

Fort Simcoe, July 30, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of operations at this agency during the month of July.

The transfer of supplies from Malheur agency, Oregon, consumed the first half of the month, the teams not reaching Lakima agency till the 18th. As the incidents connected with this transfer have formed the subject of a special report since my return, no further mention p 933 of it will here be made.

Our agency carpenter together with a number of Indians who possessed more or less skill have been employed upon the new boarding house, which is now nearly completed. As soon as this is accomplished I propose to commence work at once on the new school house, hoping to get both completed in time to open school in the new building this fall.

The steam mill in charge of the sawyer, Mr. Lovelace, has been kept steadily at work on lumber for the department and Indians.

The farmer with a force of Indian, p 934 employees has been engaged during the month in harvesting and securing the crop of hay. It may afford some indication of the direction of progress among these Indians to mention that we have had as many as ~~about~~ three or four Indians at one time employed with their own teams and reapers harvesting Department ~~of~~ grain. As intimated in previous reports, the yield of wheat this season is unusually good. Towards the close of the month we threshed one field estimated to contain about eighty acres, next ground and realized 1693 bushels or over twenty one per acre. Should all p 935 our wheat yield equally well our crop will not fall short of 5,000

bushels.

Early in the month the Piutes were recalled to the agency to assist in the harvest and nearly all those able to work men and women have been kept steadily employed. A portion of the standing grain was turned over to them; they were supplied with sickles and cradles and given to understand that the grain was their own and that after it was harvested and threshed they must no longer look to the agent for weekly issues of subsistence. They set to work and soon had their grain properly harvested

p 936

and shocked.

In conclusion I am pleased to observe that the people seem to be regaining their former cheerfulness and content. I notice a multitude of circumstances which show that there is a steady improvement going forward and should no adverse influences be brought to bear to check it they will continue to improve till soon no longer they will ~~need~~ need fostering care of the government

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent

by JH

Employee

Fort Sincos, Aug 2d, 1881

Piutes

Hon H. Price

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir:

Acknowledging the receipt of your communication of the 16th ultimo I have the honor to submit, as directed, the name of O.K. McDonald as farmer at this agency, employed for the Piutes at an annual compensatio of \$800. As Mr. McDonald is absent on duty ordered by me, I am unable to fill all the blanks in the descriptive statement herewith ~~submitted~~ transmitted

Very respectfully etc.

Malheur

The Dalles, August 11th, 1881

Commissioner Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Your order to return with teams for freight to Malheur Agency is received. The supplies there will not pay transportation. Flour, wheat, oats with numerous other articles freight would cost two or three times as much as the things would be worth in ^{the} agency.

Better be sold there. If authorized I will go and sell. Impossible to go now with teams. Direct immediately.

Wilbur Agent

Fort Simcoe, Aug 15th, 1881

Hon H. Price, commissioner of Indian affairs, Wash.D.C.

Sir: Respectfully acknowledging the receipt of your communication of July 23d (no marks in upper corner except L) directing me to forward as soon as possible a list of allotments of land made to Indians on the Reservation together with the subdivision of said land, amount allotted to each with sex and age of each allottee. I have the honor to state: As stated by me in my application for a plat of the survey of this reservation, very many of p 945 section and township ~~section~~ ^{section} stakes have been removed and on the most of these that remain the marks are so nearly obliterated that it will be nearly impossible to give the legal subdivision without a plat of the survey.

The names, sex and age of those to whom allotments have been made together with the amount of land to each are herewith transmitted. I am also directed to mark on the enclosed map such townships as will be most likely to be soonest allotted. In obedience to these instructions I have marked with red ink 6 townships which also include the most of allotments already made. I have also marked three townships in black ink, 2 situated in the ^Ahtamum and Yakima p 945 00 946 River. No allotments have yet been made in these last three townships but the Indians are anxious that the lands on which they are located be allotted them and as soon as the presence of other duties will admit it it is my intention to make allotments. Referring to the list of allotments transmitted herewith I would say that when the plats of the survey are received some slight change of lines may be necessary to conform to the legal subdivisions, This was understood by the Indians when the allotments were made

Very etc.

(Wilbur

Yakima Fort Sincere Aug 16, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D.C. Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your telegram of the 12th inst. directing me to return immediately to Malheur with all the teams I can muster to load with flour and to push thrings so as to make the trip back to Yakima before the rainy season begins. In office communication of July 16th I am directed to continue to return and load till all the flour and grain, together with such other articles as may be deemed advisable, to transport P 949 are delivered at Yakima agency, etc. In reply I respectfully beg to submit the following facts:

The Department teams, used on my previous trip are so completely worn down and jaded by their long service on insufficient forage, that since my return they have been unable to perform the ordinary work of the agency and the same is true of the Indian teams which accompanied me to take them therefore is out of the question 2d we have now over 200 acres of grain in the field shocked and 150 tons of hay cut. the grain must be hauled to the thrasher, threshed and stored in the granaries, and the hay must be hauled and stacked, or all will be lost p 950

to perform this service will require all the teams, department and Indian, that I can muster, so that I do not know where to

look to secure a single team for the proposed trip to Malheur, unless I hire outside teams. This might be done if the Department will authorized it, and doubtless sufficient teams might be found in the country to transfer all the property this fall, but the expense would be heavy.

The list of property remaining at Malheur after I loaded my teams includes 2 grind stones, 200 lbs and 132 bls flour, 1250 lbs iron,

1100 bushels, 39600 lbs oats, 2000/ bushels wheat, 26 18 ^{feet} fencing wire
100 lbs wire staples, total ~~29,5728 lbs~~ 295,728 lbs. Perhaps freight
might be got at 6 cents per pound which would be a very low figure
indeed, at which rate the whole would p 951

cost \$17,743.68 I can contract for a better quality of all the
^{laid} articles down at Yakima agency for \$5,000, pound for pound, so that
a saving of more than \$12,000 would be effected by letting these
articles remain at Malheur and by buying here. Taking into consideration
the fact that they ~~may~~ maybe sold at Malheur for a least \$7,000
we have a saving of nearly \$20,000 by selling the articles there
and replacing them with others purchased at Yakima. I respectfully
recommend this course and ask that instructions to this effect be
given me. The distance from this agency to Malheur is not less than
three hundred miles over an exceedingly difficult and

p 952

mountainous road.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent.

Yakima, Fort Simcoe, Aug 16, 1881

Hon H. Price

commissioner of Indian affairs, Washington, D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 2d inst, letter 12975/81, declining to accede to my request that I have permission to substitute a combined mower and reaper for certain other articles, authority to purchase which had been previously (Nov. 30th, 1880) granted and calling my attention to the fact that seven months had elapsed since said authority was granted etc. In explanation

954

of my neglect to make said purchases earlier, I respectfully ask leave to submit the following facts which should have accompanied my letter asking permission to make the substitution. When the authority granted in Department letter of Nov. 30, 1880 reached this agency I had been called to Washington by order of the Hon Commissioner of Indian affairs on official business and was therefore unable to avail myself of the permission granted in said letter, till my return to my agency. Before this occurred however my commission had expired and I was reappointed while still in Washington.

Immediately on my return I deposited to the credit of the U.S. p 955 all funds held under my previous bond including the \$1,500 permission to expend which in open market purchased had been granted by letter of Nov. 30 above referred to. I was not aware that this sum would be redeposited to my credit and therefore made no request relative to its disposition. No funds were placed to my credit under my new bond till June 28th (the date I received notice, when this amount of \$1,500 was again placed to my credit with specific reference to the authority granted in letter of Nov. 30, 1881. I immediately made the request for the substitution

of the mower and repper as contained in my letter of June 30th.

p 956

The circumstances being as I have ~~stated~~ I trust permission to make the substitution may beno longer withheld

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

--

August 17, 1881

...the machine desired is a combined Champion Repper and mower improved patent price \$220 delivered to the Dalles, Oregon.

School Building

Saw logs

Yakima, Fort Simcoe, Aug 16, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I respectfully ask authority to purchase 50,000 feet of saw logs delivered at our steam mill at prices ranging from ~~\$0.75 to \$1.00~~ \$3.75 to \$5.00 per m according to the quality etc. The new school and boarding house will require about that amount in addition to the department logs on hand.

Purchases to be made from Indians only and the price in no case to exceed \$5 per thousand feet. The Department

p 960

teams having been required to transfer supplies from Malheur Agency
no means
leaves me to procure the necessary logs, except by purchase from
Indians and I respectfully ask that I be authorized to make the
purchase

Etc.

(Wilbur)

1635-1881

Tumwater

Fort Simcoe, August 16, 1880, Hon H. Price, commissioner of Indian Affairs
Sir:

Referring to Department communication marked as per upper left corner of this 9635, 1881 and directing me to "definitely state the locality of the fisheries referred to (Tumwater) giving section, town and range and also description of the lands in the same manner to which Taylor claims to hold patent from the government," I have the honor to transmit the enclosed statement of the several subdivisions included in his claim.

The general character of the land p 862 is broken and rocky. Some tremendous convulsions of nature seem to have broken up and set on edge the various strata of rocks and between the ledges thus formed, are many little valleys some of them of extraordinary fertility producing an abundant growth of grass and when cultivated, all descriptions of fruit and vegetables in profusion. These arable spots however form but a small proportion of the whole tract. In the vicinity of the River, the soil where not bare rock is generally sandy, though producing a fair growth of grass. Of course the principal value of the tract is the fishery. To the Indians this would be, and even now is of estimable value - it affords to all a large proportion, and to some p p. 963 of the older ones their entire subsistence.

Referring to my letter of May 23 in which I recommend the purchase of this fishery for the exclusive use of the Indians, I would again earnestly urge its importance. I have not been able to procure the statistics of the amount of fish taken this season by white fishermen at that fishery but it is enormous. Only by the constant presence of five police has it been possible to preserve order and another season it will undoubtedly be still worse. Another, and by no means slight

reason , why it is desirable to secure this fishery for the exclusive use of the Indians may be found in the character of the most of the white fishermen. These are for

p 964

the most part a wild , rough, reckless class of men, whose influence on the Indians is wholly demoralizing. It is my firm opinion that the purchase of this fishery from Mr. Taylor will be worth to the Indians of this reservation many times over what Mr. Taylor professes himself willing to take.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.