

California & the Hon. L. L. Dyar, U.S. Ind.
Agt. at Klamath

On the arrival of Col. Meacham in the
Modoc country he found Brig. Gen. E. R. S.,
Canby U.S. A. Commander of the Department of
Columbia, & Gen. Commander of U.S. A. for the
Modoc war with five hundred troops stationed
twenty five miles north of the Modoc
camp & a force of about an equal force twenty
miles south.

Orders were issued from head quarters for
a suspension of hostile movements pending
Peace Negotiations. These were issued
with the full cooperation of Gen. Canby, &
was understood by all parties. Capt. Jack
signified his acquiescence by sending his sis-
ter authorized to say "My brother will not be
the first to break the new law," & so jealous
was he in the observance of this order that
he would not permit any of his men to
go out of camp, but committed the herd-
ing of their ponies to the women & children.

Some days were consumed in discussing
the place at which to meet. During this time
the Armistice was violated by Major Biddle
of the U.S. A., who finding a herd of ponies
in charge of women & children drove them off
to the army corral at Gen. Canby's camp.
The women & children fled to the Modoc camp
& reported the capture. The next day Capt. Jack
dispatched his wife & sister to Gen. Canby's camp
to demand their ponies. They were refused
with the remark "We will keep the horses in
the corral where they will be fat when peace
is made."

"But Gen." expostulated Col. Meacham,
whose thirty years experience with these & other
Indians on the Pacific coast, entitled his
views to some consideration, "they will con-
sider this refusal into a breach of the com-
pact" but this remonstrance was in vain, the
ponies were not returned. Upon this
refusal, Winona the heroic Modoc woman

who with her husband were interpreting
for the Commission, gave utterance to the
following solemn warning. Addressing Col.
Meacham, she said "God cannot depend upon
the Modocs keeping any compact after this.
They will not trust you. They will justify
themselves in anything to get even with you.
Meacham, Gen. Canby will pray dearly for
keeping the horses."

To add still further to the complications
Gen. Canby moved his forces to within two miles
of the Modoc camp. Col. Meacham declares
this to have been in direct violation of the
terms of the Armistice. It is evident that
Capt. Jack viewed it in that light & looking
upon it as a menacing act of intimidation,
determined to make no treaty while it
was there. He reasoned in this manner -
If there is a cessation of hostilities, why
is this move made? If there is no hostility
why are our ponies driven off & detained in
the army corral? These questions admit of
no easy answer. It must be borne in mind
that Gen. Canby was not a member of the
Peace Commission.

Of course we can never know what the re-
sults might have been had the terms of
the Armistice not have been so flagrantly
broken by the military, & the Peace Commission
have been permitted to act independently
of the army, but it is difficult to conceive
of a course more disastrous in its conse-
quence than the one pursued.

In the Modoc camp were sixteen men
under indictment for murders committed
in Jackson Co. Oregon. These men never
denied the crimes for which they were indict-
ed, but claimed they were committed in
the avengement of crimes committed against
them, for which they could get no redress.
Some of these were the burning alive of an
old deaf-mute mother in her sto-mash, others
for the killing of their wives, one for shoot-