

Malheur Agency

912

Hogs. Rinehart

Malheur City

Yakima, July 16, 1881

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

Sir:

I have the honor to report that I received from Mr. W.V. Rinehart, farmer in charge at Malheur Agency, forty (40) hogs which I sold at Malheur City for \$150..which sale I respectfully ask may be approved. It was not possible to take them to Yakima agency and the price obtained was all they were worth and fully as much as could have been obtained at auction.

Very etc.

(Wilbur)

Said hogs numbered 26 one and 2 years old, balance young pigs of little value.

Yakima, July 18, 1881

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

Sir:

Referring to Department communication dated May 27 marked A addressed to me at Malheur City and directing me to take charge of the property at said agency, also to give my views respecting several propositions made in said communication I have the honor to reply--July 1st I had the honor of making a partial answer to said communication from Malheur City, but had not at that time given the subject the attention since conferred upon it.

The reasons why it was at that time impracticable to comply wholly with the instructions of said letter of May 27th are more fully set forth in the accompanying letter marked A, report of transfer from Malheur

p 916

The accompanying list of property left at Malheur shows 13.200 lbs flour, six panel doors, 1250 pounds iron and quantity of lumber, fence posts, etc. the transfer of which of course out of the question.

All other property except the hogs which I sold and the buildings is either wholly useless or of but little value. ~~add~~ (189 cattle listed in previous reference) If proper steps are taken I think \$5 per bbl can be obtained at the agency. It would cost at least \$12 to \$16 per bbl to bring it here, and it can be bought at Yakima City for \$5.50 and at Dallas for \$3.50. The iron should also be sold at the Agency. If brought to Yakima it would not be worth the cost of transportation. The lumber can also be disposed of there at fairly good advantage. Other articles that are worn, or partly useless must be sold for what they can be made to bring. I recommend therefore that Mr. Rhinehart be instructed to take immediate steps for the sale of all moveable property remaining at Malheur.

"Referring to the suggestion of Special Agent Smith that proper persons may be inducted p 917 to take charge of, and care for the government buildings at Malheur and Harney, without other compensation than the privilege of cultivating a reasonable amount of land for his own benefit, I have the honor to remark I think it extremely doubtful if any responsible person can be found on such terms.

The season is too far advanced for any crop to be planted this year and certainly no person of sufficient care and good prudence to be entrusted with care of government property will be likely to consent to look after the buildings, residing on the property for the chance of putting in a crop next year.

I certainly do not know of any such person and cannot give any hope that he may be found.

With regard to the persons suggested by Agent Smith I cannot speak positively. Mr. Hedges would undoubtedly be a proper man to have in charge but he is a skillful mechanic and his services will be required at good wages elsewhere. Mr. Johnson who is named as having been suggested by Agent Smith, p 918 is a person of whom I have no personal knowledge. My information however leads me to question his special fitness for any position involving responsibility.

My own impression is that the department will have to give some kind of compensation to the persons having charge of the buildings both at Malheur and Harney, but as agent Smith has suggested the course recommended, he has doubtless ascertained if the parties named will accept the position and I respectfully suggest that he be directed to communicate with Mr. Rhinehart on the subject.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

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

Piutes
Warm Springs
refugees

Yakima, July 22

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

Sir:

✓ Some time during the month of September, 1880, some twenty-six
Piutes, men, women and children, who had been located at this
agency, influenced by false representations and hoping by some
✓ means to find a way of returning to their old haunts; left this agency
without my knowledge or permission, and before I was informed
of the occurrence were at the Warm Springs Agency where they have
since been. As the greaty body of the Piutes, including many
relatives of the fugitives above referred to are permanently located
here, as their goods and supplies are all here, and as this is their
proper place, all of them being included

p 922

in my receipt given the military authorities for Piute prisoners in
1879; I respectfully ask that Agent Smith be instructed to
deliver said fugitive Piutes to me for return to this agency.

Very respectfully

Y_our obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent

New School

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 Yakima 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 ~~one or two~~ three or four Indians at one time employed with their own teams and reapers harvesting Department 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 ~~never longer~~ need fostering care of the government

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent

by JHF

Employees

Fort Simcoe, 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 Takima agency.

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

Wilbur 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 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
bst 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 flo r, 1250 lbs iron,

1100 bushels, 3000 lbs oats, 2000^{feet}/₄ bushels wheat, 26 18 fencing wire
100 lbs wire staples, total ~~29,572 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
articles ^{laid} 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.

Mahleu

Miscellaneous unfiled at
agency

Aug 30, 1881, H. Price, countermanding order to go to Mahleur

Western Union--Washington, 8/30/81 The Dalles 9:30 a. m.

Added To Wilbur, Agent, the Dalles Agn. You need not go to Malheur.

H. Price, Com.

paid. Govt.

Piutes - Warm Springs

Miscellaneous - Agency unfiled

(Aug. 17, 1881. H. Price Commissioner, informing agent that orders have been sent to Agt. Smith at Warm Springs to send back Piutes who left this agency last fall)

13601/BB

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind Agent, Fort Simcoe, Yakima county,
Washington Territory: Sir:

In reply to your request of the 22d ult I have to advise you that under date of Feb. 15th last Agent John Smith was instructed not to furnish the 24 Piute Indians who had come to his agency from Yakima with any supplies and was directed to at once insist upon their return to your agency. On the 16th instant similar instructions were again sent him with the request that he furnish the office with a full report of the case stating the reasons why the Indians have not complied with the instructions of February 15, 81 and upon receipt of his reply you will be advised of the result.

Very respectfully

H Price, commissioner.

(Shoulders)

Pi s

Unfiled-Yakima Agency

C

84347

1882

James H. Wilbur, Esq. U.S. Indian Agent
Yakima Agency, W.T.

Sir: In replying to your letter of 18th ult in which you enclosed a letter from this office to you dated July 1st last a portion of which was omitted, I ~~am~~ now return the letter complete

Yours respectfully

H Price

commissioner

(Staley)

Malheur.

unfiled--Yakima Agency

Western Union Telegraph Company

Washington D.C. Aug 12, 1881

To Wilbur, agent, the Dalles

Return immediately to Malheur with all the teams you can
muster load with flour push things so as to make the trip and
back to Yakima before the rainy season begins.

H. Price

Commissioner

38 pd govt.

Malheur (Piutes)

unfiled-Yakima agency

U.S. Indian Service, Malheur Agency

Malheur City, Or. Feb. 4, 1881

Rev. J.H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent, Yakima Agency, W.T.

Sir:

In compliance with instructions from the office of Indian affairs under date June 11th directing me to place myself in communication with you in relation to the authorized transfer of your agency of the moveable property remaining here, I would respectfully submit herewith for your use a schedule of all public property remaining on hand as per my property return of Dec 31, 1880, except public buildings. Since that date the expenditures have been very light and will not materially reduce the quantities stated except of forage for public animals and subsistence for employes.

I am directed to consult with you in regard to the date at which the transfer shall begin.

p 2 This must depend upon the condition of the roads and probably to some extent upon the route selected. I am not sufficiently acquainted with the route via LaGrande and Umatilla to venture an opinion as to its practicability. Should the route via Canyon City and The Dalles be chosen the chief objections to travel will be the snow in the Blue Mountains this side of Canyon City. Last year the first wagons passed over, lightly loaded, on June 12th, when the roads were yet very bad from melting snow. The snow in the mountains at the present time is thought to be about the same depth as this time last year.

I have three four-horse teams ; but as two of the horses are not suitable for such work only two four horses and one two horse teams can be relied upon. I have with me four white employes.

If you could spare the time I would suggest that you come over and

look at the rolls and inspect the property

p 3

Special Agent A. R. Smith has been absent for two days at Malheur City and I have not consulted him as directed.

With the information herein it is thought you may be enabled to proceed understandingly with plans for the transfer. As the quantity to be transferred rests solely with you; and the transportation must also depend largely upon you, I shall cheerfully ~~defer~~ ^{depend} to your judgment in all matters pertaining to the transfer. You may also rely upon my earnest and hearty cooperation in the execution of any plan you may adopt.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servant

(Own handwriting) W.V. Rinehart

Malheur Agency, Or.

Febr. 4th, 1881

W.V. Rinehart, Farmer in charge.

Transmitting schedule of property subject to transfer

(1) inclosure -- (not observed yet in unfiled papers) 4/23/53.

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Malheur Agency, Malheur City, Or. Feby 10, 1881

Rev. J.H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, Yakima Agency, W.T.

Sir: I send herewith blank vouchers and claim of C.B. Stone, contractor, for transporting Indian supplies ~~000~~ purchased ~~for~~ for this agency and by ~~the~~ Department Telegram of October 5, ordered to be delivered to you at Yakima Agency.

I send also three invoices received by ~~me~~ me and supposed to be for part of these goods. They are for Hardware of Simeon H. Crane, Chicago, \$47.06 and for wagon material of Moris Rosenfield, Moline, Ill, \$8.35

and ~~\$522~~ \$5.22

I omitted to inclose the schedule of medical property on hand with the list sent by last mail. It is sent herewith. These medicines are

p 2 chiefly unbroken packages as they were received from the contractor.

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Servant

W.V. Rinehart,

Farmer in charge

Piutes

Unfiled material-Yakima Agency

Fort Simcoe, Yakima Agency, Washington Territory, Dec 31, 1879

- Articles bought of E.P. Fitzgerald for use of the Piutes from incidental fund viz

2 grind stones 98 lbs at 4 5 -4 cents	\$4.66
1 doz handled axes	16.50
1 doz grain cradles	45.00
2 doz axe handles	7.00
20002 set grind stone fixt.	2.50
2/5 doz shovels	7.00
2 doz brooms	9.00
3 doz rakes	19.50
3 doz forks	31.50
234 1-2 lbs rice	17.60
	\$ \$162.26

Piutes

Unfiled-Yakima Agency

Department of the Interior

A

22136 Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, Dec. 23, 1882

1882 James H. Wilbur;

Late U.S. Indian Agent, Goldendale

Klikitat Co. Washington Territory

Sir:

In reply to your letter of 22 inst in which you state that during the 2nd qr., 1882 you issued 4 5(5) horses to Piute Indians (4) four horses and eight(8) sets of harness to Yakimas, all being worthy and deserving Indians, and ask that your action be approved, you are advised that your request is granted. Said issues having been ~~exp~~ suspended on the books of this office, you will submit with your answer to exceptions, a copy of this letter as your authority in the premises

Very Respectfully

H. Price Commissioner

(C.L.D)

letter book miscellaneous 1881-82

Mr. Snow , Goldendale , Wash. Ter

Sir :

On your recent visit to this agency you rode an Indian horse. Just after you left, several of the Piutes came to me and said the horse belonged to one of their people who is now at the Columbia fishing. They declared that to their positive knowledge the horse had never been sold or otherwise disposed of by the owner. Thinking it possible Mr. Fox might ~~have~~ know something of the horse, I inquired of him and he could find no information.

Of course if the horse belongs to the Indian he should have it, although it may be hard on the white man who, I have no doubt, bought the animal, probably from some thieving Indian. If citizens would more generally observe the law which prohibits p 31 the purchase of horses, cattle etc. from Indians without permission of the agent, it would save frequent annoyance and much trouble.

You are requested not to dispose of the horse till further notice.

Very respectfully yours

J .H. Fairchild

Acting agent.

(Nod ate)