THE INDIAN TROUBLES.; Return of Capt. Fisk A Horrible Piece of Barbarity. Rebel Deserters. Tennessee.

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The St. Paul Pioneer gives the following particulars of Capt. FISH's recent expedition. It will be seen that the atrocious act of barbarity -- poisoning the Indians by strychnine -- which the telegraph attributed to Capt. FISK, was actually perpetrated by the emigrants themselves. The Pioneer says:

"Capt. JAMES L. FISK, commander of the Government expedition to Montana, to protect emigrants to that region, arrived home on Friday night.

The expedition, as is well known, was organized here last Spring under command of Capt. FISK, and consisted of a party of emigrants, a guard of soldiers, and a corps of men to take care of the Government property, drive teams, &c. The train consisted of about 100 wagons.

The expedition reached Fort Ridgely safely, and were here furnished with a guard of fifty cavalry-men, under Lieut. PHILLIPS. They then went to Fort Rice via Fort Wadsworth, and, after a week's delay in ferrying across the Missouri, arrived there on Aug, 15.

Their guard from this post was a detachment of fifty cavalry under Lieut. SMITH -- convalescents drawn from various regiments. They left Fort Rice on Aug. 21, and journeyed up the Cannon Ball River to the last crossing made by Gen. SULLY, whence they struck in a south westerly direction, over a fine country, to the Red Buttes, some eighty miles distant.

While passing through the Red Buttes they first saw hostile Indians, the Unkpapa Sioux. Mr. NEUDIOK, of St. Anthony, an emigrant, was killed while looking for a lost ox. The Indians then followed the train for three days, their number apparentlv increasing every day, three hundred being counted at the last. It was a continual running skirmish. There were only 168 armed men in the train. It required about 100 of these to drive the train. The train was arranged in five parallel columns, forming a square, and the guard formed a line of defense about it. Whenever a knot of Indians were seen together, they were shelled with a howitzer and scattered, and if a charge seemed threatened on any portion of the line, the guard at that point was strengthened.

On the second day some of the emigrants poisoned two or three boxes of bread with strychnine, and lost them apparently, on the way. They were soon afterwards gobbled up by the Sioux, and as was subsequently ascertained, one hundred men, women and children killed by this stratagem.

On the third day of this running fight, Capt. FISK found a very fine naturally fortified position, and constructed an entrenched camp, where he remained for ten days, until relief came from Fort Rice, for which he dispatched a messenger at once.

The Indians only remained three days after encamping here. Before they left they made overtures for peace through an interpreter, and by means of letters written by a white female captive, named Mrs. KELLY. They offend to sell this woman for an exorbitant price, but, as Capt. FISK had not the means to comply with their demand, the negotiations fell through, and the Indians left.

In these skirmishes twelve men were killed and two wounded. Eight of these were soldiers, three guards, and one emigrant before mentioned. The names of the guard are as follows:

JEFF. DILTZ, signal scout. residence, Anoka.

WALTER FEWER, St. Anthony.

WALTER GREAVES, White Bear Lake.

It is estimated that over a hundred Indians were killed, not reckoning those killed by poison.

After the Indians had decamped, Capt. FISK made preparations to proceed. They were near the Little Missouri, over which they constructed a road and ferry, and had gone ten miles when overtaken by 600 troops sent out by Gen. SULLY, under command of Col. DILL, with instructions to bring back the emigrants and guard to Fort Rice. Capt. FISK begged for an escort of 200 men for two days, which was denied him, and he was therefore compelled to give up the expedition and return to Fort Rice.

On arriving at Fort Rice, most of the emigrants sold their outfits and separated in various directions. Capt. FISK stored his Government property and left Lieut. JOHNSON and his wagon-master in charge of it.

We have thus briefly sketched the leading events of the expedition. Its failure was no fault of the commander certainly, as he was anxious to proceed, and with a small guard would have got through safely, doubtless, as he was only 150 miles from his destination, the mouth of the Big Horn River.

The health of the expedition was good, and they were successful in finding a good wagon road all the way.

The Press says:

We have already published full details of the Captain's expedition up to the time that the messengers left his camp to go back to Fort Rice for help. Early next morning after the messengers left, a reconnaissance was made for water, and fortunately, a living spring was found within half a mile of the camp.

The Indians were in force that day, being about 300 strong, while Capt. FISK had only 75 available men, and harassed his camp on one side with a strong party, while they endeavored to-break through his line on the other. They were repulsed with the loss of a number of braves and finally gathered together on an eminence, and sent a flag of truce, asking a council with Capt. FISK. This was refused, after which they demanded a large quantity of supplies, ammunition, beef cattle and iron for arrow heads, upon the reception of which they modestly agreed to raise the siege.

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The next communication was a letter written by a white woman, Mrs. FANNIE KELLEY, who they held captive. The head man dictated what she was to write, but at the end of each sentence she appealed for aid to secure her release. The Indians being unable to read she was in this broken way enabled to inform the Captain that she was captured on the 16th of July near Fort Laramie, with a large emigrant train. The truce ground was maintained for two days in order to secure her release. Capt. FISK offered them his best saddle horse and a span of horses harnessed to a wagon loaded with provisions, if they would surrender her, and they agreed to do so the next day, but during the night they moved their camp, and sent word that they would carry her to some Fort and get provisions enough for the winter.

She wrote Capt. FISK that he had killed a large number with bullets, and that others were very sick and dying. The sickness was readily explained, as a quantity of hard tack, with a little strychnine mixed in. had been left where the Indians could capture it and their indisposition followed.

The third day after the messengers left the Indians took their departure, and nothing more was seen of them. Capt. FISK was anxious to proceed, but the emigrants desired to wait, thinking Gen. SULLY would send a large force to take them through. They remained there sixteen days, when Col. DILL arrived with positive orders to take them back to Fort Rice, and the emigrants then regretted, when loo late, that they had not advanced. Capt. FISK asked Col. DILL to let his infantry rest, escort them two days on the journey with cavalry, and then leave them without any troops; but he stated that his orders would not permit him to advance an inch.

No one was killed after the messenger left, and but one man was wounded.

Capt. FISK had struck the plateau between the Bad Land and the Black Hills and found the route open, and he considers it entirely feasible to reach the gold fields in that way.

The Indians now trying to make peace at Fort Rice are the Unk-ba-pas band which attacked the Captain's train. The Captain was in good health and his men generally were well. Lieut. JOHNSON will spend the Winter at Fort Rice, having charge of the train which was brought back.

<http://www.nytimes.com/1864/11/20/news/indian-troubles-return-capt-fisk-horrible-piece-barbarity-rebel-deserters.html?pagewanted=2>