

to be given poison, or a pistol with which to end their misery. Both of them succeeded in wriggling off from the animals they rode; and their comrades, cutting them free from the lashings, left them lying on the ground, and rode away into the darkness unmindful of their pleadings for something with which to end their misery, and save themselves from the tortures of their cruel pursuers. One by one the wounded, such as could not take care of themselves, were left behind, and the men hastened forward, intent only upon putting the swift current of Snake River between themselves and the cruel enemy in their rear. Seventy miles were traversed in twenty-four hours, when they reached the river near the mouth of the Alpowa, where lived Timothy's band of Nez Percés. Summoning his people, the chief placed the warriors on guard in the rear, while the women ferried the exhausted soldiers, with their animals and effects, across the stream. It took a day to accomplish this task, and then they moved on to the Pataha, where they were met by Captain Dent with supplies and reinforcements. Here, also, they were overtaken by a war party of Nez Percés under Lawyer, who desired them to return and give the Indians battle; but they wanted no more fighting for the present, and the march to Walla Walla was continued. Two officers and sixteen men were left upon the field or along the line of the retreat, while more than a score of those who found safety by crossing Snake River were severely wounded.

Intelligence of this disaster was conveyed to General Clark, successor of General Wool in command of the department, and he ordered all available troops on the Coast to assemble at Walla Walla, for the purpose of administering to the Indians such a castigation as would teach them the power of the Government. This force was placed under the command of Colonel Wright. A base of operations, named "Fort Taylor," was established on the south side of Snake River, near the Tukannon, and on the 27th of August, 1858, Colonel Wright moved forward with 680 soldiers, 30 Nez Percé allies and 200 packers, herders, etc. On the 1st of September he encountered the hostiles near Medical Lake, and whipped them severely. They were driven from the timber and hills by the howitzers and a charge by the troops, and attempting to make a stand on the open plain, were mowed down by the fire of the steadily advancing troops, who were armed with long range guns for the first time in their encounter with Indians. When they broke, 200 dragoons, under the command of Major William N. Grier, swooped down upon them, and they fled in a panic, the companies of the dead Taylor and Gaston taking grim revenge upon the fleeing savages. How many were killed is not known, as all but those who fell during the last charge were carried from the field. Seventeen bodies were left upon the ground, which was strewn with blankets, robes, guns and the miscellaneous paraphernalia of Indian warriors. Not a soldier was killed in the battle.

Four days later the command reached Spokane River, six miles below the falls, having driven the hostiles before them for fourteen miles, killing many of them. This was

the end; the Indians fled in terror, and dared not again offer battle to such a terrible foe. Colonel Wright pushed on toward the Cœur d'Alene Mission, and was met by Gearry, chief of the Spokanes, who asked for peace. The stern avenger told the suppliant chief that he came to fight, not to make peace; that he had force enough to whip the combined tribes of that whole region; that he offered no terms of peace; the Indians, men, women and children, must come in and trust to his mercy; otherwise he would exterminate the tribe. On the 8th Wright captured 986 horses from the Palouses, and knowing how vital they were in Indian warfare, he ordered every one of them to be shot. This was more than they could endure, and the concurrent appearance of a brilliant comet in the heavens made them think Colonel Wright was a scourge sent by the Great Spirit, who hung his flaming sword in the sky as a sign of his anger. They sued for peace.

Councils were held with the various tribes, at which, upon the demand of Colonel Wright, the men who had commenced the attack upon Colonel Steptoe were delivered up for punishment, and hostages were given for their future good conduct. Twelve of the guilty ones were hanged, among whom was Qualchien, who had begun hostilities in 1855 by murdering Indian Agent A. J. Bolan. His father, Owhi, second chief of the Yakimas, was a prisoner, and attempting to escape, near Fort Taylor, was killed by the guard. On the 7th of October the bones of those who fell in Steptoe's battle were buried at Fort Walla Walla, and Wright then held a council with the Walla Walla tribe. So great had become the fear of him, that when he called for all those who had taken part in the battle to stand up, thirty-five warriors promptly rose to their feet. Four of these were selected for execution, and their hanging was witnessed by their people with fear and trembling. This was the end, and until Chief Joseph and his small band of Nez Percés broke out twenty years later, not an Indian of all those tribes went again upon the warpath against the whites.

Colonel Wright was promoted during the Civil War to the rank of brigadier-general, and commanded the Department of the Pacific. His energy, watchfulness and sterling patriotism kept down the ever-rising flame of treason, and held the Coast loyal to the Government throughout the bloody struggle. He became very dear to the people who had so long relied upon him for protection, and it was a day of mourning when the sad news came that he had found a watery grave. With his family and staff he was engulfed in the stormy waters of the Pacific, when, off Crescent City, on the 30th of July, 1865, the *Brother Jonathan* carried her human cargo to a resting place beneath the billows. HARRY L. WELLS.

THE average size of farms in the United States decreased from 203 acres in 1850 to 134 acres in 1880; the percentage of unimproved land decreased 61.5 per cent. to 49.9 per cent. As the population pushes Westward the number of small farms will increase, the great ranches be divided, and the "evil" remedy itself.