

REPORT

OF THE

ACTING SUPERINTENDENT

OF THE

SEQUOIA AND GENERAL GRANT NATIONAL PARKS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

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CAMP AT HOCKETT MEADOWS,
Sequoia National Park, California, September 11, 1892.

SIR: In submitting this annual report I think it proper to refer again to some of the most striking natural features of the country lying in and adjacent to the Sequoia and General Grant National Parks, in order to make clear the reason for the disposition of the troops, and to show that if they are not completely successful in enforcing the regulations for the parks in an area but little larger than seven townships, it is not wholly due to lack of energy or activity on their part, but in a great measure to natural obstacles that make wide detours necessary in traveling from point to point and rapidity of movement impossible. As is known from former reports, the middle or main fork of the Kaweah River flows a little south of west through the Sequoia Park and practically bisects it. Where it enters the park its bed is at an altitude of about 5,000 feet, and it falls 3,000 feet before leaving it. Its bed is lower than that of the Marble Fork on the north or those of the East and South forks on the south, and the rapidity of its fall is less. Steep slopes rise from it on either side, terminating in high ridges. The only tributary in the park coming from the north side is the Marble Fork, that joins the Middle Fork after emerging from a deep cleft through the ridge on the north side of the latter stream. The top of this ridge on the eastern side of the Marble Fork is nearly 7,000 feet high. Following the ridge eastwardly, it is generally parallel to the Middle Fork and reaches an altitude of about 12,500 feet just within the boundary of the park. It then dips into a saddle east of the park, probably about 11,000 feet high. Before doing this, however, it is joined on the north by the ridge that divides the waters of Marble Fork from those of Kings River. The head of the Marble Fork is in the angle between the two ridges, and a little inside of the park. The head of the Middle Fork is on the south side of the saddle. The culminating point of the divide between the Marble Fork and Kings River is Mount Silliman, which lies well within the northeastern corner of the park and is about 12,500 feet high. The bed of the Marble Fork is in a cañon until it breaks through the north side of the cañon of the Middle Fork.

The waters of the Giant Forest flow into the Marble Fork. This forest is on an inclined plateau, in the vertex of the angle formed by

the cañon of the Marble Fork and the ridge through which it cuts. The plateau begins at the top of the ridge and slopes gradually toward the cañon of the Marble Fork. Several practicable routes across the cañon of the Marble Fork are now known. Last year we knew but one.

West of the Marble Fork there is no prominent, well defined ridge of any extent. The mountains are much broken and cut up by deep ravines. The highest peak is Big Baldy, about 8,500 feet high, situated at the extreme northwestern corner of the park, just within the angle formed by the junction, at the foot of its south face, of two branches of the North Fork of the Kaweah. The North Fork flows in a southerly direction from Big Baldy, but wholly outside the park. Its fall is not very great, possibly being less than 2,000 feet between Big Baldy and its mouth. It is inclosed between mountains, and for a considerable distance below Baldy the slopes on either side are impassable.

Returning now to the Middle Fork and taking the ridge on its south side, we find that at the western boundary of the park it is about 7,000 feet high and at the eastern about 11,000 feet. It then sinks to a saddle or gap, called Timber Gap, about 10,000 feet high, that lies east of the park. South of this ridge is the East Fork of the Kaweah River. Its bed is at an altitude of about 6,000 feet where it crosses the eastern line of the park, and in the width of one township, which is here the width of the park, it falls about 3,000 feet.

To the south of this stream is another high ridge, separating it from the South Fork. At the western edge of the park this ridge is over 10,000 feet high. Further east it is 12,600 feet high, but there is a deep gorge in the intervening space through which a large stream that drains the northern part of the Hockett Meadows flows toward the East Fork. Following the ridge still farther east we come to Mount Vandever, at least 13,000 feet high, and then a drop into a saddle, called Farewell Gap, about 11,000 feet high. On the north side of this gap is the head of the East Fork and the Mineral King mining district, all outside of the park. On the south side of the gap is the head of the Little Kern River, which is in the park, the stream flowing toward the southeast. West of the Little Kern is the head of the South Fork of the Kaweah, lying also in the park. Between the Little Kern and the South Fork is a high range that extends southward from Mount Vandever. There are two passes over this ridge, several miles apart, and both more than 10,000 feet high. For a few miles the South Fork winds slowly westward through the Hockett Meadows, and then, in a distance that would be represented on a map as less than 2 miles, it falls more than 4,000 feet.

All the principal divides between the Kings River and the South Fork extend, generally speaking, from east to west. They are all spurs from the divide between the Kern and Kaweah rivers. That divide extends north and south, and is generally higher at all points than any of its spurs. Looking at the spurs, we find that each one of them sinks to a saddle just out of the park on its east side, and that their highest points are just within it. The gaps are therefore the natural routes of travel where ridges are to be crossed. Other natural routes would be to follow down one cañon to its junction with another, and there turn up the latter. These two kinds of routes are the ones usually followed by the troops, and consequently the greater part of their marching is entirely outside the park. It is impossible to follow the crests of the high divides, for they are too rough and rocky, or too sharp and jagged.

Within the limits of the park the three principal ridges can each be

crossed at one point only, in traveling from one stream to the next, but there is no continuous trail from north to south. Below the crests of the ridges, up to an altitude of 5,000 or 6,000 feet, the slopes are covered with a growth of brush so stiff and dense that it is practically impenetrable, and usually so high that one can not see in what direction he should try to cut his way in order to reach ground that would give him footing. These slopes are deeply washed by rains, melting snows, and landslides, and even where there is no brush, travel across their faces would frequently be impossible. From 5,000 or 6,000 feet up to 10,000 or 11,000 feet, trees are found where there is soil enough to support them. In the timber belt, between the rocks above and the brush below, a way to travel can often be found.

The only wagon road in the Sequoia Park is a continuation of the county road from Visalia to Three Rivers. It crosses to the north side of the East Fork about half a mile from its mouth, and then follows the general direction of the stream along the steep slopes on its north side, keeping from 500 to 1,000 feet above it, and terminating at Mineral King.

About 8 miles of the road built by the Kaweah Colony from the North Fork to the Colony sawmill lies in the park. It is now so badly washed out that wagons can not travel it, but it is a good trail for saddle and pack animals.

General Grant National Park, northwest of the Sequoia Park, and comprising only 4 square miles, has no deep gulches nor, except along its eastern side, any high, steep hills. On the east side the top of a high ridge very nearly coincides with the park line, and its western slopes, which are quite steep and rocky, extend several hundred yards into the park. This park lies just north of the crest of the divide between the North Fork of the Kaweah and Kings rivers. Between it and the Sequoia Park there are no ridges much above 8,000 feet, but the cañons are deep and the slopes steep and rocky. The streams are in gorges with vertical sides, and the only practicable traveling is well up and around the heads of these streams, or, in a few instances, along the ridges between them.

After this description the necessity for making very wide detours in traveling between two points can be better understood. One of the most accessible places in the Sequoia Park is Atwell's Mill, on the Mineral King road, on the north face of the canyon of the East Fork. It is about 1,000 feet above the river and at least 1,500 feet below the crest of the canyon. Its elevation above sea level is about 6,500 feet. A map would show Atwell's Mill to be about 8 miles from a certain place in the Giant Forest at the same elevation, where a detachment is stationed. The intervening country, however, is impassable. To travel from Atwell's Mill to that camp with the least fatigue and in the shortest time the Mineral King road is followed west to the mouth of the North Fork, where the altitude above sea level is only 1,000 feet, and from here the road up the North Fork is followed, and then the Colony road to the Colony Sawmill. The distance from the sawmill to the Giant Forest is but little more than a mile, but the distance to be traveled by trail to reach the camp is 9 miles. The total distance that must be traveled is 52 miles, and the time required is two days. The second day's march will take all the time between sun and sun on a long summer day. The time with loaded pack mules would be three days. About 4 miles above the mouth of the North Fork, at a place known as Red Hill, a trail starts up the Middle Fork and follows it to a point beyond the Marble Fork, and then goes north up the mountain

side to the Giant Forest. This is known as the Moro Rock trail, and by following it the distance would be only 37 miles. But the difference in elevation between the bottom and top of the mountain side is 4,000 feet, and the trail is considered the worst in the park. It gets steeper and rougher the higher one goes, and no time is saved by using it. The packers prefer to descend by the longer route even when their mules have no loads. Except in rare cases all communication between the northern and southern parts of the park is by way of the mouth of the North Fork and the Colony Sawmill. If General Grant Park were the objective point from Atwell's Mill, the road would be followed as before to the mouth of the North Fork. That stream would then be followed up for about 6 miles, and then the route would be through the mountains west of it, partly by road and partly by trail. The total distance from Atwell's Mill is also about 52 miles, and with light loads would usually be traveled in two days and with heavy ones in three. The journey is much easier than the one between the mill and Giant Forest, points shown by the map to be only 8 miles apart.

This report is written in a camp due south of Atwell's Mill, and a map would show the distance between them to be about 6 miles. There is a trail from here direct to the mill, by which the distance is about 10 miles, and a man could probably start from here and get there in about four hours. But should he try to come here from the mill, especially with loaded mules, it is more than probable it would take him all day, and perhaps he would find it necessary to take two days. But by going from the mill up the Mineral King road to the head of the East Fork, then over Farewell Gap and down the Little Kern for about 5 miles and then west over the divide between the Little Kern and the head of the South Fork, he could arrive here in 8 hours and with half the fatigue. The distance is 23 miles. Should his objective be a point on the South Fork that is still farther west, and about 5 miles farther by trail, though shown by the map to be less than 8 miles from Atwell's Mill, he would take another route. He would then follow down the Mineral King road to the mouth of the South Fork at Three Rivers and follow up that stream. The distance, 40 miles, would be longer, but the time and labor involved would be less.

During the year ending June 30, 1892, Troop K, Fourth Cavalry, was employed a little less than six months in guarding these two small national parks, and though the total marching of the troop and detachments during that time was about 7,000 miles, such were the obstacles encountered that the parts were not thoroughly explored and consequently not thoroughly known nor protected.

After submitting my last annual report the detachment that had been temporarily taken away from the Colony Sawmill was sent back there. During the ten days or so that no troops had been there the Kaweah colonists had torn down nearly all the buildings and hauled away most of the lumber. The small iron pipe that brought water down from a spring about 500 yards distant had been taken up and unjointed and then thrown down the mountain side. This seemed to indicate that they did not care so much for the pipe as they did to annoy the soldiers stationed there. Their further destruction of the buildings and appropriation of the lumber was stopped, and the pipe was again put together, after a fashion, and the water supply restored. The portable sawmill was removed by the colonists sometime later.

The trail of a band of sheep, traveling toward the valley, was found in the northern part of the Sequoia Park in the latter part of September. It was fresh when found, and the herders' campfires were still

burning. They were extinguished, but the trail was not followed far, as it left the park. This year I got information that leads me to believe that these sheep were in the northeastern part of the park all last summer, and that in September they turned back into it west of where their trail was found, and grazed in the park nearly three weeks longer. About the same time another band of sheep was found in the southeastern corner of the park. The herders claimed to be ignorant of the fact that they were trespassing and promised to move their sheep away at once. The next day another herd was found near the same place and the herders made the same excuse and the same promise. On the third day this herd had gone, but its trail was followed and it was found still in the park hardly a mile distant. It was then removed. It really was the same herd that was seen each day. After the first day the herders merely changed places with those of another band of sheep belonging to the same man that were just outside the park. The soldiers, seeing different herders, thought the first flock of sheep had gone away and that another had come.

As the weather grew cool in the fall most of the cattle that had been permitted to pass through to the east side of the park, for summer grazing, were allowed by their owners to run at large and graze back through it on their way to the foothills. This, however, was not the case with Mr. Hamilton, who herds his cattle at Redwood Meadows. All of Mr. Tharpe's cattle and horses, about 150 head in all, were running loose in the Giant Forest. Cattle belonging to other people were found near Castle Rock, a lot more were in the Hockett Meadows, near the head of the South Fork, and from 50 to 75 head were discovered late in the fall in a very brushy and difficult cañon, on the south side of the South Fork. It was found that salt for the cattle had been placed in out of the way places in this cañon as well as in the Hockett Meadows, to induce them to return as often as they were driven out. Mr. Tharpe's cattle were also doubtless provided with salt to keep them in the Giant Forest or its vicinity. Under the circumstances my force was not then capable of keeping the cattle away. Nearly all its attention was given to the Sequoia Park, a detachment visiting the General Grant Park about once a week or oftener.

The first snow at the higher altitudes fell on September 15. At Mineral King it was about 3 inches deep and lasted about one day. The supplies were then moved to Red Hill, as the fall rains sometimes wash out the road so much that wagons can not travel it. A detachment was left there until after November 1.

There were two showers at Red Hill in September, but no more rain or snow in the Sequoia Park from that time until after November 16, on which date the troop was relieved from its duty here, and marched to Visalia on its way to the Presidio of San Francisco. A big fire had been burning for sometime on both sides of the North Fork of the Kaweah, and had reached the park before the troop left, when it was still burning. There seemed to be some danger of its reaching the Giant Forest, but as it did not, it was probably extinguished by a timely rain.

On the 20th of May this year the troop was established in its old camp at Red Hill, and under the same orders as last year. There was evidently much less snow on the mountains than at the same time the year before, and the season was nearly a month earlier. To my surprise I found that Tulare County had appropriated a small sum to repair the road to Mineral King, which sum had been increased by contributions from some of the people. I was informed last year by Special Agent Andrew Cauldwell, General Land Office, that the county had no

valid title to this road, and of course it could not be expected to expend money for repairing it through a national park. The common belief is, however, that the county does own the road, and that the Interior Department has no jurisdiction whatever over that portion that lies in the park. This only crops out when someone wants to drive cattle through the park or do something that is forbidden by the park regulations. The interested person then claims immunity from all interference as long as he stays in the road and talks about lawsuits and damages. The acting superintendent of the park must presume that the information received from an officer of the Interior Department is correct.

The road was open to Atwell's Mill by the 25th of May, and in much better condition than it was at any time last year. A small detail was sent to the Davenport ranch as a guard for stores that should be accumulated there from Red Hill. This ranch is on the road nearly a mile below the mill, and the place occupied by the soldiers was a lot containing about 4 acres, on the lower side of the road, which had been cleared of trees and inclosed with logs. A small frame house stands near the center of the lot. I had noticed this place last year, and thought it might be used occasionally as a camp, particularly as it was the only cleared piece of ground along the road. At first I supposed it was claimed by some one who would occupy it during the summer. But no one came near it, and I afterward learned that a man named Davenport, who had cleared the ground and built the house, had abandoned his claim to the land before the title was complete and had been absent from the country, no one knew where, for several years. Passing parties often camped there, and when the cattlemen drove their herds through in the spring they used the lot as a corral to hold their cattle overnight. After I had established a temporary camp there this spring, I heard that Davenport had returned to this part of the country, and was indignant because troops were camped at his old place.

In the latter part of May the weather at Red Hill was unusually warm for the time of year, the maximum temperature ranging from 90° to 108°. The large streams were very high, as high as they had been in the middle of June the year before, at which time they were highest. The snow was evidently melting very rapidly, and there appeared to be less of it than there had been on the 1st of July last year. Thousands of sheep were reported to be on the Lower Tule and Kern rivers, south and southwest of the Sequoia Park, and others were reported to be heading towards the country between the Sequoia and General Grant parks. Accordingly, on May 31, Lieut. Nolan took a detachment to the Davenport ranch, with orders to build a bridge across the East Fork at the nearest available place, if he could find one, after which he was to cross and examine the slopes on the south side of the cañon, and, failing to find sheep there, was to go to Hockett Meadows by the direct trail from Atwell's Mill. One would naturally suppose that from the Mineral King road, constructed well up on the north side of the cañon, a band of sheep on the south side could readily be seen. Last year, however, there were two bands of sheep on that side for some time, one in the brush and the other in the timber, that were never seen from the road. The herders were careful with their fires, to keep the smoke from being seen, and the presence of sheep was not suspected. Lieut. Nolan succeeded in finding a place just under the ranch where the river was accessible on both sides, and in one day built a bridge. The slopes on the south side were then examined above and below the bridge by men on foot, this work being much hindered by the torrents of water that

filled nearly every ravine. Lieut. Nolan then started to cross the divide between the East Fork and Hockett Meadows by the trail from Atwell's Mill. The slow progress he made indicates the difficulties of this route. On the first day he was compelled to halt before reaching the crest, as his animals were exhausted and one pack mule had been killed. In zigzagging up the steep slopes he had traveled about $5\frac{1}{2}$ miles. The next day he traveled but 2 miles in five hours, and then had to go into camp, for his animals were exhausted again. The obstruction to his progress on this day was mainly due to snow. He then proceeded on foot to the Meadows and found the snow to be 4 feet deep on the level.

On May 31 Lieut. Benson was also sent with a detachment to examine the northern part of the Sequoia Park, between the Marble and North forks, traveling on the trail that leads to General Grant Park via the Colony Sawmill. It was the only trail to that park then known to us. The ferryboat owned by the Kaweah colony was used by him to cross the Kaweah River. This is a cable ferry located just below the mouth of the North Fork. He found the latter stream fordable, and met with no obstacle till he arrived at a large branch of the North Fork, near the northern boundary of the park. He considered it unwise to attempt to cross this stream with horses, but crossed without them and explored the northwest portion of the park and adjacent country on foot. Afterward he traveled over a considerable portion of the country between the trail and the main North Fork. All along the western half of the northern line of the park on both sides there were indications of sheep-herding last year. Along the western boundary of the park, on the slopes that fall towards the North Fork, it was evident that no cattle nor sheep had grazed for several years.

After Lieut. Nolan had thrown a bridge over the East Fork, the men stationed at Davenport Ranch were required to make frequent reconnoissances of the south side of the cañon. The sheep found there last year had come up from the south, over the snow in Hockett Meadows.

On June 17, Lieut. Nolan was ordered from Red Hill with a detachment to try to reach Hockett Meadows by way of Mineral King and Farewell Gap. The route usually traveled in going from Red Hill to Hockett Meadows is down the road to Three Rivers, and from there up the cañon of the South Fork. But this stream was very high, and as it would have to be crossed five times the route was not available. The road above Atwell's Mill was now open, and in going by Mineral King the most serious difficulty to be expected was the snow in Farewell Gap. Lieut. Nolan succeeded in getting through, however, and found that the snow had about disappeared from the Meadows, but the ground was too boggy for travel.

On June 19 Lieut. Benson was again sent to the northern part of the park, where he remained until August 1, when he was obliged to go to the Presidio of San Francisco as a witness before a court-martial.

On June 23, all the men at Red Hill, except a detachment of six, were moved to the Davenport Ranch, and a detachment was placed at Mineral King, 7 miles distant.

On July 2 the camp at Davenport Ranch was abandoned and the men and stores located at Mineral King.

On July 4, I went with Lieut. Nolan over Farewell Gap to Quinn's horse ranch in the southeastern corner of the Sequoia Park, and there stationed a detachment. On the 5th I returned to Mineral King, while he went to the Hockett Meadows, returning to Mineral King on the 6th. He had seen no signs of sheep, but found cattle at a place known

as the Milk Ranch and had sent word to that effect to the noncommissioned officer in charge of the detail at Quinn's horse ranch. At that time mosquitoes made life unbearable in the Meadows, but the detachment was to move there by July 15, when the ground would be drier and the mosquitoes less troublesome.

During June Mr. Hamilton had been allowed to drive his cattle to Mineral King, following the road through the park. He then took them over Timber Gap to Redwood Meadows, which lie east of the park. Mr. Luce had informed me that he and Mr. Dean were partners in the cattle business, and their cattle were also driven up the road and over Timber Gap to land east of the park. I cautioned Mr. Luce to keep them off the park, and told him that whenever my men went over the divide north of Atwell's Mill last year they always found some of his cattle.

It will be remembered that last year Mr. Tharpe was given permission to drive his cattle and horses up the Moro Rock trail to Giant Forest, and through the Giant Forest to land east of the park, that he represented was rented by him. He owns considerable land in the Giant Forest and has one large meadow inclosed and planted with timothy that he cuts for hay. This is known as Wolverton's Meadow. He promised that after entering the park he would drive the stock to this meadow in one day, where they would be kept inside the inclosure till they rested, and then in one day he would drive them eastward beyond the park. He did not drive up his cattle till late in August. He had to go by the camp at Red Hill, where the trail crosses the Kaweah River, and I had left word at that camp that whenever he appeared with his cattle a detail was to accompany him to see that he did not let them scatter in the park nor delay on the way. It so happened that when the cattle came along there was but one man in camp available for this duty. This man afterward reported to me that they were driven to the meadow and corraled, and had not stopped on the way. He did not seem to know that he should have gone farther and had returned from that place. A few weeks later I found signs on this trail that plainly showed that a large number of cattle had certainly stopped for at least one day, or that a small number had stopped for several days. For a short time after the cattle were driven up only a few were seen in the Giant Forest, but by the middle of October it was evident that all the horses and cattle were there and that no effort was being made by Mr. Tharpe's herders to keep them out. The sergeant in charge of the detachment at the Colony Sawmill reported that when the herders were spoken to about this they would answer, "Well, why don't you drive them out." At that time we knew of no place near the park to which we could drive them and where they would stay and not return. If they were driven just out of the park and turned loose they would be back in the park inside of an hour. This spring Mr. Tharpe asked permission to drive his cattle again over the same trail to land east of the park. He said he did not like to drive over Timber Gap to get to his range because he would then have to go over Redwood Meadows where Mr. Hamilton had his cattle and they needed all the grass. I told him he could drive his cattle through under the same conditions as were agreed to last year. I asked him to notify me when he was ready to drive them up, which he promised. It was my intention to send a detail along, under a commissioned officer, but I said nothing of it to him.

On June 23 Lieut. Benson found a band of 2,700 sheep on the Marble Fork at the foot of Mount Silliman. He had with him at the time but

two men; all were on foot, and the party was out of rations. He took charge of the herders and brought them down to Red Hill, and came up to Davenport ranch with the chief herder, a Mexican named Carlos Delgado, to see me. The sheep belonged to a man known as "French Pete," named Peter Lustaud. The portion of the park where his sheep were found had never been visited by the troops before, and had been represented to us as very rough and almost impenetrable, and besides as probably not in the park. Lieut. Benson had now learned better. The sheep had doubtless been herded there all last summer without interference, and on this account the herders were permitted to return with Lieut. Benson to drive out the sheep, following their back trail. But during their absence Lustaud arrived from Kings River and discovered what had occurred, and with some of his men taken from another of his herds in the Kings River country, had commenced gathering the sheep, which were driven out after Lieut. Benson returned.

On July 3 he found another herd of sheep on Clover Creek, near the northern line of the park. These belonged to a Mr. Janes, and were under charge of one herder, a young man named Fine. He said he had been left there with some food, but without horses or donkeys, which the other herders had taken to Visalia, where they expected to spend the 4th. He admitted that he and all the herders and the owner knew that the place where the sheep were found was in the park. He was sent to me at Mineral King, where I found him on July 5. Two men were left with the sheep to keep them out of the park, and to catch the other herders on their return from Visalia. Lieut. Benson then scouted the adjacent country with the remainder of his men, and reached the Giant Forest on July 6, where he learned that Mr. Tharpe had driven his cattle by Red Hill on the 4th instant, and was on his way up the Moro Rock trail. He had no instructions about these cattle from me, but knew what ought to be done. He feared that his force was too weak to handle the cattle, and sent to Clover Creek for the two men left with the sheep. They had held the flock close to the line, and after seeing that it was wholly out of the park they joined him.

On July 6, while at Mineral King, I also learned from my men at Red Hill that Mr. Tharpe's cattle had passed there on the 4th, and also that they had stopped after getting in the park. I did not know whether Lieut. Benson would be in the Giant Forest when they arrived there, or whether he would have enough men to act efficiently. On the 7th I started to the Giant Forest with a large detachment, and arrived at his camp on the 8th. Tharpe's stock had gotten to the Giant Forest that day. Early in the morning a lot of loose horses came up the trail and at once started to scatter through the woods. Lieut. Benson's men were soon ready and stopped and held them as they came. The cattle were also collected and held as they came up, and then, under Lieut. Benson's escort, were conducted to Wolverton Meadows and placed in the inclosure. The next day he accompanied them to a spot high up on the north side of the cañon of the Middle Fork, and under the highest part of its crest. This, Mr. Tharpe said, was known as Farley's Meadows, and was rented by him. Rough surveys, made by Lieuts. Benson and Nolan this summer, leave no doubt this land is in the park. However, I was not certain of this at that time, and as the cattle were in a place where they could easily be kept out of the Giant Forest, and where they could not go up the mountain and only with great difficulty down it, I gave Mr. Tharpe the benefit of the doubt. I was the more inclined to do this as there was plenty of work for all the men

elsewhere. He was warned that if any of his horses or cattle were found in the Giant Forest they would be driven over to the Kings River country and turned loose.

On the 10th I started to General Grant Park, which I reached on the 12th, having traveled most of the way from Giant Forest by a route hitherto unknown to us. On the morning of the 12th I was busy looking over ground in that park where Mr. John W. Parker, of Camp Badger, had asked authority to make a road. In the afternoon I found that about one third of the park, on the western side, had been swept by fire, which had been almost completely checked, though a number of trees and logs were still smoldering. The fire had started on the land of Moore & Smith, west of the park, and they had turned out about 50 men to check it. This was to their interest, as they own large tracts of timber land alongside the park. The fire was under such control that it would probably not start afresh for several days, and as I had but two soldiers and a packer with me, I started back to Mineral King next morning to get a detachment for a permanent camp. In going to Red Hill I followed a route west of the North Fork through Eshom Valley, and found it much shorter and better than any others previously known to us. I was back in General Grant Park on the 16th, and established the camp. The fire was constantly starting afresh in new places, and I remained till the 21st, when I felt sure it was under control. A lot of brush and fallen timber had been burnt up, and also a few pine and fir trees, but none of the big trees were destroyed, though about half a dozen were slightly injured.

I then started with four men to go to the Giant Forest, and on the 22d crossed Clover Creek and camped a few miles south of it. After dinner I took the first sergeant and went back toward a point on Clover Creek about a mile above where we had crossed in the morning. Our object was to try to get to the top of Mount Silliman, but as we approached the creek we heard a band of sheep in a cañon below us, and the voices of the herders, who were evidently driving them as fast as they could. The first sergeant went back to camp and got the other men, and we then followed the sheep. The herders were evidently trying to get them into the rocks where horses could not go, hoping probably that we would not try to follow them. We captured two herders and took them and their supplies back to camp, as it was getting too late to attempt anything more that day. Next morning we found that the sheep had all been driven from the park, either during the night or at daylight. The fire of one herder, whom we had not seen, and who had driven off the sheep, was found high upon the mountain. He had evidently been placed there as a picket, and had seen my detachment when it crossed Clover Creek on the morning of the 22d and given warning of its approach. The sheep had been in the park about two days, advantage being taken of the fact that during that time Lieut. Benson was absent with his detachment in the direction of General Grant Park, trying to catch another band of sheep that he expected to find in the northwestern corner of the Sequoia Park. The herders we had, and their one donkey and baggage, were taken out of the park by the Colony road. While passing through the Giant Forest I met Lieut. Benson who had gone to General Grant Park, and then turned south following the trail west of the North Fork to within 8 miles of Red Hill. He then returned to the Giant Forest by way of the Colony road. He had found four or five horses in the park on this road, and was driving them to the Kings River country. I returned to Mineral King on the 26th.

During my absence, from July 7 to this time, Lieut. Nolan had been left

at Mineral King in charge of matters in the southern half of the Sequoia Park. I had seen him on the 14th when I returned from General Grant Park to get a detachment to place in camp here, and directed him to build a corral in the Hockett Meadows to hold all the cattle found there and down the South Fork, and to notify the cattle-owners that their cattle would be collected and driven over to the Kings River cañon, where they would be turned loose, and that they would be taken over such a difficult route that they would not come back. He was also to try to locate as far as possible the eastern boundary of the park across the cañon of the Middle Fork, and find his way or cut a trail as nearly along it as possible. When I arrived at Mineral King, on the 26th, I found that he was absent trying to make such a trail. The corral in Hockett Meadows had been built and the notification sent to the cattle owners. He had found a herd of sheep near the park on the Little Kern River, and warned the herders to keep off. Next day he went back and found the sheep on the park. The herders were removed from the park and kept away for several days while the soldiers drove off the sheep. I found orders for Lieut. Benson to proceed to the Presidio, which I transmitted to him, and left orders for Lieut. Nolan to take his place, while I went to the Hockett Meadows. I learned afterwards that Lieut. Nolan had been able to get down to the Middle Fork, and was fortunate enough to find a crossing. He had forced his way a long distance up the north side of the cañon through dense brush and then found his supplies were exhausted and could go no farther. While he was doing this Lieut. Benson was exploring the southern and eastern acclivities of Mount Silliman on foot. He there found some meadows where the sheep of Mr. Lustaud (French Pete) had been grazing for three weeks, and which they had just left. His horses and supplies were still there under charge of his foreman, Carlos Delgado, whom Lieut. Benson had found with these sheep on the Marble Fork in June. He took charge of this man and everything in the camp, but the man ran away subsequently during the night. The horses were taken down the Colony road outside of the park and turned loose. It was found that some of Lustaud's sheep had been taken across the divide between the Kings and Kaweah rivers, and had been feeding in the park on the north side of the Middle Fork.

On arriving at Hockett Meadows on July 27th I found that the men there had collected a number of cattle belonging to Mr. Blossom. His son appeared the next day, and they were turned over to him on his promise that he would keep them from trespassing. When he took them away he said he would return in four or five days to see if we had any more and get them. During that time we gathered in the corral 22 head, and as he did not return, I started with them on the sixth day, going over the trail to Atwell's Mill. They were held that night in the inclosure at Davenport Ranch, while I went to Mineral King for forage for the horses. Young Mr. Blossom appeared at Mineral King at 6 o'clock next morning to ask for his cattle. They were given to him on the same conditions as before. The next day he commenced to put up a fence across the trail in the cañon of the South Fork, at the western boundary of the park. This was to keep his cattle from coming up the cañon. As he seemed to be acting in good faith I let him have a few head that we subsequently found. A few head belonging to a Mr. Putman were given to him on the same conditions, though a place was found where he had left salt for his cattle. Their range was in the brushy cañon on the south side of the South Fork, where 50 or 75 head of cattle were found late in the fall of last year.

On August 17 Lieut. Benson arrived at Hockett Meadows and reported that in coming up the South Fork he found the bars of the fence down and a lot of cattle in the park. We had just corralled four or five more of Mr. Blossom's cattle, and on the 18th I met his son coming up the South Fork to get them. He protested that he did not know how the gap in the fence came to be made, and that the break was no fault of his. On this I sent word to Lieut. Benson to let him have the cattle then in the corral. On the 22d another herd of 16 head had been collected, and Lieut. Benson started north with them to Kings River. While camped on the Middle Fork he was visited by Mr. Blossom himself, who promised most faithfully to keep his cattle from trespassing if they were turned over to him. He was allowed to take five that he said belonged to him, and the others were driven toward the divide between the Marble Fork and Kings River, at a point a little west of Mount Silliman. One had to be dropped on the way on account of fatigue, and another escaped, and nine were driven down a rough cañon on the Kings River side of the divide. Lieut. Nolan was off in the direction of the northwest corner of the park, and when Lieut. Benson reached Clover Creek he found that advantage had been taken of that fact, for a band of sheep had been grazing there about two days and had just left. It is supposed they were the band of Mr. Janes that had been found there on July 3.

After he had disposed of the cattle and returned as far as the Giant Forest, Lieut. Benson concluded to try to descend the north face of the cañon of the Middle Fork and strike the trail Lieut. Nolan had made part of the way up in his attempt to cross the cañon in July. If he reached that trail he intended to follow it across the cañon and get to the Mineral King road by crossing the divide between the Middle and East forks. He was successful in his attempt. After crossing the Middle Fork he found a lot of cattle belonging to Mr. Luce and Mr. Dean that had apparently been driven down the trail. On crossing the divide north of Atwell's Mill he found the trail of one or two donkeys or mules traveling eastward. He followed this trail, which led him to a meadow, where a band of sheep were grazing. He was not certain they were in the park, so he continued to Mineral King. There he gathered information which left no doubt that they were in the park, and he returned the same afternoon, August 28, took the herders, and sent them to me at Hockett Meadows. He left some men to drive the sheep out of the park, and I sent the herders out by the trail down the South Fork. The next day, August 29, Lieut. Benson collected all the cattle he had seen, and started to drive them to the place he had driven the others. To do this he had to take them to the Mineral King road and go down the road as far as the bridge near the mouth of the East Fork, where he crossed over the divide to the Middle Fork. He camped on the Middle Fork on the 30th, and was met by Mr. Luce, who was very indignant, and demanded his cattle. He was also angry because they had been driven a long distance on a hot day. On his promising that he would keep them out of the park in future they were turned over to him.

About this time Lieut. Nolan visited General Grant Park and found near it two flocks of sheep, numbering about 4,600. He spoke to the herders, and started to tell them just where the boundary of that park was and to caution them to keep off, but their manner was indifferent and their language insolent, so he let them alone. Early next morning he was out looking for them, and found the sheep coming into the park. He took charge of the herders, six in all, and sent the two principal men to me while he detained the others and drove out the sheep. The

two herders sent to me were taken to the Porterville trail, just south of the Sequoia Park, and then allowed to go, and orders were sent to Lieut. Nolan not to detain longer the others.

The detachment placed in camp at Gen. Grant Park on July 16 has been acting under instructions which seem to have been effective in preserving good order and protecting the big trees from disfigurement or spoliation. Only once has it been found necessary to interfere with visitors to the park. On one occasion two men engaged in target practice near the big trees, upon which their arms were taken from them and kept till they left. There has been no trouble there on account of sheep except in the instance mentioned above. A species of laurel grows in the park, which is fatal to sheep that eat it. Most of the sheepmen know this and keep their flocks away. With cattle there has been no little difficulty. A large number have been in the habit of feeding there every summer. There was no place in the vicinity to which they could be driven from which they would not return. A corral was built at the camp, and the cattlemen were notified that any of their cattle found in the park would be placed in it and held till called for, and that the Government did not provide feed to give them, nor was I permitted to let them graze in the park as they would do if turned loose. The owners were notified as far as possible whenever their cattle were corralled. This plan has its disadvantages, and at first the cattlemen were content to let their cattle run at large and come after them when they were caught, but in a few weeks this became somewhat annoying and they are now becoming more careful. The park is so small and so easy to travel in that the cattle were caught within a very short time after they arrived in it. Of course this plan would be useless in the Sequoia Park unless the force guarding it was greatly increased.

I have made this long and detailed report in order to emphasize the recommendations made last year, that laws be enacted providing penalties for all infractions of the regulations made by the Secretary of the Interior for the government of the parks, and that the parks be surveyed and the boundaries distinctly marked. The great importance of such action must be apparent. I notice that the officers in charge of the Yellowstone and Yosemite National Parks made last year similar recommendations, and the unanimity of opinion shows that such recommendations must be well founded. A guard is placed in the Sequoia and Gen. Grant National Parks to protect them from spoliation and from injury by fires, to protect the fish and game, and preserve everything in its natural condition. This object can be attained only by a rigid enforcement of the park regulations. In the absence of legal penalties for their violation, other methods to make them effective must be devised. The acting superintendent must keep before him the purpose for which he is here, and try to accomplish it. If he commences to quibble about the propriety of every action that seems necessary, and to debate with himself whether it is technically legal or illegal, he will accomplish almost nothing. In order to carry out the spirit of the laws establishing the parks he must not allow such thoughts to distract him from his purpose, but try to discover what method of action he can follow which will be the mildest, the least objectionable, and at the same time effective. It is natural that the propriety of some of his acts should be questioned. The men who never feel the slightest regret for violating the park regulations themselves, and who will intentionally violate them whenever they think they can do so with impunity, are of course the most critical and the first to question the right of the acting superintendent to proceed in the mildest way open to him to make the au-

thority of the Government over its own land respected by them. A state of angry feeling and of hostility to the parks is the result, which, unfortunately, is sometimes communicated to the best disposed citizens. The enactment of definite laws for the government of the parks would greatly reduce the field now open for quibbles and arguments, and would have prevented much of the hard feeling now existing. If a case over which the courts had jurisdiction should be brought to trial the first plea would doubtless be that the alleged offense was not committed in either of the parks, and because the prosecution could not definitely prove where the boundaries are, this plea would often be valid. If it failed the accused could claim that the Government had put up no monuments or other marks to show the boundary of its reservations, and that he was ignorant of the fact that he was in the park. If park laws are enacted the park boundaries must be well marked to keep the laws from being evaded.

I do not pretend to know exactly what penalties should be prescribed, but the results of the plans followed in trying to enforce the park regulations should be suggestive to professional lawmakers. On arriving here last year I found that the cattlemen who had been in the habit of turning their cattle loose to roam at will on Government land complained that the establishment of the parks restricted their ranges, and would force them to dispose of their cattle without letting them wait for a favorable season of the year to do so with advantage. Some of these men owned more or less land in the Sequoia Park, usually in small tracts, and in the vicinity of these their cattle ranged over half a township or more. Others had no land. The sheepmen claimed not a foot in either park. All professed an intention to do all in their power to keep their herds out of the parks, and left the impression that they felt obliged to get rid of their cattle as fast as they could without loss to themselves. Their professions were accepted in good faith, and my men were employed constantly in collecting cattle and driving them just out of the parks, where they were turned loose, only to be back again next day. The condition of affairs in the fall of the year heretofore mentioned showed that these measures were not effective. The men had been so busily engaged in this duty that a large portion of the Sequoia Park, in fact nearly all the northern portion, was unexplored and unknown, and was overrun with cattle and sheep that were never disturbed. I expected to find this spring that many cattle had been sold since last fall, and that our work would consequently be lighter, but, instead of having decreased, the herds were larger. Stronger measures have been adopted this summer. The plan of corraling cattle found in the General Grant Park, and driving to the Kings River country those found in the Sequoia Park, seems now to have become effective, but we have not yet succeeded in making much headway against the sheep men. The herders have always been taken away from their flocks and, except in the case of the first herd found this year, were conducted to some point on the boundary of the Sequoia Park as far as possible from their herds and then let go with an emphatic injunction not to return to their sheep through the park, nor ever to enter it again. Sheep without herders will soon scatter and get lost, while many are liable to be killed by panthers and bears, yet this summer's experience shows that the risk of great loss has not deterred sheep herders from driving their flocks into one of the parks, even though they have been caught before. As I write this a fresh instance of their pertinacity is brought to my notice.

On September 3, Lieut. Benson was sent to take his old place in the

northern part of the park and relieve Lieut. Nolan. The latter officer and his men, without their horses, were found in the rocks near the summit of Mount Silliman, where they had been several days. The sheepmen had adopted new tactics. They drove their sheep to this almost inaccessible locality, where they were left with one or two herders, while their riding and pack animals and supplies were left outside the park and the herders took turns in coming. When Lieut. Nolan found the sheep the one herder with them ran away with all his might and escaped. About 5,000 sheep were found, more than Lieut. Nolan's men could handle. To drive them through to the west or south side of the park would be playing into the herders' hands, for the sheep would eat everything on the way and the direction would be the one the herders wish to take at this season of the year. They would be on the watch on the opposite side of the park to gather the sheep as they came out. Lieut. Nolan placed his men around them, and at night one herder was caught while trying to sneak in to them. Next day another herder was caught while watching the party with a small telescope. The sheep, getting hungry, became too restless to hold, and Lieut. Nolan tried then to scatter them in the rocks. About this time Lieut. Benson arrived, who gathered about 1,500 and put them in an old corral the sheepmen have used from year to year. My last information is that these sheep were still in the corral, while a watch is kept for other herders that may come after those that have scattered. Lieut. Benson can not keep all his men in that vicinity, however, for there are sheep along the whole northern boundary, about 10,000 being in one locality near him. The line west of him must be closely watched. He has only 15 men with him, but there are also sheep all around the southeastern portion of Sequoia Park, and General Grant Park is threatened.

Owing to the topography of the country, which makes rapid movements between different points impossible, no detachment can now be weakened by details sent to reinforce another. What Lieut. Benson will accomplish is, of course, unknown; but he has excellent judgment and I shall give him no orders. The two herders taken by Lieut. Nolan were brought to me at Red Hill on September 9, when they were given a good dinner, after which they were placed on the road to Visalia, and, with the usual injunctions told to leave. As they had no food of any kind with them when caught, several of their sheep were killed for their subsistence while in our hands.

It is estimated that during the summer no less than 500,000 sheep have been feeding in the Kern and Kings River valleys. This is a greater number than ever before, and the establishment of the parks restricts them to a smaller area. The land they use for pasturage is almost altogether land that belongs to the Government, for which the sheep owners pay neither rent nor taxes, but which they appropriate to their exclusive use during the summer. The sheep have been crowded so closely that pleasure parties visiting the mountains have been put to great inconvenience because they could get no grass for their horses and pack animals, and for this reason many people that would like to visit Mount Whitney, or spend a few days fishing in Kern River or its tributaries, have been kept from doing so. The theory that these immense swarms of sheep sweeping over the country and devouring everything in the shape of vegetation as they go are perfectly harmless is indefensible. North of the Sequoia Park, about the headwaters of the north fork of the Kaweah, the mountains look bare and rocky. One finds there a thin growth of trees, little or no grass, some low brush, and a few weeds. These mountains have been crossed

and recrossed by sheep for years. Old settlers say that twenty years ago they were covered with grass, and that trees were then ten times as plentiful, but that the grass has been "sheeped" off and the trees burned off by sheep herders who tried to destroy the underbrush with fire, as grass would grow in its place to replace that which the sheep had already killed. For many years sheep were kept every summer in the Hockett Meadows. The growth of grass, which should be strongest in the moist places, has in many instances been almost replaced by a growth of weeds. On making inquiries I find that sheep were herded most where the weeds are thickest. It is now two years since sheep were herded there, and the weeds still thrive. On the rich-looking black soil under the trees on the hillsides, where one would expect to find vegetation, there is little or no grass, and often not even brush or weeds. In contrast to this is the country included in the Mineral King mining district, around which sheep have grazed on all sides, but which they have never been permitted to enter. To day it is the only place near the Sequoia Park, free to the public and high enough for grass to keep green all summer, where plentiful pasturage can be found on the mountain slopes.

During the winter the sheep are herded in the valleys on land either leased or owned by their owners. As fast as the snow disappears in the mountains in the early summer months thousands of sheep appear. At first they eat the tender shoots and buds on the bushes, and afterwards the grass in the meadows. By the middle of August the snow has almost completely disappeared from the high elevations above timber line, such as Mount Silliman, and scattered bunches of grass grow from the crevices between the rocks. At the same time the meadow pasturage is about exhausted and the sheep are driven to the high altitudes to feed on the grass growing there. Although this grass grows so sparsely that at a short distance the rocks look perfectly bare, it is so nutritious that it keeps the sheep in good flesh. The snows and cold weather compel them to leave it by the end of September at the latest, when they are again taken to the valleys for the winter. The herders are almost invariably French, Portuguese, or Mexicans. Very few are American citizens, and many of them can not even speak English. Many of the sheep owners are also foreigners, usually of French nationality.

The cattlemen, who have been accustomed to let their cattle run at large in the territory now included in the parks, claim that cattle are not destructive to vegetation like sheep, and that the exclusion of their cattle is unreasonable. It is true that the small number of cattle they now own would probably do the parks no material damage, but an overstocked range is sure to suffer. If the parks are thrown open as a free cattle range, while sheep are excluded, cattle raising will receive a stimulus that will soon lead to overstocking the range. The result will be as in the case of the sheep and the public land on which they are pastured. For years that land has been a vast free range for them and nothing else. The sheep industry has thus been encouraged, and now that range is overstocked. Unless the number of sheep is greatly reduced the land will soon be ruined for sheep pasturage or anything else. The scarcity of feed following the overstocking of the range is one reason for the persistence of the sheep men in their efforts to feed their herds in the parks.

In my opinion all the land in the Sequoia Park owned by individuals should be purchased by the Government. There is not a great amount of such land, and no one person owns enough to make him wish to keep

it or improve it now that the park is established. The amount that can be used for agricultural purposes is very small and is so situated that it will probably never improve in value. The resident proprietor of one of these tracts is remote from neighbors and good roads; he is surrounded on all sides by the park and can not enlarge his possessions and can not get sufficient pasturage for his domestic stock if they increase in number. Some of the cattlemen—as Mr. Tharpe, and Mr. Dean—own several tracts of land apiece. These tracts are from 40 to 160 acres in area and were purchased as “State swamp” or “School lands.” They generally contain a few acres of meadow land, that is more or less boggy after the snow melts in the spring, and remains so in spots during the summer. The men who own these lands complain that they are unjustly deprived of the use of them for their cattle and receive no money or other lands as a recompense. The reason for their exclusion is that if the cattle are placed there they will range over miles of park territory instead of remaining on these few acres of private land. The meadows are not fenced in, with the exception of the Wolverton Meadow, and do not furnish grass enough to support the cattle if they were fenced. The owners say that the land is not worth fencing, and as they expect that the Government will purchase the land eventually, they do not care to take the trouble or time to put up fences. The Giant Forest has a quantity of meadow land, claimed by individuals, one of them being Mr. Tharpe, who has been in the habit of using it all. The camp of the detachment in the Giant Forest is on land that he claims, and as it is not fenced, we are keeping his cattle so far from it that it is of no use to him, while our own horses and mules are feeding on it. So far as cattle men who own such lands are concerned, the condition of affairs promotes the growth of grievances.

Since my report of last year Mr. Bonify, who lived on the Middle Fork near the western boundary of the Sequoia Park, has moved away. He apparently abandoned the place. Mr. Hiten, who claims land in section 8, I think, of township 17 south, of range 31 east, is now living on it. These are the only changes during the year among the few people residing in the park.

I invite attention again to the fact that the most convenient trails for traveling to the General Grant Park, and all points in the northern half of the Sequoia Park are reached by going to the mouth of the North Fork of the Kaweah and following up that stream. This route is used even when starting from the camp at Mineral King, which is more than 7,000 feet above the mouth of the North Fork and 30 miles from it. A supply camp must be established somewhere in the foothills, conveniently near the mouth of the North Fork, to supply the camps of detachments guarding the territory mentioned. Even if the military authorities would furnish the large number of pack mules required to carry supplies from Mineral King, there would have to be some place near the North Fork where they could camp overnight and have hay. The length of the marches makes this imperative, and there are no other places where they could find wood and water without making the marches too long. All the land on the main Kaweah or North Fork near the mouth of the latter stream is private land, and nearly all of it fenced. The camp at Red Hill is on the main river 4 miles above the North Fork, and this spring it was the only camping place I could find. It was doubtful for awhile whether I could even get that. The owner wished to lease it, and had offers for it from sheep-owners, but he refused to lease it for sheep pasturage. As there is but one road to the Sequoia Park, our line of supplies from the railroad is, of course, re-

stricted to it, and consequently the locality of the camp. Again, when the troop arrives in the spring the road is not yet passable in the mountains, and a place for the men in the foothills must be found. In the fall the main supply camp must be located there, and at that time the best way to reach the southern part of the Sequoia Park is by going to Three Rivers and following up the South Fork. The mouth of this stream is 2 miles below the North Fork. The camp should therefore be conveniently near both the North and South forks. Before coming here last spring I expected to find that the road would not be repaired through the park, and that the main supply camp would have to be established near Three Rivers. I anticipated no difficulty in getting permission to camp in that locality, and advertisements for contracts to furnish supplies were prepared and distributed under that impression. On my arrival in the foothills I found the road being repaired, as I have mentioned, and also found that it was impossible to get permission to camp near Three Rivers, or anywhere else in the foothills except at Red Hill. As I have explained, permission to camp even there was for awhile doubtful. Of course land could have been rented, and if the activity of the troops is not to be considerably restricted, arrangements should be made for securing a good camping place before any are sent here next year.

I believe in the construction of good roads and safe trails, with easy grades, through the Sequoia Park, in order to make it easily accessible to travelers; besides, the work of the park guards could then be performed more easily and effectively. But this summer I have been glad that it was in such a condition that a crowd of tourists could not come. They would have flocked to the Giant Forest, and guards would have had to be omnipresent to prevent fires and defacement of the big trees. I feel considerable responsibility as the guardian of this forest, for I believe there is no doubt that it is by far the most extensive grove of unusually fine large trees in existence. To be sure, there has been a camp there, but only because the number of pack mules I have could not keep a camp supplied that would be farther from Red Hill. The detachment belonging to that camp has nearly always been absent, sometimes for more than a week at a time, leaving only one man there to watch the stores. That is the case now, when some of the men are around Mount Silliman watching 1,500 sheep in a corral and lying in wait for herders to gather others that are scattered, while other men of the detachment are probably watching the park line farther west.

The summer has been unusually dry, with no rain or snow since the middle of June, except a slight rain in the Hockett Meadows on August 31. Owing to the light snowfall last winter, followed by this dry summer, the streams are lower than they have been known to be at this season for many years.

There has been no fire in the Giant Forest for seven or eight years. The ground is covered with much fallen timber, perfectly dead, dry, and ready to ignite from a spark, while the top covering of the soil is an inflammable mixture, 4 to 6 inches thick, of pine needles, pine cones, and fine pieces of broken twigs. Should a fire once get a good start the destruction of the forest is certain. The camps at other places are too remote to get the news and reinforce the detachment in the forest until after the lapse of three or four days. As the tourists are not visiting it, the prospect of a fire originating in it is remote; but the most serious danger is from fires that may start outside the park, and after getting beyond human control extend into it. The clearing out of the fallen timber in the Giant Forest is important

for its preservation. Most of the pine and fir trees are dead when they fall and soon rot on the ground, but the wood of the fallen big trees decays very slowly and much of it could be used for lumber. The clearing up could hardly take place until a road is made to the forest over which the débris could be hauled out. A considerable amount could be realized by the sale of the fallen big trees; some say more than the cost of making the road.

A fire was discovered on the Atwell estate about July 10, and although it spread over considerable ground it was kept restricted almost wholly to the private land. It probably originated in the carelessness of some traveler on the Mineral King road. The Atwell estate lies inside the park, but we have no control over what is done on private land. This fire and the one at General Grant Park about the same time are the only ones of any moment that have occurred, and we could control the origin of neither.

I forward herewith a report of First Lieut. Harry C. Benson, Fourth Cavalry, who was first lieutenant of my troop, but has lately been appointed regimental quartermaster, and at present is attached to it. Though the report is of almost a purely military character, it shows how the men are employed in their duty of guarding the park. It will be seen that from June 19 to July 29 Lieut. Benson did not rest for a single day, and he rested then but one day and only because his pack mules and horses were without shoes and footsore, and he could not move. Every day he was traveling either on foot or mounted, usually for five or six hours with the horses, which half the time had to be led up and down mountain slopes and across cañons. Then, after a hasty meal, he left the horses in camp and with a few men reconnoitered all the country in the vicinity for several miles, climbing the highest peaks and ridges to get good views and make observations. The energy, personal activity, and endurance necessary for such work, and the fatigue consequent upon it when conducted for ten or twelve hours a day in rough mountains at altitudes varying from 7,000 to 12,000 feet above sea level, most of it being above 9,000 feet, can only be appreciated by those who have had similar experience. In forty-one days, under such conditions, Lieut. Benson traveled more than 800 miles.

Second Lieut. J. E. Nolan, Fourth Cavalry, the other officer with my troop, has been similarly employed, but has not had an opportunity to prepare a report. Until September 9 I had not even seen him for nearly two months. Both these officers are necessarily separated from me, and the credit for keeping the Sequoia Park reasonably free from either cattle or sheep is almost wholly due to their zeal and good judgment and the incessant activity of themselves and their men. Their detachments have sometimes been for days, even weeks, on reduced rations and without forage for the horses, and in many respects have experienced the privations and fatigue of an exhausting campaign.

Corpl. Gabryel Sovuleoski, Troop K, Fourth Cavalry, had charge of the guard in General Grant Park until a few days ago, and showed great tact in his relations with the numerous visitors, while he performed the duties required of him with firmness and thoroughness.

I hoped to prepare a better map of the park than has yet been made to forward with this report, but have not had the time. I shall try to send one later.

I forgot to mention that game in the Sequoia Park seems to be increasing, principally because it finds feed there and freedom from molestation by herders or tourists. There is reason to believe that game has been killed on some of the tracts of private land, and possibly

means have been used to entice game to them. I also wish to recommend that the Marble Fork and its tributaries, Panther Creek, Clover Creek, and Horse Creek, be stocked with trout. These streams seem to be perfectly suitable for them, and are without fish of any kind, as they can not ascend the falls a few miles above the mouth of the Marble Fork. I would have requested the California fish commissioners to furnish a supply of trout, but have not had the time nor means to distribute them if they were furnished.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. H. DORST,

Captain, Fourth Cavalry,

Acting Superintendent Sequoia and General Grant National Parks.

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C.

CAMP AT HOCKET MEADOWS,
Sequoia National Park, August 19, 1892.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the work done by the various detachments under my command between June 19 and August 1, 1892.

I left the camp at Red Hill with a detachment of six men, a sergeant, and a packer.

We marched to Ha Ha Falls on the Colony road and went into camp (13 miles). The next day, June 20, I attempted to go to Eshom Valley, via Cow Creek. The trail has not been used for years and is badly overgrown with thick brushwood. The trail is very steep in places. The day was very hot, and though we traveled for five hours, we made but 12 miles, and the trail then became practically impassable, and as the animals were about done for I unpacked and remained for three hours. I then started to return, but the heat was so intense and the trail so steep that we did not reach a place where camp could be made till 7 p. m., and then part of the rations and grain had to be left behind at the foot of a steep hill, as the mules were unable to pack it. Distance traveled, 16 miles.

At 3 a. m. the next day I sent two men for the rations left behind and two to the camp at Ha Ha Falls, where I had left some grain. At 6 a. m. I left with the remainder of the detachment and went via Colony Sawmill to Halstead's Meadows, resting at the sawmill for two hours, awaiting the arrival of the packers sent out as stated. Distance traveled, 16 miles. I went on foot to the top of Little Baldy to take bearings. The next morning I left the pack train in camp, expecting to return there for the night, and taking the remainder of the detachment, I went to the North Fork. There I found a sheep trail some ten days old. I followed the trail, passing four or five old camps, till I reached a large stream, unknown to me then, across which the sheepmen had built a bridge, over which the sheep had been driven but two or three days before. As it was now growing late and I had not the pack train with me, I decided it would be best to return and get the train. From the position of the trail at the point I left it, it seemed that if the herders had gone north they must pass out of the park about Mount Silliman; if they had turned south of Mount Silliman, it would be easier to reach them by the Giant Forest. After the men had gotten dinner, I moved the whole detachment to Giant Forest. Distance traveled, 30 miles.

The next morning, all our grain and provisions being eaten up, except enough for two meals, I sent the pack train to the Colony Mill, and, taking some men, went due north to cut the trail of the sheep-herders had they gone to the south of Mount Silliman. I found a large band of 2,700 sheep, in charge of three herders.

The sheep belonged to a Pete Loustaud, of Visalia, the Mexican in charge being Carlos Delgado. As I had a small detachment with me (we were on foot, having left our horses some 3 miles back), I could do nothing with the sheep and had no provisions, so could not leave any men to drive them out and was obliged to leave them. I took the three men and returned to Colony Sawmill, reaching there about 6 p. m. Distance traveled, 18 miles.

The next day I went to Red Hill—22 miles. The next day, June 25, I reached Capt. Dorst's camp at Davenport's Ranch. Two of the herders, who were obliged to walk all the way, having no riding animals, had stated that they could walk no farther, so were left at Red Hill, while Carlos Delgado was taken to Capt. Dorst. Distance, 19 miles.

On the next day, I started with a new detail of ten men and a packer (Corpl. Donner being the noncommissioned officer) and went to Red Hill (19 miles). The next day, June 27, we marched to Colony Sawmill, taking the three herders with us. Distance, 22 miles.

On June 28 I marched via Giant Forest to Long Meadows and went into camp. After getting dinner, I took Corpl. Donner and one man, and, going on foot, conducted the three herders to the place where their sheep had been left. Then we found that someone (presumably Mr. Loustaud) had come in and was gathering the sheep. I left Corpl. Donner at the camp—all the provisions, clothes, equipments, etc., of the party being there—to await the return of Mr. Loustaud. I went with the private to the tops of three of the seven peaks of Mount Silliman, returning to Long Meadows about 8 p. m. Distance traveled by main detachment, 11 miles; by myself and private Kelty, on foot, in addition, 10 miles.

On June 29 I took two privates and went to Horse Meadows, where Corpl. Donner had remained all night. I found Mr. Loustaud, who had found all his sheep, not one being lost. I told him we would start at noon to drive out the route he came in on. He desired to go out due north, thereby saving time and trouble, but on my declining he offered me \$20 to grant his request. I sent one of the two privates back for the detachment, directing one man, Kelty, to stay in camp till 4 p. m. to await the arrival of a courier, if any should come, then to come on to Horse Meadows, where I expected to leave two men to control the herders' private property, as they pretended not to be able to take it out. Later, however, they decided to take most of it, so I left a note for Kelty to follow the trail and went on.

We succeeded in getting the sheep as far as Clover Creek, the command and Mr. Loustaud going to the North Fork. Kelty was overtaken by darkness and had to remain with the herders who were with the sheep, none of them having any food or blankets. Distance, 12 miles.

On June 30 I sent the main part of the detachment with pack train to Pond Meadow, and taking three men went back to Horse Meadows and returned by head of North Fork to camp of previous night. Found that Mr. Loustaud had his sheep up. Went on to Pond Meadow and sent Corpl. Donner with detail to conduct the sheep out of the limits. (18 miles.)

On July 1 I sent the pack train to Halstead's Meadows and, taking detachment, crossed the North Fork and followed sheep trail. Finding it turned to east, kept on it till I overtook the herders and warned them about approaching the park. I sent the detachment to Halstead's Meadows and went on foot to the top of a high mountain at head of North Fork. There I met Mr. Loustaud, who was on foot, making a short cut over the divide. I had found the day before township stake, T. 14 S., R. 29 E., T. 14 S., R. 30 E., T. 15 S., R. 29 E., T. 15 S., R. 30 E., and had pointed it out to Mr. Loustaud.

While on the top of this mountain I pointed out clearly to Mr. Loustaud the limits of the park. I then returned to Halstead's Meadows. Distance, 12 miles.

The next day, July 2, I took the detachment to Clover Meadows, going along the ridge between Cahoon Meadows and the Marble Fork, and found that there was no difficulty in getting through. On reaching Clover Meadows I found fresh signs of sheep, and believing that Mr. Loustaud had driven his sheep in there for the night (previous), I hastened to Horse Meadows to intercept him, as he was to visit that camp to get some salt left behind. Finding that he was there, I left Corpl. Donner to make the arrest, and, taking a detachment on foot, crossed the mountains to intercept the herd, if possible. It was impossible to locate them exactly, however, and I was obliged by darkness to return. I found that Mr. Loustaud has been arrested, but he stated that the sheep in question were not his, but belonged to a Mr. Janes, of Tulare; that his own sheep had not come into the park again and were now on Kings River. I released him and he left. Distance traveled, 24 miles.

On July 3 I took the detachment, leaving the pack train in camp at Wet Meadows, up Clover Creek, and in Clover Meadows found the sheep belonging to Mr. Janes. But one herder was in charge, a Mr. Fine. I took him to Wet Meadows and sent him in under guard to Capt. Dorst, Corpl. Donner in charge. I kept two men to drive out the sheep and then to remain in camp and arrest the other herders when they should return. Distance, 18 miles.

On July 4 I sent pack train to Long Meadows and, taking detachment, scouted about head of North Fork via Clover Meadows to Cahoon Meadows, returning to Long Meadows about 2 p. m. Distance, 20 miles. I went to the top of the divide between Marble Fork and Middle Fork and took bearings.

On July 5, leaving the camp at Long Meadows, I took a detail through the Giant Forest to Moro Rock and sent Navin, with a dispatch to Capt. Dorst, down the Moro Rock trail to Red Hill. I then returned to Long Meadows by another trail. Distance, 15 miles.

On July 6, having learned from the packers who came in on July 5 that Mr. Tharpe had driven his cattle through the camp at Red Hill on the 4th, I took a de-

tachment to Moro Rock, expecting to meet Mr. Tharpe's cattle on their way up. I waited at the head of the trail for two hours and, no movement to advance being made, though the cattle were plainly visible in the valley below, I then returned to Long Meadows. I sent Hasset to Clover Creek to bring in the detail I had left there to catch Mr. Janes's herders, and leaving Foerster to take the detachment to Hackberry Meadow I went alone to Moro Rock. At 5 p. m. the pack train approached Moro Rock, having gotten off the trail; so I had to go with it to the meadow. Fearing that the detail from Clover Meadows would follow the pack-train trail, I went out to meet it and conducted it to camp. Distance, 15 miles. On July 7 I took the detachment to Moro Rock and remained there all day waiting for Mr. Tharpe to move his cattle. He began to drive about 4 p. m. The detachment returned for dinner and then went back to Moro Rock (12 miles).

On July 8 the detachment went to Moro Rock, and there I found the horses already over the divide. I stopped them and waited till all were up, and then assisted Mr. Tharpe in driving them to Wolverton's Meadow, where they were put inside the inclosed field. Distance, 8 miles.

On July 9 I took a detachment of 6 men and assisted Mr. Tharpe to drive his horses and cattle to the range on the Middle Fork, which he claimed to be outside the park. I am inclined to believe that it is well within those limits, but they do not range over more than one or two sections on the eastern edge. Distance traveled, 12 miles.

On July 10 I accompanied Capt. Dorst, who had arrived at my camp on the 8th instant, with my detail to Wet Meadows, where both detachments went into camp. Capt. Dorst and I, with three men and Sergt. Dougherty, went on to Clover Creek to Mr. Janes's old camp and found that Mr. Janes had returned and left. Sending our horses back by the detail, Capt. Dorst and I went up Mount Silliman to the divide, passing the large lake. We returned by a different route, reaching camp about 3 p. m. Distance, 14 miles.

On July 11 I accompanied Capt. Dorst round the head of the North Fork, where we separated, he going on with 4 men toward Grant Park. I turned to southwest and went down the north bank of North Fork, and, crossing it about 3 miles from Big Baldy, went into camp on south side. While I was out of camp for half an hour Sergt. Dougherty left without permission, so that when I wanted him after dinner to go out on foot he could not be found. I took 4 men on foot and, crossing the North Fork, again prospected the meadows on Stony Creek and some meadows to the west of the ridge. Returned to camp about 5:30 p. m. and found that Sergt. Dougherty had not returned. He did not return that night. Distance, 18 miles.

On July 12 I left camp at 6:15 a. m. and, crossing the ridge to the southeast, went into camp at Halstead's Meadows, $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from camp of previous night. I took 4 men on foot and, going to the top of this same ridge, crossed over to Cow Creek headwaters. On our returning we went on top of Little Baldy and, as we were about to descend, saw a heavy smoke arising from the North Fork, about $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles below the camp of the previous day. I returned to camp and taking a fresh detail went to the fire and found that it had been started by Sergt. Dougherty. After two hours' work we had the fire encircled by a dirt ring, made by scraping the pine needles, boughs, etc., away from the fire. We then returned toward camp, and on passing near our camp of the previous day I went in there to get one of my dogs, that being very sore-footed had not left camp in the morning. There I found Sergt. Dougherty sitting beside a fire he had made. I had taken some provisions and coffee with the detail, expecting to find him at the fire; this was given him and he was conducted into camp.

On July 13 I sent Corpl. Donner and 3 men to visit the scene of the fire of the day before, to ascertain that it was entirely extinguished, and taking the remainder of the detachment I went, via Cahoon Meadows, Clover Creek, Wet Meadows, etc., to Round Meadow, in Giant Forest. Corpl. Donner returned via Colony Sawmill trail. Distance made by my detail, 18 miles; by Corpl. Donner's, 20.

On July 14 I took the 10 men who had gone out on the 26th ultimo, Sergt. Dougherty, and 2 other men to Red Hill, via the Moro Rock trail, leaving 8 men at Round Meadows. Distance, 18 miles.

On July 15 I went to Mineral King. Distance, 26 miles.

On July 17 I returned with the detail to Red Hill; 26 miles.

On July 18, took detail, 4 men, and marched to Colony Sawmill; 22 miles.

On July 19, marched to Giant Forest; 8 miles. I had the camp prepared for a permanent one, sinks dug, tents put up, etc. The detail left at this place on the 14th had made trips, daily, from 10 to 15 miles, going over the Giant Forest and as far north as Clover Creek.

On July 20, leaving a detail in camp, I took the detachment across country to a creek starting at Little Baldy and running north. After dinner I took 3 men on foot and cut the country north of North Fork. Distance, 18 miles.

On July 21 I marched to Grant Park via Baldy. Distance, 16 miles.

On July 22, returned via Eshom Valley to Sheep Creek; 20 miles.

On July 23, marched to Giant Forest; 26 miles.

On July 25, took the detachment to Horse Meadows, leaving a detail at Round Meadows. I told the men to take lunch with them, and on reaching Horse Meadows the pack train and horses were left behind and I took the detachment on foot up among the rocks at the head of the Marble Fork. Just above the falls, about three-quarters of a mile from where I had found Mr. Loustaud's herd on June 23, I found fresh signs of sheep. Sending Corp. Burke with two men in one direction, I went up the river, telling Corp. Burke to join me above a certain rock. He failed to join me, so that I was obliged to go on with but two men. I found Carlos Delgado with a band of bucks about 3 miles up the river. He said the main herd was 4 miles farther on. Taking him with me, I went to the top of the divide between the Marble Fork and the Middle Fork. From there I sent him back under charge of one man, directing this man to make him pack his animals and take him back to camp. I went on to the main herd. They were very close to the edge of the Park, if not outside of it, having, however, left the limits two days before. They agreed to drive all their sheep to the plains if I would allow them to do so. I agreed, and sending Engleter to the camp, as we had no blankets, I remained there myself to see that they did as agreed. Distance, 14 miles.

On July 26, I went with the sheep herders, driving the sheep out over the divide into Boulder Creek Cañon. I then returned to camp, passing over Mount Silliaman. On reaching camp I found that Engleter had not yet returned, and that the Mexican, Carlos Delgado, had delayed moving so long the evening previous that he and his guard had not reached camp, so that they were obliged to camp out alone, and that during the night the Mexican escaped, leaving all his property—two horses, a saddle, bridle, etc., a pack saddle and some flour, sugar, and coffee.

On July 23, on going to Giant Forest, I had driven four head of horses from the vicinity of the Colony Mill to Giant Forest, and the next day had sent them out to the north. They had come back on the 26th to Horse Meadows, and were driven out by detachment over Mount Silliaman. Distance, 12 miles.

On July 27, I took the detachment on foot over Mount Silliaman and to east, but found no sign of sheep. I sent the horses left by the Mexican to Giant Forest, to be taken down the Colony road and turned loose outside the Park. Distance traveled, 12 miles.

On July 28, I sent the pack train to Round Meadow, and took the detachment through that meadow to the head of Clover Creek, then to head of North Fork, then along ridge by Cahoon Meadows down the ridge west of the Marble Fork, reaching the Marble Fork at its junction with Clover Creek. Crossing Clover Creek, I went up the north bank of the Marble Fork, crossing Horse Creek, and struck trail from Long Meadows to Horse Meadows and went via that trail to Round Meadows. Distance, 22 miles.

On July 29 I was unable to take out any pack animals, and but 2 horses, as they were all barefooted and foot-sore. I went about the Giant Forest during the morning and found that no cattle were straying about it. In the afternoon the blacksmith came in.

On July 30 the blacksmith shod enough animals to allow my starting for Red Hill, en route to San Francisco, under orders to report as a witness before a court-martial.

I will make a map of the country passed over and submit it later, as I have no opportunity to do so now.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HARRY C. BENSON,

First Lieutenant, Regimental Quartermaster, Fourth Cavalry.

Capt. J. H. DORST, *Fourth Cavalry,*
Acting Superintendent Sequoia National Park.