TOPOGRAPHICAL MAP

OF THE

ROAD FROM MISSOURI TO OREGON

COMMENCING AT THE MOUTH OF THE KANSAS IN THE MISSOURI RIVER

AND ENDING AT THE MOUTH OF THE WALLAH-WALLAH IN THE COLUMBIA

In VII Sections

SECTION VI

From the field notes and journal of Capt. J.C. Frémont,

and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss

Compiled by Charles Preuss, 1846

By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE — 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Lithogr. by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore

October 8. Fort Boisée. This is a simple dwelling-house on the right bank of Snake River, about a mile below the mouth of Rivière Boisée; and on our arrival we were received with an agreeable hospitality by Mr Payette, an officer of the Hudson Bay Company, in charge of the fort; all of whose garrison consisted in a Canadian engagé.

Frémont's Report.

October 5. Hot Springs. The morning was calm and clear, and at sunrise the thermometer was at 32°. The road to day was occasionally extremely rocky, with hard volcanic fragments, and in about nine miles the road brought us to a group of smoking hot springs, and the place was very gratefully in a day of high wind and cold snarling wind. The rocks were covered with a white and red incrustation, and the water has on the tongue a summer temperature, and the water has on the tongue. The same unpleasant effect as that of the Basin spring on Bear river. Thirty-six several branches and bubble up with force enough to raise the small pebbles several inches.

Frémont's Report.

Sept. 30 Subterranean River. Immediately opposite to us, a subterranean river bursts out directly from the face of the escarpment, and falls in white foam to the river below. In the views annexed you will find, with a sketch of this remarkable fall, a representation of the mural precipices which enclose the main river and which form its characteristic feature along a great portion of its course. A melancholy and strange-looking country — one of fracture and violence and fire.

Frémont's Report.

Sept. 24. American Falls. The river here enters between low mural banks, which consists of a fine vesicular trap rock, the intermediate portions being compact and crystalline. Gradually becoming higher in its downward course, these banks of scoriated volcanic rock form, with occasional interruptions, its characteristic feature along the whole line to the Dalles of the Lower Columbia, resembling a chasm, which had been rent through the country, and which the river had afterwards taken for its bed. The immediate valley of the river is a high plain, covered with black rocks and artemisias. In the south, is a bordering range of mountains, which, although not very high, are broken and covered with snow; and, at a great distance to the north is seen the high, snowy line of the Salmon river mountains, in front of which stand out prominently in the plain, the three isolated rugged-looking little mountains commonly known as the Three Buttes. Between the river and the distant Salmon river range, the plain is represented by Mr Fitzpatrick as so entirely broken up and rent into chasms as to be impracticable for a man, even on foot. In the sketch annexed, the point of view is low, but it conveys very well some idea of the open character of the country, with the buttes rising out above the general line. By measurement, the river above is 870 feet wide, immediately contracted at the fall in the form of a lock, by jutting piles of scoriaceous basalt, over which the foaming river must present a grand appearance at the time of high water.

Frémont's Report.

October 1. Fishing Falls. Our encampment was about one mile below the Fishing Falls, a series of cataracts with very inclined planes, which are probably so named, because the form a barrier to the ascent of the salmon; and the great fisheries from which the inhabitants of this barren region almost entirely derive a subsistence commence at this place. These appeared to be unusually gay savages, fond of loud laughter, and, in their apparent good nature and merry character, struck me as being entirely different from the Indians we had been accustomed to see. From several who visited our camp in the evening, we purchased, in exchange for goods, dried salmon. At this season they are not very fat, but we were easily pleased. The Indians made us comprehend, that when the salmon came up the river in the spring, they are so abundant that they merely throw in their spears at random, certain of bringing out a fish.

Frémont's Report.

October 6. Change in the face of the country. The morning warm, the thermometer 46° at sunrise, the sky entirely clouded. After travelling about three miles over an extremely rocky road, the volcanic fragments began to disappear, and, entering among the hills at the point of the mountain, we found ourselves suddenly in a granite country. Here the character of the vegetation was very much changed; the artemisia disappeared almost entirely, showing only at intervals towards the close of the day, and was replaced by Purshia tridentata with flowering shrubs, and small fields of dichtera divaricata, which gave bloom and gayety to the hills. These were every where covered with a fresh and green short grass, like that of the early spring. This is the fall or second growth, the dried grass having been burnt off by the the Indians; and wherever the fire has passed, the bright green color is universal. The soil among the hills is altogether different from that of the river plain, being in many places black, in others sandy and gravelly, but of a firm and good character, appearing to result from the decomposition of the granite rocks, which is proceeding rapidly.

Frémont's Report.

1. *The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from* **Westport Landing**.
2. *This is the most trying section for the traveller on the whole route.* **Water**, *though good and plenty, is difficult to reach, as the river is hemmed in by high and vertical rocks and many of the by-streams are without water in the dry season.* **Grass** *is only to be found at the marked camping places, and barely sufficient to keep strong animals from starvation.* **Game** *there is none. The road is very rough by volcanic rocks, detrimental to wagons and carts. In sage bushes consists the only* **Fuel**. *Lucky, that by all these hardships the traveller is not harassed by the Indians, who are peacable & harmless.*
3. *West of the Fishing Falls, salmon, fresh and dried, can be obtained from the Indians.*

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico

Date	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1843 Septbr 22	sunrise	41 Fahr.	4779 Feet	Wind S. begins to rain
	sunset	42°		do. sky partly clear, partly rainy clouds
23	sunrise	32°		calm, snow falling thick
	sunset	45°		nearly calm, clear over head
24	sunrise	35°		calm, overcast
	sunset	55°		breeze from S. clear
25	sunrise	46°		gale from S. clear
	sunset	55°		almost overcast
26	sunrise	40°		Wind S.W. rain last night
	sunset	44°	4252 Feet	sharp wind S.W. clouds and clear
27	sunrise	40°		slight breeze fr S. rainy clouds
	sunset	45°		gale fr SW. thunder in S. clear and clouds
28	sunrise	40°		slight breeze fr S. rainy clouds
	sunset	45°		cold wind fr S.E.
29	sunrise	36°		wind S.W.
	sunset	50°		do.
30	sunrise	28°		air fr S.E. light clouds
	sunset	65°		wind squally fr W. clear
Octbr. 1	sunrise	55°	3173 Feet	wind W. clear
	sunset	74°		calm and clear
2	sunrise	48°		calm and clear
	sunset	70°		do. do.
3	sunrise	42°		air from S.E. clear and light clouds
	sunset	60°		do. do. do.
4	sunrise	47°		calm and clear
	sunset	57°		gale fr N.W. cloudy
5	sunrise	32°		calm and clear
	sunset	47°		wind N.W. overcast
6	sunrise	46°		do. do. do. rainy appearance
	sunset	51°	3226 Feet	do. do. clear
7	sunrise	45°		do. do. do.
	sunset	57°		do. do. do.
8	sunrise	38°		calm and clear
	sunset	62°		do. cloudy horizon
9	sunrise	36°		calm and clear
	sunset	68°		do. scattered clouds
10	sunrise	43°		calm and clear
	sunset	62°	1398 Feet	do. do.

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