

Yakima Indian Agency, Fort Simcoe, W.T. January 31st, 1880

Hon B.A. Hayt, Commissioner.

Sir: I have the honor to report the condition of this agency at the close of this month. On the afternoon of the 9th we had the most destructive wind ever known in this part of our country--

miles of post and board fence were blown down--when the posts were not broken off at the top of the ground the boards were blown off the posts and many broken. The damage done to our fences was great and I think about one thousand dollars.

Our new church edifice which was completed on the 9th and was to be dedicated on the 11th--strongly built and well finished outside and in was moved on its foundation 8 inches. No great damage done to the building except readjusting the foundations. p 379

This building is 36 by 72 feet 20 feet ceiling having a belfry and a good bell, a model church having capacity to seat 650 comfortably. Since the addition of the Piute and Bannock prisoners our old church would not accommodate more than two thirds of the people who came to church on the Sabbath and there was an necessity of using the old church for a school for said Piute and Bannocks. Our new church is constructed and was dedicated according to the original plan on the 11th and is well filled from Sabbath to Sabbath.

Companies of the Indian men with their teams are in the woods cutting and hauling logs for the steam saw mill to stock it with logs for the coming season.

The cattle and horses of the agency are wintering with comparatively little loss.

The boarding school at the agency has not been as full this winter as sometimes in the past. I am making a vigorous effort to fill up the school to its utmost capacity. The Piute and Bannock children are being instructed 7 miles from the station in the old church by George Waters with good results.

Our shops with head men to work and plan are supplied with apprentice boys learning the different trades , 4 in the carpenters and wagon, 2 in the camp and two in the blacksmith shops.

Amid all the clamor of the people outside of the agency desiring to drive the Indians to parts unknown our Indians are settling into work and making permanent improvements.

I am sir

Your obedient servant etc.



Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, Wash., Feb. 10, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir: Herewith I have the honor to return spoliation claim of Theodore Gauthier for depredations alleged to have been committed by these Indians in 1858. This matter has been delayed from having mislaid the papers in the case. In compliance with instructions contained in your letter of May 29, 1879 marked in margin "C Yakima" I called a council of the Indians belonging to this agency and submitted the claim to them, but after the most diligent inquiry, could gain no information on the subject whatever, all leading Indians expressing themselves as well convinced that the people whole claim was baseless and no such occurrence took place, with any

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of the Indians belonging to the Yakima Reservation. Whether any such depredation was committed by Indians belonging elsewhere I am of course unable to say.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

Yakima Pt. Simcoe Wash. Ter April 7, 1880

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

Sir:

I have the honor to return the claim of Henry Mattice for depredations alleged to have been committed by members of the Yakima Nation of Indians in 1855. As directed in your letter of March 4th marked in margin "Civ Washington," I called a council of the Indians and submitted the matter to them as provided in rule 4.

They unanimously declared that they neither knew nor had ever heard anything of the matter and declared their belief that no such murder or robbery had been done by the Yakima Nation.

None of the oldest Indians had ever heard anything of it and the universal sentiment was that if ever such an occurrence took place none of the Yakimas were engaged in it. I may add, that such is also my own belief, founded on a pg 448 careful and patient investigation of the matter.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

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



Yakima. Fort Simcoe, W.T. Aug 24th, 1880

Hon R.E. Trowbridge

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to return claims made against the Indians of this agency for depredations as follows:

B.. Bishop, amount claimed \$1,558

Chevalier & Ivory \$288

Wm. Wilson \$2255

Geo Solomon B. Anthony \$50

Which having been submitted to the Indians as required by rule 4 are hereby returned no one having any knowledge of them.

With regard to the claims of Bishop and Wilson for property destroyed during the attack on the Cascades in March, 1856,

the Indians say that while, such an attack was actually made and probably participated in by Indians p 539 who were parties to the treaty with the Yakima nation, they have no knowledge of the facts alleged in these claims.

Wilson's claim does not appear to have been signed by the clerk of the District Court, but were it properly authenticated, no information can be gained from the Indians respecting the alleged depredations. Even if any of these Indians participated in that attack they are probably dead, and I can find no one who can give any information on the subject. The same remarks apply to the claim of Chevalier and Ivory and Solomon B. Anthony.

Very respectfully etc.

(Wilbur)

Yakima, Fort Simcoe, W.T. Aug 25, 1880

Hon R.E. Trowbridge

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of circular No. 41 in reference to issuing beef from the block and the disposition to bands of the hides. In reference to the latter <sup>portion</sup> ~~portion~~ of the circular directing that the hides be issued to Indians, I have to ask that an exception be made at this agency.

The money received from the sale of hides constitutes an important part of the miscellaneous funds of this agency and being disbursed as at present for the benefit of all the Indians accomplishes much more for them than could possibly be the case were the hide issued and sold by the Indians as directed in said circular.

There is no trader at this agency and our (p. 540) hides cannot be marketed short of The Dalles, some 65 miles distant. By disposing of a large number at a time the agent is enabled to secure much better prices than the Indians would be by taking a few at a time, and instead of the proceeds being used to purchase some article that might please the fancy but is practically useless to them, as would be the case did the Indians themselves market their hides, the funds received are now invested in agricultural implements or other articles of permanent benefits to them. I trust therefore that this agency may be excepted from the operations of the circular in this respect. Very respectfully etc.

(Wilbur)



It will be remembered that I have repeatedly urged the importance, both to the Pintos and Yakimas of some authoritative decision by the department regarding these Indians. Till such decision is made all efforts to improve and elevate them are utterly useless and vain. It is a grave error to suppose the option can be left with them to go or remain. They are like children, and like children look to those in authority for advice and guidance, the question of their location must sometime be settled by the department and the sooner the better for all concerned. They cannot long remain as they are now situated, a continual expense to the government and a constant source of anxiety and annoyance to all whites and Indians on the reservation and with no hope of any improvement till their location is decided on. May I venture to hope that this matter may receive early attention and some definite measures determined on with regard to these Indians.

Very respectfully, your etc.

(Wilbur)

purchases. Mill.

Hon R.E. Trowbridge

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C. Sept. 22, 1880

Sir:

I respectfully ask that a copy of the survey of this reservation be made and forwarded me for use in allotting lands to these Indians. All the stakes and other evidences of the former survey have been removed and it is important that the several allotments to the Indians conform as nearly as possible to the legal subdivisions which cannot be done without the plot of the government survey.

Very respectfully

etc.

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Fort Simcoe W.T. Sept 22, 1880

Hon R.E. Trowbridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington D.C. Sir:

I respectfully ask approval of the following purchases made by me/ on open market, viz: One surveyor's compass, chain and staff for \$50, paid from miscellaneous funds in my hands not required for other purposes. ~~Cost~~ The exigency requiring the purchase was; controversies and disputes among the Indians respecting the boundaries of their farms on which they desired to make improvements and the obliteration of all the marks or evidences of the previous survey necessitating running new lines and allotment of farms to individual Indians that they might proceed to fence and build this season. Also, approval of purchase of 1 doz mill picks, best quality for \$24.25 a four foot proof staff \$2.25 cartage 25 delivered at The Dalles Oregon....exigency: Need of the articles immediately to dress the stones in the grist mill and put them in condition for ~~grinding~~ grinding this fall

etc. Wilbur.



Fort Simcoe, Nov. 5, 1880

Rev. James H. W.ibur, U.S. Indian Agent, Wash.D.C.

My dear Brother:

Yesterday the people came together for the purpose of recommending two men for members of the police force in place of <sup>Shusta</sup> ~~Shuster~~, resigned and of Hoptowit, deceased. Sattas Aleck was unanimously recommended in place of Shusta and Benson in place of Hoptowit.

Considerable dissatisfaction was expressed with some of the present members of the force and it was resolved all the policemen concurring to request permission to hold an election for members of the police force on Monday, Dec. 20th. This was the desire of all, there being no dissenting voice. Some complain of John L. mley that he is too firm a believer in toman-inous to

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be an efficient captain of police, and I think he prefers to retire, though if elected he will probably serve. It was also ~~disputed~~ declared to be the wish of the council that the laws of the United States be extended over the reservation.

The council also requested that each policeman be supplied with one or more pairs of pocket handcuffs to be used, if required on those resisting arrest, and it was also resolved that the proceedings of the council as above noted be forwarded to you with the request that a reply be made as soon as practicable. I had heard something of the intention of the previous council and intended to oppose the election of policemen, but finding the desire unanimous concluded to make no opposition, but forward to you the proceedings as desired.

very respectfully yours

J.H. Fairchild

Clerk, Yakima agency.



Fort Simcoe, Nov. 10, 1880

Rev. James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, Washington D.C.

My dear brother:

All well at the agency and everything moving along smoothly and quietly. We are all rejoiced at the result of the election and hope that complete returns may show Garfield's majority so large that not even Democratic recklessness shall dare to call the result in question.

May I suggest as an eminently proper person to fill the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the new administration Rev. James H. Wilbur of Oregon. I do not know that this appointment will be made but I have an idea that such will be the case.

The school is flourishing, as many children as can be accommodated in the boarding house are now there, but it is proposed to

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increase the accommodations till the entire number is as great as the school house will admit.

I hope to send your accounts for 2nd qr 1879 next week. I have been compelled to send some of the vouchers to the Dalles and Portland for new copies and as soon as the new ones are received I hope to be ready to send both copies so that there will be an end to the matter.

Mr. Miller desires me to call your attention to the necessity for the plot of survey of this reservation. We requested the commissioner to send us a copy Sept. 20 nearly two months ago but have received no notice, whether it would be sent. Please see to the matter.

All unite in love to Mrs. Wilbur and yourself

Very Truly Yours

J.H. Fairchild.



Yakima Dec. 3, 1880 Rev. James H. Wilbur  
U.S. Indian Agent, Washington, D.C.

My dear brother:

Mr. Miller has tendered his resignation to take effect as soon as you can supply his and Mrs. Miller's place. He says that his health will not admit of his staying longer than till spring and he does not want you to think he is staying here for the sake of being wintered.

I am satisfied he is risking his life by active outside work and while declining to receive his resignation, have relieved him from active outside work, although he will still direct the labor and work in the shop when his health will admit. He would be glad to get away this winter but knows of course that this cannot well be done, till your return.

Do not let this disturb you in the least. For some time Mr. Miller's health has been such that I have insisted on his keeping in the house so that really there will be no change 656 and everything will move on smoothly the same as heretofore. It is simple justice to say that Miller laid the foundation for his ill health by the labor and exposure, surveying and ought to be kept on the papers at least as long as he directs the work, even if he does not work himself. I am sure you will approve of this. I will also say that since Miller has been unable to take an active part, Mr. Hadley has manifested an increased activity and desire to be useful and has made himself almost indispensable.

The school is remarkably successful. The Plutes are in better humor than ever before and all departments are exceptionally flourishing. So you need have no anxiety on our account. very re. etc.  
All desire to be remembered Up to Mrs. W. and yourself and begged ask you to remember us in your prayers.



Cattle

J.B. Huntington

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Fort Simcoe, Dec. 11, 1880

J.B. Huntington, esq. The Dalles

Sir:

Instructions just received from the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs make it my duty to report your name to the office in Washington for the . . of legal measures unless immediate arrangements are made to settle the amount due this agency for grazing your cattle on the reservation.

Previous to his departure the agent had fixed upon \$500 as the amount he was willing to accept, though/ satisfied that a much larger sum was justly due. As my duty in the premises is merely to obey orders, I shall not demand more, but cannot promise more than that no further action shall be taken till Agent Wilbur's return, who I know will be willing to settle on terms liberal to yourself. Permit me to call your attention to the fact that when once referred to the authorities p 669 in Washington the matter passes entirely from the control of the agent and is no longer open to compromise.

Thirty days is the limit allowed in the order referred to which will make January 10th the latest date to which action can be ~~000~~ deferred.

Regretting extremely that this necessity should have occurred during the absence of the agent, and trusting there may be no delay or difficulty in making a satisfactory settlement, I have the honor to

be . etc J.H. Fairchild, act U.S. Ind agt.

P.S. Should you prefer you can deposit the amount with French & Co. at the Dalles to the credit of James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, to be held till settlement is made on his return.



Cattle                      Horses  
James Cook                      674

Yakima (Port Sincos) Dec. 13th, 1880

James Cook, Esq.

Yakima City, Wash. Ter.

Sir:

Under instructions just received from the commissioner of Indian affairs, you are hereby notified to remove at once, any cattle you may now have grazing on the reservation.

If this notice is not complied with immediately, or satisfactorily, arrangements made for the payment of a fair compensation for the privilege of grazing on the Reservation, it becomes my duty under the instructions above cited, to report your name to Washington for the adoption of legal measures.

As my duty is merely to obey orders I leave any settlement of grazing in the past to Agent Wilbur on his return.

very etc.

J.H. Fairchild,

Actg. Agent.

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Dec. 17th

To the white men engaged in buying horses at Joe Stwire's

Gentlemen:

It having been reported to me that you are purchasing horses from the Indians belonging to this agency at prices much less than their fair value and less than the price you had agreed to pay, you are hereby notified to purchase no more horses from these Indians and directed to remove from the Reservation immediately

J.H. Fairchild

Actg. U.S. Indian agent.

Fort Simcoe, Dec. 17, 1880

J.W. McCredy and J.D. Carlyle

Bickleton, W.T.

Gentlemen:

I am informed on good authority that you are pasturing a large band of sheep on the Reservation. You most certainly must be aware of the unlawfulness of such a proceeding and of your liability under the ~~the~~ law.

You are hereby notified ~~instructed~~ that you are required to remove at once all sheep under your charge as well as all other stock beyond the limits of this reservation, and to use all proper diligence to prevent any further trespass.

You will also be expected to pay for the time your sheep have been grazing on this reservation the sum of 10 cents per head which may be deposited with Thomas Johnson of Goldendale to the credit of the United States Indian Agent at Yakima Agency

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Very Respectfully your obedient servant etc.

J.H. Fairchild, acting U.S. Indian agent.

P.S.

I am also informed that Mr. Carlyle has sold to an Indian a gun. All sales to Indians of arms or ammunition, except ~~when authorized~~ when authorized by competent authority, is strictly prohibited and severe penalties prescribed for all violations of the law.

Yours etc.



Horses. O.R and Nav. Co.

Scummit, claim.

Yakima, Dec. 27 (Pt. Simcoe) (1880)

Agent Or. R and Nav. Co.

The Dalles, Ore.

Sir:

I have received information that on or about the 9th of Dec. three horses and one mule, the property of Charley Scummit an Indian belonging to this agency, legally off the reservation on a pass from this office for the purpose of visiting friends at Warm Springs Agency, were run over and killed by cars belonging to the Or. R and Nav. Co and that said horses and mule were reasonably worth the sum of one hundred and seventy dollars, to wit, two work horses each fifty dollars and one mule, worth fifty dollars.

By promptly remitting the value of the animals as above given to this office you will relieve me from the duty of reporting the facts to Washington.

Very etc.

J.H. Fairchild

Acting Ind. Agent.

Hon. R.E. Trebridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington D.C. January 7, 1881

Sir: I have the honor to report operations at this agency for the month of December, 1880 as follows:

Our winter commenced somewhat earlier than usual, snow falling towards the last of November and remaining on the ground till the present time with no prospect of more favorable weather.

This has rendered the employment of quite a number of men necessary for gathering up the bands of cattle from their grazing grounds in various parts of the reservation and feeding them when gathered.

This service has been paid entirely from annuity funds. I fear the severity of the winter will cause the Indians to lose many of their cattle and horses and notwithstanding that the Department has a large supply of hay, yet many 688

of our cattle have probably escaped observation in the bushes along the creek bottoms and are lost.

Early in the fall I informed the Indians that if they would cut and haul to the mill the logs I would see that the same were manufactured into lumber and houses and barns erected or such as desired. In consequence of this promise several parties have been equipped and

we now have men at work getting logs to the mill on their own account.

The school is remarkably prosperous. Several causes combined to give the Indians a better appreciation of the advantages of the education and the result has been that our ~~recommended~~ accommodations have

been taxed to the utmost and even then we have been unable to take all the children that were offered. The boarding house and school rooms are only calculated for 60 children but this winter we have had as many as 90 at one time while the average has been over 80 for weeks.

Of course this results in much inconvenience to teachers and matron and the utmost care is required to preserve 689 the health and cleanliness



Horses. Claims.

Scummit Grand N

Yakima, January 23, 1881

Agent of Oregon R and Nav. Co.

The Dalles, Ore.

Sir:

I, in a communication from Col. Wm. J. Pollock, inspector of Indian affairs, I am informed that the Or. Railway and Nav. Co. have expressed a readiness to settle for the horses killed on their line belonging to Charley Scummit a Yakima Indian, on a basis of \$15 each for the horses and \$25 for the mule, or \$70 in all. Upon consultation with the Indians here, I find that though the fact of two of the horses being broken to harness somewhat increases their value, yet on the whole the above amount will be satisfactory and I am prepared to accept it as a full compensation.

Very re, etc

(Fairchild)

Yak ma Feb. 10, 1881

Hon R.E. Trowbridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I regret to report an unfortunate occurrence which illustrates the power of superstition over Indians who have made considerable progress towards civilization. The daughter of one of our Yakima Indians recently died of consumption. Her father was fully persuaded that her death as well as the deaths of several other children he had lost

was occasioned by the incantations of an Indian doctor or medicine man named Geo Buls and determined on revenge.

First however he desired the assent of the head chief, Joe Stwire, and dispatched p 704

a messenger to procure his consent. Whether the messenger failed to understand Stwire's answer, or whether the chief approved the murder does not very clearly appear, but the messenger returned with an answer that Chillums (the father of the dead girl) construed to mean consent and another Indian was employed to commit the deed.

Entrance into the medicine man's house was effected and he was killed with an axe, quite a number of Indians being fully cognizant and entirely approving of the act. As soon as I was informed of the circumstances I caused the arrest of all those most actively engaged and called a council of all Indians to determine what disposition should be made of the murderers. The council met on the 8th inst and after careful ~~cous~~ deliberation decided to try the case after their own p 705 customs and punish those guilty in it according to their own laws.

Several favored the surrender of the criminals to the civil authorities to be tried by the United States laws but the great majority favored the trial by themselves. I respectfully ask if the above disposition of the case was in accordance with the law. Very rec. (Wilbur by Fairchild acting agent.)



Yakima (F<sup>y</sup>rt Simcoe) March 28

Piute Louis

Warm Springs

Dear Sir:

Your father wants me to write you to say that your brother is very sick and they want you to come and see him, immediately. Father Wilbur has returned and wants me to say to you that the president told him that all the Piutes at Warm Springs were to come to Ft. Simcoe and he wants you to come and he will try and get you appointed interpreter, and he has no doubt the appointment will be made.

He ~~said~~ saw Hatches and Winnemucca and some of your people. The Malheur Reservation as you probably know will be sold and the goods now there will be brought to Yakima Reservation.

Yours Truly

J.H. Fairchild, clerk.

Surveyor

Yakima, March 28, 1881

Hon Thomas M. Michal

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash, D.C.

S<sub>r</sub>: I respectfully ask authority to employ an engineer and sawyer to manufacture lumber in our steam mill. During the past winter the Indians have displayed a remarkable activity in cutting and hauling logs to the mill, with the expectation of building quite extensively during the summer. The amount of logs at the mill will necessitate the employment of a sawyer and engineer for several months.

The compensation to be at the rate of \$1,000 per annum each.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient etc.

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.



Yakima, March 28, 1881

Hon Thos. M. Michal

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir: I am submitting the enclosed estimate of funds required at this agency for the 1st and 2d quarters, 1881, I respectfully ask attention to the absolute necessity for an appropriation to build a school house and boarding house at this agency.

The Indians here are beginning to realize the importance of education. During the past winter, with accommodations at the utmost for 60, we have had from 20 90 to 100 while many parents whose children could not possibly be accommodated, have been clamoring for the privilege of sending them. We can keep our boarding school up to the full average of 120 p 757

00th scholars without difficulty and the rapid progress made during the past winter gives most encouraging promise for the future.

By furnishing lumber from the steam mill and using the agency employees as far as possible, I am satisfied buildings of the necessary size can be erected and furnished for \$2,500 and I have therefore only asked for this amount.

It is a misfortune not only to the Indians but to the whites, to turn away an Indian child, asking for an education and I earnestly urge upon the department the necessity and importance of allotting at least the amount asked for, for the purposes named at this agency

Very respectfully

your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.