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 II

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

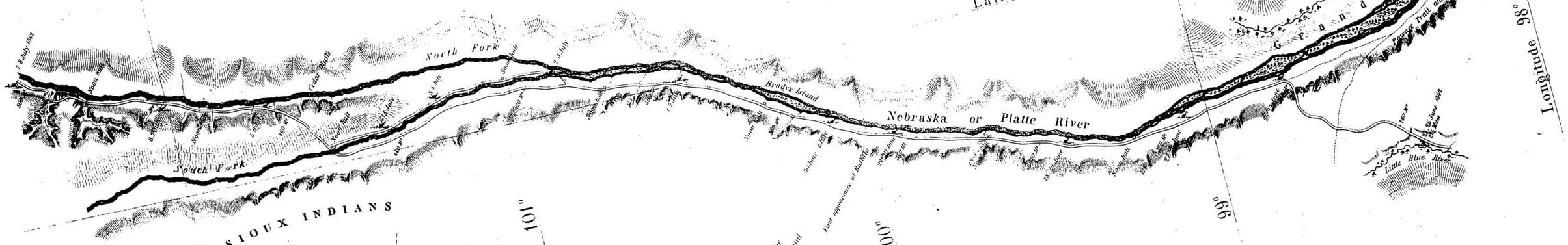
and from sketches and notes made on the ground by his assistant Charles Preuss

Compiled by Charles Preuss. 1846

By order of the Senate of the United States

SCALE — 10 MILES TO THE INCH.

Lithog. by E. Weber & Co. Baltimore



Grand Island — fifty two miles long, fertile and well wooded and elevated above the highest floods. Captain Frémont recommends a military post near the one from the head of this island, as covering both emigrant roads, the one travelled the Pawnee and also the more usually commanding and also as covering Platte and the Kansas, and as holding the Great Platte and Kansas and also below the the mouth of the Kansas and Laramie, and also below the the which tread to the fort Laramie, miles below troublesome trails towards fort Laramie, twenty miles the most garrison up the plains villages which Pawnees are preserve of a good in check the island. These need the wood sudden et- end of the route, and troops with wood from the fall indians on the route, the troops by the river deep in the The island would supply protected by a mile shallow at the ground for cultivation protected by near a mile shallow at the fall tack. The width of the sommer and quite spring. fordable in the sommer and quite

June 30th. First view of buffalo. The air was keen the next morning at sunrise, the thermometer standing at 45° and it was sufficiently cold to make overcoats very comfortable. A few miles brought us into the midst of the buffalo, swarming in innumerable numbers over the plains, where they had left scarcely a blade of grass standing. Mr. Preuss, who was sketching at a little distance in the rear, had at first noted them as large groves of timber. In the sight of such a mass of life, the traveller feels a strange excitation of grandeur. We had heard from a distance a dull and confused murmuring, and when we came in view of their dark masses, there was not one among us who did not feel his heart beat quicker. It was the early part of the day when the air feeding and every where they where in motion. Here and there in the air from various parts of the herds rich the scene of some a huge old bull was rolling in the grass, and clouds of dust rose obstinate fight. Indians and buffalo make the poetry and life of the prairie and our camp was full of their exhibition.

Frémont's Report.

REMARKS

1. The figures on the road indicate the distance in miles from Westport Landing.
2. Game — Antelope and Buffalo, the latter in innumerable bands.
3. Timber is extremely scarce, except on the islands. Some driftwood and buffalo excrement makes the fuel, as that of the camels does in the deserts of Arabia.
4. Good guard ought to be kept. Pawnees, if they do not kill, will at least take what they can from the travellers by force if they are strong enough, and by stealth if too weak to act openly.
5. With this section the prairie ends, and the barren sage (artemisia) country begins.

METEOROLOGICAL OBSERVATIONS

Date.	Time	Thermometer	Altitude	Remarks
1842. June 26	sunrise noon. sunset.	64° 67° 69°	1760 Feet	Wind N. sun and clouds squalls of rain. clear and calm.
. 27	sunrise. noon. sunset	63° 80° 71°	2000	Wind S. cloudy calm and cloudy . E. cloudy. lightning
. 28	sunrise. noon. sunset.	65° 79° 79°	Elevation above the Gulf of Mexico	Wind N. clear calm, clear, cloudy in the horizon calm and clear
. 29	sun noon sunset	67° 80° 74°		calm and clear Wind. E. sun, blue sky wind increasing
. 30	sunrise. noon. sunset	67° 79° 52°		Gale from N.W. strong wind from N.W. clear cloudy
July 1	sunrise. noon. sunset.	44° 68° 60°		calm and clear calm and clear light wind from N. foggy
. 2	sunrise noon. sunset	58° 77° 63°	2100	foggy. calm Wind N.W. rain, smoky N. dirty horizon.
. 3	sunrise noon sunset	51° 79° 64°		Wind W. clear . S smoky . S.W. foggy
. 4	sunrise noon sunset	53° 76° 69°		Wind S.W. foggy . W smoky, sky covered. . N. smoky
. 5	sunrise noon sunset	52° 68° 66°		Wind E. has been raining . S.E. clear . S.E. clear
. 6	sunrise noon sunset	55° 80° 81°		High wind from S. clear high wind from S. clear Gale from W. cloudy
. 7	sunrise noon sunset	68° 93° 82°	3350 Feet	calm and clear calm and clear Wind S.E. clear and clouds

<< go to Section III

back to Section I >>