

5-7-1872

Military post, Beaver City, Utah. Letter from the Secretary of War, relative to an appropriation for a military post near the town of Beaver City, Utah.

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MILITARY POST, BEAVER CITY, UTAH.

L E T T E R

FROM

T H E S E C R E T A R Y O F W A R ,

RELATIVE TO

An appropriation for a military post near the town of Beaver City, Utah.

MAY 7, 1872.—Referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

WAR DEPARTMENT, May 6, 1872.

The Secretary of War has the honor to recommend to the House of Representatives an early appropriation of \$120,000 for the erection of a five company military post near the town of Beaver City, Utah Territory, the said town being situated on the Beaver River, near the base of the Wabsatch Mountains, at the eastern extremity of the Beaver Valley, two hundred and ten miles from Salt Lake City, and one hundred and twenty from the town of Saint George, which is the extreme southern settlement in Utah, the buildings at the post to consist of commanding officer's quarters, six sets company officers' quarters, (doublé,) five sets company barracks, hospital, subsistence store-house, quartermaster's store-house, office building, guard-house, bake-house, cavalry-stable, and quartermaster's stables.

The need of such a post in that section has long been felt, and the accompanying copy of communications from officials of the territorial government further shows the necessity for its immediate erection, as will also the copies of other reports on the subject, sent to Congress on the 2d of January last.

Careful estimates prepared by officers of the Quartermaster's Department show that the sum asked for will be required for the proper construction of the buildings of the post.

WM. W. BELKNAP.
Secretary of War.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY,
January 12, 1872.

SIR: Being one of the associate justices of the supreme court of the United States in and for the Territory of Utah and judge of the second judicial district court of said Territory, I beg leave to say that my dis-

trict embraces the extreme southern part of the Territory, in which was committed what is known as the Mountain Meadow massacre, in which over one hundred and twenty innocent men, women, and children were slaughtered in the most barbarous manner. This district is settled almost entirely by Mormons, there being only about two hundred Gentiles in the district. From the time of said massacre there has been a rising feeling in the minds of the Gentiles and a few loyal Mormons against the principal leaders and perpetrators of that deed. At every session of the court this question has been brought up by the grand jury, or rather by individual members thereof, and yet the United States attorney and the jury have not dared to introduce the subject to be investigated, because, they say, witnesses who were present at, and were forced into, the bloody work feel that their lives would be rendered insecure should they testify to the facts; but they say, whenever the Government of the United States will guarantee their protection, they will freely testify to all the facts.

I am fully satisfied, from my experience in that district for the last three years, as the judicial officer of the court, that their feeling of insecurity is well founded, and that it will require a military force established in that district, say at the city of Beaver, of at least five companies, to render the protection needed effective.

There are several indictments now in the hands of the United States marshal to execute upon fellows, which he reports he is unable to execute. Beaver City, where I hold my court, is two hundred and twenty miles west of south of this city. It is beautifully situated, well watered, and healthy, and, besides, it is the diverging point leading to Pioche, one hundred and twenty miles west, and to Saint George, one hundred and ten miles west of south, and it is about one hundred miles east to Knob—the Gibraltar of church fellows—where there are one hundred and twenty men thoroughly armed and where the leaders of said massacre have taken refuge.

In addition to these considerations, a few miles south of Beaver City the annual Indian raids upon the settlements take place, and therefore a post at Beaver City would be the proper place to do most service to the country.

I adjourned my last October term of court, after disposing of my civil docket, until the second Monday in May next, in order that all the facts and needs to the execution of the laws and the protection of loyal citizens might be fully understood by Government and by this military department. Whenever it is safe, and the Government desires criminals punished and will furnish the necessary support and means to prosecute them, the court and its executive officers are ready to proceed.

If you establish a post at Beaver City, or near there, it ought to be done by the last of April or the first week in May. At that season it will be the best time to move troops, supplies, &c. By that time the roads from here will be in the best possible condition. Soon after the first week in May the weather becomes hot and dry.

Hoping to hear from you soon and favorably upon these suggestions, I have the honor to remain, respectfully, &c.

C. M. HAWLEY,

Associate Justice, &c., and Judge of the Second Judicial District.

General ORD,

Commander of the Military Department of the Platte.

EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY,
January 12, A. D. 1872.

SIR: The within letter from Judge C. M. Hawley, of second judicial district, Utah Territory, to you, has been referred to me. I indorse the statements made therein fully and express the hope that you may establish a post in Southern Utah as soon as practicable. I had the honor to lay this matter before Major General Augur, and, through him, before Lieutenant General Sheridan, during the summer of 1871, and had favorable response. To be most effective it should be a four or five company post—two or three companies of cavalry and one or two of infantry. Without the presence of the military in that remote portion of the Territory it will be utterly impossible to enforce the law.

Your obedient servant,

GEO. L. WOOD,
Governor of Utah Territory.

Major General ORD,
Commanding Department of the Platte, Omaha, Nebraska.

[Indorsement.]

HEADQUARTERS DEPARTMENT OF THE PLATTE,
Omaha, Nebraska, January 31, 1872.

Respectfully forwarded. The general commanding the division, I think, has acted on this matter.

E. O. C. ORD,
Brigadier General.

ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,
Washington, May 4, 1872.

Official copies:

E. D. TOWNSEND,
Adjutant General.