which it is the intention to organize into the territory of Oregon, is 23,309; which this office is disposed to believe, from such information as it has, would probably be about a fair estimate.

The table of the Indian population of California has been drawn from a Spanish writer of acknowledged authority, who had full access to the highest official and ecclesiastical papers at the Court of Madrid, and is believed to be entitled to every respect. He places the entire native population of the coast and interior, east to the mountains, and between the bay of Todos los Santos and St. Diego, south, to Cape Mendocino, north, (the Spanish boundary of Nueva California,) at 13,930. If to this schedule of De Alcedo, the writer referred to, be added 3,000 souls, for remote and unestimated bands on the confines of New Mexico, the whole number of Indians, of all grades of condition, including Peons, or Pueblos, cannot, at the utmost, be safely estimated to exceed 16,930.

The tribes of New Mexico were estimated by the late Governor Bent, who, under his military appointment from General Kearny, directed particular attention to the subject, and transmitted a report to this office, in which the greater confidence has been placed, as Mr. Bent (who fell by treachery at Taos) had passed many years of his life on the remote frontiers of Oregon, New Mexico and California, and was known to have had much practical experience on the subject. The principal abatement to which his statement appears liable, arises from an almost inevitable imprecision of the boundaries of New Mexico, considered with reference to the actual location of the Apaches and Camanches, two of the most wide-spreading Nomadic nations of that quarter. It is thought his estimates, viewed in connexion with those possessed by this office, from Texas, (which appear fully to estimate the latter tribe,) will admit of a reduction of some four or five thousand souls.

If these views be correct, (and some pains have been taken to secure probable accuracy,) the entire Indian population, in the extreme western and southwestern area of the Union, referred to by the resolution, will not exceed 72,139; of which number, say

23,309 are in Oregon, 16,930 in Upper California, and 31,900 in New Mexico.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. MEDILL.

Hon. W. L. MARCY,  
Secretary of War.

A.

*Indians in the Oregon region in 1841, according to the account\* of Captain Charles Wilkes' "Narrative of the United States Exploring Expedition. Philadelphia, 1845," volume 5, pages 140-1.*

Vancouver's or Washington's island.....	5,000
From latitude 50° to 54° N. on the main .....	2,000
Penn's cove, Whedly island, including the main land (Sacket tribe) .....	650
Hood's canal, Sugnamish and Tonado tribes.....	500
Birch bay .....	300
Frazer's river.....	500
Calalamus, Fort Discovery, New Dungeness .....	350
Fort Townsend.....	70
Clapet tribe, Cape Flattery .....	1,250
Nisqually.....	200
Chickeles, Puget's sound.....	700
Port Orchard .....	150
Cowlitz.....	350
Onkonagan .....	300
Colville and Spokane. ....	450
Kilamuks.....	400
Chenooks.....	209
Clatsops .....	220
Cascades .....	150
Pillar rock, Oak point and Columbia river.....	300
Willamette falls and valley.....	275
Dalles.....	250
De Chutes and John Day's river .....	300
Yakenia .....	100
Wallawalla .....	1,100
Blackfeet, principally west of Rocky mountains.....	1,000
Umpquas .....	400
Rogues' river.....	500
Klamets .....	300
Shaste .....	500
Callapuyes.....	600

19,374

\*This account represents a great depopulation among the native tribes, from disease and other causes.

From which deduct the following, that are not within our limits, viz: the Indians on Vancouver's island, those from latitude 50° to 54°, and those at Frazer's river, in all...	7,500
Leaving for Oregon, within our boundary.....	<u>11,874</u>

*Indians of the Oregon region in 1841, according to the ethnographical account of the United States exploring expedition.*

Kwalioka.	
Unkwa, or Umpkwas.	
Kitunha, Contanies, or Flatbows.	
†Atnahs, Shushwaps, or Shushwapumsh .....	1,200
Selish, Salish, or Flatheads, consisting of—	
Salish proper, } .....	3,000
Kullespelm, } .....	
Soyalpi, } .....	
Okinakan, } .....	
Tsakaititlin, } .....	
Skitsaish, or Cour D'Alene, 90 men* .....	450
Pjskwans, or Piscons.	
Skwale, or Nisqually .....	600
Cowelits, or Kawelitsk .....	300
Tsihailish, or Chikailish .....	2,000
Killamuks, or Nusietshawns.....	700
Sahaptin, or Nez Perces, namely—	
Wallawallahs, } .....	2,200
Yakemas, or Jaakema, } .....	
Peloose, } .....	
Klikatats, } .....	
Cailloux, or Cayuse .....	500
Molele .....	20
Watlalla, or Upper Chinooks .....	500
Lower Chinooks, namely—	
Wahkyskum, } .....	500 to 600
Cathlumet, } .....	
Chinook, } .....	
Clatsop, } .....	
Callapoyahs, Willamet valley, above falls .....	500
Iacon, Yacones, or Southern Killamuks .....	600 to 700
Clamet, Ilamatt, or Sutuami.	

\*This item is vaguely, or erroneously, carried out, in Mr. Hale's volume embracing the ethnography of Captain Wilkes's expedition, at 3,000 to 4,000 souls. It is presumed it should be hundreds.



Saste, or Shasty,	}	.....	1,200
Palaihni, or Palaiks,			
Shoshonees, or Snake Indians,	}		
Panasht Bonnaks,			
North of 40°, chiefly—			
†Classets,	}		
†Clallams,			
†Kla-iz-zarts,			
Between Fort Neesqually and Frazier's river—			
Sukwames,	}		
Susrahumes,			
Tehikatstat,			
Puinle,			
Kawitshin,			
Head of the Sacramento, about 42°.			
†Kimkla, namely—			
†Sainskla,	}		
†Tsalel,			
†Kiliwatshat,			
Kani,			
			14,470
Deduct Indians of the Atnah family, not within our boundaries, viz: .....			1,000
			13,470

The above estimates, it will be observed, are generally below other accounts. The Nasqually are, however, put 400 higher than the estimate of Captain Wilkes.—Vol. 5, p. 140-1.

C.

*Indians of Oregon, according to a work of Windham Robertson, jr., entitled "Oregon, our Right and Title, &c.," Washington, 1846*

Flatheads .....	800
Nez Perces .....	.
Ponderas .....	.
Cour D'Aline .....	1,800
Shoshonees .....	.
Callapoohas .....	.
Umbaquaahs .....	.

† The tribes thus marked appear to be almost wholly north of the parallel of latitude of 49°, and therefore without the present boundaries of Oregon. Not more than 200 can be fairly supposed to be within it.

‡ It is thought, from an inspection of the maps, that the several bands who speak the Kinkla language, are chiefly within the boundaries of Upper California, and it is probable that some of the other tribes or bands, whose numbers are not carried out, are also without our boundaries.

Kiguel .....	
Spokens .....	
Oknanagans .....	
Cootormies .....	
Chilts .....	
Chenooks .....	400
Snakes .....	1,000
Cuthlamuks .....	200
Wahkenkumes .....	200
Skillutts .....	2,500
Cutlashoots .....	430
Willenohs .....	1,000
Smascops .....	200
Echebools .....	1,000
Eioestures .....	1,200
Chamoappans .....	400
Lekulks .....	3,000
Chunnapuns .....	2,000
Shallatolos .....	200
Spearmaros .....	240
Saddals .....	400
Wallawallahs .....	2,600
Chopunmohees .....	3,000
Pohas .....	1,000
Chillo Kittequaws .....	2,400
Wahupums .....	1,000
Clackarners .....	1,800
	<hr/>
	29,570
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D.

*Indians in the territory of Oregon, according to a statement of J. Quinn Thornton, esq., of that territory, furnished to Office of Indian Affairs, July 20, 1848.*

Nisqually .....	200
Chinooks .....	200
Clatsops .....	180
Kilamooks .....	370
Clackamus .....	80
Clickatats .....	80
Various tribes frequenting the cascades of the Columbia ..	400
Dalles .....	220
Other Indians within the Dalles mission .....	1,500
Wallawallas, Nez Perces, and Flatheads .....	700
All other tribes estimated at .....	12,000
	<hr/>
	15,930
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## E.

*Indians in the territory of Oregon, according to statement of Joseph L. Meek, esq., of that territory, furnished to office Indian affairs July 19, 1848.*

Names of tribes.	Numbers.	Where located.	Remarks.
Chenoux.....	4,000	Mouth of Columbia.....	Moral condition wretched.
Killernoux.....	500	On the coast, south Columbia.....	Ferocious; a hardy race.
Kliketats.....	1,500	Willamette valley.....	Warlike, but peaceable.
Kallapoeas.....	500	...do.....do.....	do do.
Twaltatines.....	200	...do.....do.....	do do.
Klackamus.....	400	...do.....do.....	do do.
Fall Indians.....	300	Willamette Falls.....	Hardy and peaceable.
Moleaaleys.....	200	Willamette, above the Falls	do do.
Yampequaws.....	800	Yampequaw valley, south.	Indolent and cowardly.
Klawmuts.....	1,000	Klawmut river, north.....	Moral condition wretched.
Cisquiuouws.....	2,000	...do.....do.....	do do.
Bonarch Diggers.....	7,000	West of Salt Lake.....	do do.
Snake.....	3,000	Snake river, near H. Hall.	Warlike, but peaceable.
Bonarchs.....	2,000	Bonarch village, do....	Ferocious.
Kieoux.....	2,000	Wallah Wallah valley....	Warlike and wealthy.
Wallah Wallahs.....	2,000	Wallah Wallah plains....	do do.
John Day.....	1,000	...do.....do.....	do do.
De Chentes.....	1,000	Columbia, at the Dales....	do do.
Wascopens.....	500	...do.....do.....	do do.
Cascades and others....	1,000	Columbia Cascades.....	Poor; moral condition tolerable.
*Vancouver's and others	800	Vancouver.....	Poor; fishermen.....
Squawlees.....	1,000	Puget Sound.....	do do.
*North of Squawles, names unknown.....	2,000	Straits of Fuca.....	Brave, hardy, and warlike.
North Dale Indians.....	1,500	North of Dales.....	Brave, hardy, and wealthy.
Neipersaas.....	5,000	Salmon river.....	Warlike, but friendly to whites.
Kodenees.....	1,000	North Salmon river.....	do do.
Flat Heads.....	500	Head of Columbia.....	do do.
Spogans.....	3,000	...do.....do.....	do do.
Lakes.....	1,000	Okenangen plains.....	do do.
Cowlits.....	500	Cowlits river.....	do do.
	47,200		

\*The tribes of Vancouver's island, and all those on the "straits of Fuca," above 49°, should be deducted from this estimate. Captain Wilkes estimates the Indians at Birch Bay, and other points extending to Frazer's river, at 1,300. These deductions would reduce the number to 45,700.

F.

*Names of the tribes and number of Indians of New Mexico, according to an official report of Charles Bent, acting as governor, under an appointment from Brigadier General S. W. Kearny, dated November 10, 1846.*

	Lodges.	Souls.
Apaches or Iicarrillas.....	100	500
Apaches, proper.....	8-900	5,500
Yutas, Grando Unita river.....	600	3,000
Yutas, southern.....	200	1,400
Nabojas (families).....	1,000	7,000
Moques do.....	350	2,450
Comanches.....	2,500	12,000
Kayaguas.....	400	2,000
Cheyennes.....	300	1,500
Arrapahoes.....	400	1,600
	7,650	36,900
The probable number of Apaches and Comanches within the boundaries of Texas should be deducted, say.....		5,000
		31,900

G.

*Indians of Upper California, as embraced within the Catholic missions at various points, according to Colonel Don Antonio De Alcedo, in his geographical and historical work on America.*

San Diego.....	1,560
San Louis Rey de Francia.....	600
San Juan Capistrano.....	1,000
San Gabriel.....	1,050
San Fernando.....	600
San Bonaventura.....	950
Santa Barbara.....	1,100
San Louis Obispo.....	700
San Miguel.....	600
Soledad.....	570
San Antonio de Padan.....	1,050
San Carlos de Monterey.....	
San Juan Bautiste.....	960
Santa Cruz.....	440
Santa Clara.....	1,300

San Jose.....	630
San Francisco .....	820
	<hr/>
	13,930
NOTE 1.—The wild Indians at large may be put at.....	3,000
	<hr/>
	16,930
	<hr/> <hr/>

NOTE 2.—It is believed that these are the highest estimates ever made by the Spanish, the monks having reported all the Indian population within their geographical bounds, whether *within* the missionary enclosure or not. The plan of these missions is understood to have, in some measure, failed, and many of the Indians to have been disbanded.

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