Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 26th ulto enclosing salary vouchers and statement of account, also yours of the 27th both of which were received last evening. The vouchers you will find enclosed, signed as directed.

The winter here has been very severe and communication with the lower country has been closed for weeks at a time. Many of the Indians in this valley have suffered from hunger and I have been compelled to exchange two plows for a small quantity of wheat and flour which has enabled me to some extent to relieve the sufferings of the most destitute.

The military authorities here were formerly in the practice of issuing rations from the commissary for the subsistence of destitute Indians. But last fall orders were received prohibiting such issues hence the distress among the Indians during the past winter.

There are many old Indians of both sexes living in the valley as well as some young children having no relatives to provide for them who are reduced to poverty and entirely unable to gain subsistence except during the fishing season. For these helpless Indians numbering from forty to fifty I respectfully ask assistance from the Indian department in the shape of food. I have been obliged to keep one or two orphan children for the last two months out of my own private means and have had to turn away many applicants for relief, not considering myself authorized to relieve any except the most needy.

As spring has opened and the fishing season will commence about the middle of June they will be able to get a living with some little assistance from the Ind. Dept until next winter when if no
provision is made to relieve them you may expect to hear of numbers dying from starvation. I will respectfully suggest that I be authorized to purchase from the commissary from time to time small amounts of provisions for the relief of the most needy. In this way they can be brought at government prices including cost of transportation, being nearly one half cheaper than market rates up here. I sincerely trust that this authority will be given me as I have been beset on all sides by needy applicants and have no means in my hands to relieve them.

With regard to employment of interpreter I have to say that it is utterly impossible to get along without one as not one out of ten of the Indians visiting me to transact business can speak Chinook I mean lazy those outside of the Colville tribe. Everything depends upon a good faithful interpreter in dealing with the Indians in this upper country. A few words from the agent, wrongly interpreted might at any time seriously disturb the peace of the country and cost the lives of many settlers.

For this reason I urgently desire the appointment of a good efficient man, as I apprehend some troubles between the Indians and the miners who have commenced passing through their country to the upper Columbia --miners usually pay little regard to the rights of the Indians. They sometimes use the fences of the Indians for fuel and allow their animals to destroy the crops. I should like to secure the services of George Montieu [sic] as interpreter. He formerly served in that capacity at this post and is said to be the most efficient man in the country. He is at present in the Flathead country but is expected to be here in a few days. Then he arrives I shall recommend him for the position if he will accept.

A treaty should be made with these Indians by all means. Their country is being overrun in all directions by miners and
adventurers of all descriptions. They must be separated from the whites and placed by themselves, otherwise the department may expect to hear of serious difficulties between the races.

I should like to take a census of all tribes not treated with in this part of the country and would also so if I had the means at my disposal. Their numbers cannot be less than 3,000 and may amount to 3,500. In a country like this, occupied by Indians and whites, both lodging claim to the soil, it is exceedingly difficult to adjust the troubles constantly arising between the races. I therefore hope that measures will be taken to treat with the Indians and locate them apart from the whites.

I have endeavored to be as economical as possible during the winter, but I have been compelled to contract a bill for blacksmithing for the Indians which has been necessary to enable them to put in their crops. The account will be forwarded by the expiration of the present quarter. The goods on hand are all very inferior quality, particularly the blankets and I hope a new supply will be forwarded.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

G.A. Paige

W.H. Waterman, Esq.

Supt. Ind. 'Affs. W.T.
Sir:

I have the honor to enclose herewith a letter of a drover who it appears was robbed of some cattle while on his way from White Bluffs to the Blackfoot country. It would appear from the statement of this person as well as from other intelligence just received and which I regard as perfectly reliable that the robbery was committed by a number of armed Indians openly and that the whites were forced to give up their cattle.

This route will be extensively travelled during the coming summer by miners, packers and drovers and unless the Indians are promptly punished for this first crime they will be encouraged to commit other acts of violence which cannot fail ultimately to result in something serious.

I therefore conceive it to be my duty to proceed to the scene of the robbery and arrest the guilty parties that an example may be made.

I can get no assistance whatever from the military as the garrison here is very light owing to desertions and they have no mounted troops nor means to mount those now here.

The trip will be attended with considerable expense as I shall have to travel nearly 200 miles and as you are aware, I have not a dollar of government money for defraying expenses of this kind.

I consider it very important that the matter should be attended to soon but having no means at my disposal and having received positive instructions from your office to contract no debts without authority
I am compelled to await until instructions and means are provided furnished. I trust this matter will receive prompt attention and that means will be placed at my disposal to effect the above object.

The following is an estimate in view of the expenses of the trip.

For pay of competent interpreter 10 days $30
For hire of pack horse $20
Subsistence for self and interpreter 30
Subsistence for three horses 15
for fear[go][sic] 8
Contingencies 10

$113.00

Very respectfully G. Paige, in charge Colville Indians

May 23, 1866
Fort Colville W.T. May 23, 1866

Sir: Yours of the 5th inst. was received per last mail. I am more than ever convinced of the importance of arresting the parties concerned in the robbery on the White Bluffs road, but have concluded to defer it a few weeks when the Indians will have assembled at their fishery near the mouth of Spokane. The arrests can then be effected without much trouble and with less expense to government.

On the 7th inst. complaint was made to me by settlers in the upper end of this valley that some Indians had taken possession of portions of one or two farms and had threatened to throw down fences, burn buildings etc.

On proceeding to the scene of the disturbance I discovered the reports to be partially true and as usual found that whisky was at
at the bottom of the troubles. I arrested three of the ring-leaders and placed them in confinement at the post. I also caused the arrest on a warrant of the Agent U.S. Commissioner of the Frenchman who had furnished them the liquor. This person was presented for indictment before the grand jury, two of the Indians being produced as witnesses against him. But although the Indians testified positively to his having sold them liquor on more than one occasion, no bill was found, the party causing all the disturbance being evidently shalaced by perhaps some of the foremost demnouncators of the agent for failure to prevent Indian drunkenness and aggressiveness.

In reference to the appointment of an interpreter I have to say that the services of a competent one are absolutely indispenséble.

The country is being settled by whites and many of the Indians have their enclosures and farms disputed between as to rights and boundaries are of frequent occurrence and are as frequently referred to the agent for settlement. It is of course necessary in these cases that the Indians in order to get their rights should have an impartial hearing and this cannot be done without a good interpreter. As the person I recommended for the position sometimes since has not returned and probably will not return I will suggest that Mr. Robert McKay receive the appointment. He is a half breed of industrious and sober habits born in this country, is intelligent and faithful and speaks Indian fluently.

I would suggest that his appointment date from the 12th of this month as I have been compelled to employ him several times since that date. "Respectfully your obt. servt."

C. A. Paige, acting Ind. Agent

W.H. Waterman, supt. Ind. Affs.

Olympia, W.T.
Sir:

I have to report for the information of your office that the U.S. mail on the route from Walla Walla to this place, a distance of 216 miles has been discontinued since the 1st inst. and that for each letter received and sent I am compelled to pay to private expressmen from 25 to 50 cents according to the weight. As the official matter necessary to be forwarded to your office during the next few weeks will be of great importance and its detention here would operate injuriously to the service I have to ask authority to make some arrangements for its speedy transmittal.

The express rates necessary to be paid are estimated at from 8 to 10 dllrs. per month. Hoping soon to receive information upon this subject, I am very respectfully

Your obdt. servant

G.A. Paige, special Indian agent.

to T.J. McKinney esq.
Supt. Ind Affairs W.T.
Olympia, W.T.
Sir:

I have to report that owing to a severe and protracted illness extending from the 27th of August up to the present time and from which I am now slowly recovering it has been impossible for me to carry out your instructions regarding census of the Indians under my control.

I shall be able to do so during the coming winter and next spring to get an accurate account of their numbers which when completed will be forwarded to your office.

I remain your obt. svt.

G.A. Paige, special Ind. Agent.

T.J. McKinney esq.

Supt. Ind. Affrs. W.T.

Olympia W.T.
SIR:

I have the honor to forward herewith a copy of Post Order No. 1 with certified copy of a letter from the special agent of this District as sustaining my action in the case. The nearest Federal authorities are two hundred and twenty miles distant and inaccessible during the winter months, rendering the ordinary remedy for such cases as this impossible with Mr. Paige at this time.

Being personally cognizant of the most of the facts stated in Mr. Paige's communication, and believing that prompt and summary action was required to prevent the occurrence of more serious difficulties, I decided to take the responsibility of enforcing his request, subject to the approval of the commanding general.

I am, very respectfully,

Your Obt. Svt.

(Signed) W.C. Manning (?)

The Asst. Adjutant general, 1st Lieut 23 Infantry, commanding post Dept of the Columbia, Portland, Oregon.


Office Special Ind. Agent

Fort Colville W.T. Dec 31, 1867

SIR:

Information of the most authoritative character having been received at this office of serious troubles among the Indians on Fools Prairie and between them and the whites in that vicinity caused by a white man and suspected desperado named William Fox. It has been deemed necessary for the peace of the country to cause his expulsion from the band.

Fox has for some time past lived in the lodges of the Indians and
and since his residence there it has been noticed that the Indians have become exceedingly insolent in their deportment, troublesome and unmanageable and if this state of things continues I will not be answerable for the bad conduct of the band.

He has threatened to burn the houses of certain Indians if they would not agree to terms of his dictation. He has threatened to burn annuity goods in case they were distributed to certain Indians. He has induced to prejudice the Indians against their agent by informing them that they were entitled to certain rights and those rights were disregarded or withheld by the agents. He applied by letter to this office for permission for the Indians to procure spirituous liquors and on this request being denied he bought a quantity of liquor consigned the same to the band and the Indians were drunken and disorderly for several days following.

Believing that the welfare of the Indians under my control as well as the peace of the country demands the immediate expulsion of the man "William Fox, I have respectfully to request that you furnish a detail of men with instructions to place him beyond the Spokane River.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. Svt.

G.A. Paige

Special Ind. Agent

Lieut. Wm. I Manning,
Commanding Post,
Fort Colville, W.T.
Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20  Fort Colville W.T.
February 8th, 1888

(Excerpt)

[...] Fox who is an unprincipled vagabond and thief was compelled to leave the mining districts of Boise to escape being hanged for his misdeeds by the Vigilance committee and arrived here about one year ago. From July last up to the time of his explosion he lived with the Indians on the Pools Prairie some twenty five miles from here and caused much trouble...as Fox was the only white man living in the lodges of the Indians it was found to be impossible to procure other than Indian evidence against him for violation of the intercourse act and for the other offences enumerated. This kind of evidence has no utility whatever in examinations before the justice of the peace in this country and as the nearest federal judicial authorities are two hundred and sixteen miles distant and almost inaccessible during the winter season and being apprehensive that the growing dissatisfaction in the band might result in something serious unless addressed promptly checked I [crossed out] and a communication (of which the enclosure marked A is a copy) to the commanding officer of the troops stationed here, requesting his assistance in removing the man Fox from the band. The request was promptly acceded to and this mischievous and dangerous person after being furnished with a small supply of provisions was escorted beyond the Spokane River and the Indians referred to have become very quiet and manageable. I...I am etc. C.A. Paige Special Indian Agent. to T.J. McKenney, esq. Supt. Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T.
Sir: Referring to your letter of September 10, 1867 authorizing the purchase of supplies to maintain the Indians up to the time and during the time the distributions are being made and also to enable those living at a distance to reach their homes without suffering, I have to state that about seven thousand pounds of flour and six thousand pounds of beef will be necessary for the purpose. This estimate is based upon the supposition that from fifteen hundred to two thousand Indians will be present at the distribution. Flour and beef can be purchased here in open market at the same rates as that contracted for last summer viz: Beef 12 1/2 cents per pound and flour $2.45 per hundred pounds. I have already made bargains with parties here to furnish the supplies at the above rates subject to your approval.

It is my intention to make the distributions as soon as the disappearance of the snows in the mountains will enable the Indians to collect at this place say about the middle of April.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. svt.

C.R. Paige
Special Indian Agent

To T. J. McKenney, "sq. Supt. Ind. Affairs,
Olympia, W.T.
Sirs:

I have the honor to state that I have just completed the distribution of presents to Indians as contemplated in your instructions of Sept. 10th and November 17, 1867. All the Colvilles except about twenty, most of the Pend O'elles, a few Spokanes, Okinakanes and San Poquis amounting in all to nine hundred and seventy six were here and received their presents. A great deal of difficulty was experienced in persuading many of them to receive their presents as an impression had for some time prevailed among the more distant bands that the distribution was to be made in payment for their lands and that by accepting the articles they would forfeit all right to the soil and be removed to some reservation. Every effort in my power has been made to disburse them of this impression. The messengers employed to notify the Indians of the distribution, men of good standing among the Indians speaking their language perfectly and also bearing a good reputation among the whites for fidelity, were specially instructed to use their utmost exertions to combat this feeling and assure them that the distribution was intended simply as a present from the government as the articles issued here during the past three years.

Quite a number of Spokanes among whom was Garry were present and drew rations but declined to receive presents in goods; several councils were held with them in which I explained matters as fully as I deemed consistent but they appeared to have a suspicion that there was something behind so large a distribution affecting their right to the soil, and up to the present time a majority of them had refused to receive anything. It is gratifying to be able to state that amongst the numbers collected here, drunkenness or riotous conduct was observed on the part of one Indian who was promptly arrested and
turned over to the tender mercies of the military authorities—but that all received their presents and dispersed from their homes well satisfied. On the assembling the Indians and after their being rationed it was deemed important to prepare a very careful roll, one that would be useful for future reference as showing an accurate account of the numbers in each family of males and females unmarried. To get up this roll correctly required time and necessitated the detention of the Indians several days in this neighborhood and also compelled us again to issue rations to subsist them during the process of enrollment and distribution. The roll was carefully prepared by myself assisted by the interpreter and three of the most reliable chiefs and may be relied upon as correct and shows a tolerably accurate census of the different bands as far as it extends. I was compelled to employ five assistants in making the distribution, their time covering from six to eight days at $2.50 per day. It was also found absolutely necessary to purchase a small quantity of tobacco for the use of the Indians in their council on(some) such an important occasion.

As information has reached me that numbers of Spokanes and Okinakanes who were unable to come before are on their way in on foot and anxious to receive presents I have deemed it best to keep the roll open for their benefit some two or three weeks longer.

Should they come they will be subsisted from the annual supplies as those recently contracted for are nearly exhausted.

Enclosed I send you vouchers of McKenzie, Henning, Longshore and Perkins for services rendered. Please pay to Messrs Millard and Van Schuyver, Portland Oregon, the account due on vouchers—amounting to $110. Other papers shall be forwarded by next mail. Very respectfully,

SIR:

I have the honor to transmit herewith vouchers amounting to $44 which with those forwarded on the 9th and 16th inst. cover all expenses incurred in the distribution of goods.

I desire to correct a statement in my letter of the 9th inst. in reference to the number of Iians at that time enrolled. This number should have been eight hundred and eighty-six instead of nine hundred and seventy-six.

The Indians still continue to come into receive presents in small scattering parties and have run the number up to about one thousand.

Very respectfully,

Your obt. svt.

G.A. Paige,
Special Agent.

Genl T. J. McKenney,

Supt. Ind. Affairs,

Olympia W.T.
Gen. T. McKenny [Thomas J. McKenny sq]  
Supt. Indian Affairs, W.T. Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find the following sub vouchers for money expended on my trip from Olympia to Fort Colville at current rates:

- Hillory Cutler State, Olympia to Monticello $20
- m. Pumphrey, state station, $3.25.
- R. Huntington, dinner .75
- Steamer Julia, Monticello to Portland $2.25.
- Cosmopolitan Hotel, Portland $5.00
- Str. Fanoe Toop, Portland to Vancouver $1.50
- Pacific Hotel, Vancouver $4.50
- Steamer Cascades, Vancouver to Dalles and Str. Nez Perce Chief, Dalles to Walla Walla $30.00
- Empire Hotel at the Dalles $1.50
- State fare and meals, Walla Walla to Walla Walla $8.50.
- Oriental Hotel, Walla Walla $9.50.

James Howard for span horses and buggy, outfit for camping blanket, Walla Walla to Colville 170.00

--- 256.45.

$170 currency seems to be a high price for a driver, span of horses and buggy to make the trip from Walla Walla to Colville but the driver furnished a complete outfit and paid all the expenses such as food, ferries, meals, toll bridges etc.--$150 coin is the usual price charged passengers furnishing their own outfits. Capt. G.L. Browning of this post has just been ordered to San Francisco and he leaves on 23. He just told me that he had engaged a team to take him to Walla Walla and had to pay for the same $150 coin and furnish his
own outfit. I think it would be true economy for you to buy for this agency either at San Francisco or Portland either a Downing or Abbott's Concord Express wagon with springs and pole and a set of Hill's Concord harness with breeching. The wagon should have a break [sic] on it, the bed be sufficiently large to carry four persons, a dozen pair of blanket, two sacks oats and a supply of flour, bacon etc. Such a wagon is really needed at this agency and when you come up if you would bring one with you to Walla Walla. I could meet you there or send a man down with a pair of horses and you could ride up and back in the wagon. There are many bands of Indians in this district that can be reached by wagon roads for great distances and having a light strong wagon to use we can often dispense with the two necessary pack horses. The ride from Walla Walla to Colville, some 220 miles, is a long tedious one—one way is the mail or horseback route which averages a house or cabin every night or every 50 miles and is not feasible as the mail riders change on the route and have a fresh horse daily for themselves but none for you and you are barred from carrying anything in the way of clothing. The other is the wagon road and the houses are as far and the accommodations as miserable that old travellers on the road pack their own blankets and camp out. Though I have requested Messrs Houston and also Mr. Perkins to forward you the acts of Odell, Majors, Messrs. Paige, Manning and Houston, and they have promised to do so, they are very slow but I am promised by both parties to say that the accounts and statements shall surely be ready by next mail—seventeen days. If you can refund me the amount of my expenditures on trip from Olympia to Colville by currency draft on Portland or San Francisco I would be much obliged to you as I am in need of some money.

Respectfully yours J.R. Parker

Special Indian Agent.
Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Office Indian Agency
U.S. Fort Colville Wash Ter.

24 Nov. 1868


Sir:

Enclosed please find a rough sketch or diagram of the U.S. Fort Colville post or garrison. I think it would be advisable for you to apply to Gen. Crooks, U.S.A. (Portland) requesting him to transfer the two log buildings, A and C, to the Indian Department to be used by the same here after one for an office and the other for a storeroom. At present they are both uninhabitable for office use, though I am endeavoring to make the house "comfortable for the winter by plastering the open crevices with mortar and flooring and ceiling part of the house for an office, all at the expense of the Indian Department.

The former Indian agent, Mr. Paige, was allowed to use the lathed and plastered house for his quarters. That is now occupied by Dr. Chase, the commanding officer offered to let me occupy for an office the vacant building west of him, providing that I vacated the same upon the arrival of a Lieut. Rice who was expected during the winter. But having the house to clean at wood to provide and store for the winter, I concluded to do so as I have. The adjoining building, B is only partially in use, as a tin shop and though an old, open log building, it could be repaired at no great expense and made suitable for a store room; and fitting this (the one I now occupy) for an office, it would be desirable as the two would then be together. Respectfully yours, J.G. Parker Jr., Special Indian Agent.
...efforts to abate the nuisance [liquor] is that almost every one in the country is engaged either directly or indirectly in the sale of liquor and are personally interested in preventing its suppression. Our friend P. Winans is no exception to this rule as he brings largely the axstrate into the country—he has a branch store about fourteen miles from this place and although a profession is made that his firm sells no liquor to the Indians the fact is notorious that around that store and the store of Oppenhimer and Co. almost any day drunken Indians may be seen and but a day or two since a chief was stabbed not far from there by a drunken Indian. My friend I have long held my peace in regard to the appointment of P. Winans to a position at this place for fear that you might accuse me of interested motives but I cannot feel that I have done fairly by you if I should longer keep silent. I consider Park Winans as one of the most unfit of men for Indian agent for the following reasons and I think his best friends will agree with me if they would frankly state their true feelings—first personally he is weak, afraid to offend for fear he might lose some trade in his store and in my opinion will utterly fail to command the respect of the Indians who need a strong and steady hand to keep them in anything like proper subjection [sic] also he is a merchant engaged in trade and this is also a strong point against him. He sells whiskey both at his store in Colville and at this one on the river not in small quantities but largely and his partner is perfectly unscrupulous. I do not believe any one should be appointed at this place who is not entirely untrammelled and as Mr. Howacy would
not [name just listed appears on close examination to be Harvey] probably throw his official influence altogether in favor of our friend Montgomery who is also a merchant in Colville. I think his appointment could not fail to give dissatisfaction. I received your copy of P. Winans appointment and you no doubt will soon instruct him as to his duties and also direct me what to do with the property I now hold—are his powers administrative or only advisory? I would not give a cent for him unless he does what I do not believe he will do, sell our store and particularly his whiskey part and get up some backbone. Could you not come here next summer and see for yourself how things work and what is needed and in the mean time let things remain in status quo. I don't ask for any additional pay and am willing to act as agent as long as you may desire. Would like to finish up the whiskey cases now on hand in a neat and workmanlike manner and retire with a grand flourish of jeers.

... I have to inform you of the sudden and ... death of the white yarse you sent by W. Montgomery. He was in the blacksmith shop to be shoed and died in a few minutes of the colic. He had not been used for several days. ... I have placed an Indian boy as apprentice to the blacksmith Wade and have agreed upon the part of the Indian Dept to furnish him clothes and see that he is well treated—time three years. He seems to be a bright good dispositioned boy and no doubt will be found useful in the future when a reservation is set off for the Indians. I think this constant change of agent to very much impair the influence for God over them. As soon as they begin to know and feel that the agent is their friend and learn to respect and fear him a new one comes along and all has to be done over again...

...... E.Y. Chase.