

Secty of State Olympia
Indian Wars Cannister

Executive Office, Olympia, Wash gton Territory, July 2d, 1858

Col E. Steptoe

De r Sir:

Hearing a great many conflicting rumors and reports in regard to your late battle with the Indians on Snake river and about the Indian difficulties East of the Cascades Mountains, I am induced to apply to you for some information as to the real state of affairs. I have no doubt that much that I have heard has been greatly exaggerated but as you may suppose I feel much anxiety owing to the unsettled state of our Indian relations to be well informed as possible of the truth of and the progress of current events among those turbulent savages with whom you are dealing so that when necessary I may be prepared to meet any emergency. By informing me on these matters you will confer a great favor.

Very respectfully

I have the honor to be

F McMullin Gov. W.T.

Secty of State, ~~W000~~ Olympia

Indian Wars Commissioner

Salem Oregon, Oct 2, 1858

T. Simmons, Ind. Agt. Olympia Wash Ter.

I am instructed by the Secretary of the Interior as to the general character and merits of the treaties made with the Indian tribes in Washington and Oregon territories now before the senate, with a ~~old~~ view of reporting upon the necessity of expediency of their ratification, and to institute such a course of enquiries as will elicit the most reliable information as regards the efficiency of the policy that has been pursued for the Indian service in the above named territories. Since their treaties were made in order to ascertain whether or not a change of that policy which ~~caused~~ would necessarily ensue in the event of a ratification of the treaties in question would be advantageous to the true interests of the Indians and the Department.

For the satisfactory discharge of this I have to request that you will furnish me with a statement embodying all the facts and such arguments as you ~~may~~ deem necessary for the elucidation of said inquiry, concerning the tribes under your charge

In furnishing information with regard to these enquiries ~~information~~ ~~with reference~~ I suggest that your statement contain especial reference to the number of Indians, the character of the country ceded by and reserved to them, the extent to which said Indians have increased or diminished since the treaty was made and the policy being pursued by you together with such change of that policy as will necessarily ensure from a ratification of the treaty.

By an early compliance you will much oblige.

Yours Very respectfully

Signed C.H. Mott U.S. Commissioner

To Col W.T. Simmons.

Colville. Revolt. Mines

Secty. of State
Olympia. Indian War Cannister

Fort Douglass, Dec. 20, ~~1859~~ 1859

To His Excellency, the Governor.

I deem it my duty to inform you that a large portion of the Indians of Washn. Territory and others are contemplating a revolt with a view to massacre the inhabitants and troops at Colville, that in my opinion their success will be almost certain. They have applied to and requested me to place myself at their head, but as I prefer peace to war I therefore beg of you to furnish me with four thousand dollars for the purpose of quelling the revolt, and I think by my efforts I shall be able to restore peace and tranquility in the said territory.

Be pleased to send me a reply before the end of Jan'y 1860 as at that time I shall be returning to the mines.

My address at Post Office
Fort Douglass British Colony
I. Voute Or I Vonte (Vouse)

Secretary of State Olympia

Indian War Cannister

Head Quarters Dept of Oregon

Fort Vancouver, W.T. Feb. 1st, 1860

Governor:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of the 2st ultimo with the statement of I. Vouse in reference to the intentions of the Indians in the vicinity of Colville/

Your opinio of the want of truth in th s statement is doubtless correct and no fear need be entertained of the Colville settlements with four efficient companies to protect them. I have, however, sent Vouse's letter to the commanding officer at that point for his information and report.

I am governor with much respect

Yours Obt. Svt.

Wm. S. Harney , commanding

Brig. General

His excellency governor of Washington Territory, Olympia, Puget Sound

R.D. Gholson

Indian War Cannister

Secty. of State.

Olympia (Indian War 55-60

Umatilla Reservation October 3d ~~1860~~ 1860

Sir:

Saturday two men, brothers by the name of Ruith arrived here reporting that the train to which they belonged had been attacked by the "Shoshones" or Bannocks Indians and a part of them killed, and the rest scattered, and driven away from their wagons, they arrived here ~~frigh~~ perfectly exhausted, having had nothing to eat but a little dried horse meat for twenty-one days.

The names of the killed are as follows to wit:

John Myers

Wm. Anttly, soldier discharged, Fort Hall

Lewis Swanson

Justin Crissy

Charles Kisner, soldier discharged at Fort Hall.

Elijah Obhor, wife 3 daughters and son.

When these men left there were left alive,

5

Joseph Myers, wife and children.

A. Mahorman wife and 5 children

Dan L. Chase, wife and 3 children.

6

Sam Gleason.

Samuel Gleason

Christopher Emmeline and Elizabeth Tremble and Charley Henry

Susan Otto children and step children of Elijah Otter.

W. Munson

Charles Jeffy soldier discharged at Fort Hall

Three other discharged soldiers left the train at the same time of my information, on horseback and have not been heard of since.

I started two men with one pack animal loaded with provisions, with instructions to go till they met them with all haste--at the same time I started an ox team loaded with provisions to go and meet them and supply them with provisions until they arrived at this place.

The attack was made between Salmon Falls and Fort Boise. I expect that my provisions will meet them either at Burnt River or Goose Creek.

Respectfully your most obdt. servant.

signed. Byron McDawes

Local Agent Umatilla Reserve.

To Capt A. I. Smith or the Commdg Officer, Fort Walla Walla
Headquarters Department of Oregon Fort Vancouver W.V. Oct. 20, 1860.

Official. Jas. A. Hardee Capt. 3 arty a.a.a.g.

Headquarters Department of Oregon
Fort Dalles, Oregon Oct 4, 1860

Special Orders No. 105 Extract

* * * III A detachment of troops from Fort Walla Walla W.T.I will proceed immediately under Captain Frederick T. Dent 9th Infantry to the scene of the reported massacre of emigrants in the vicinity of Salmon Falls of the Snake River to obtain any survivor that may prove to be in the hands of the Indians, and if reason and opportunity permits to punish the aggressors. The detachment will be composed of Company E 1st Dragoons and a detail from Company I 1st Dragoons

sufficient to make a total of 60 dragoons and one subaltern and 40 enlist d men to be selected for the service by Capt. Dent from Companies B and E 9th Infantry. The Infantry will be mounted on mules. Forty days ration and an ample supply of ammunition will be taken with the comand. The necessary transportation (Pack animals, mules for the infantry, packers, herders, guides, outfit and supplies will be forwarded. by the proper officer of the quartermaster and subs tence departments at Fort Walla Walla T.W.

By Command of Colonel Wright

James A. Hardie

Captain 3 arty.

Headquarters department of Oregon.

Fort Vancouver W.T.

October 20, 1860

His Excellency

Henry M. McGill

Acting Governor of Washington Territory.

Sir: The public mind has been much edited by the news of the recent massacre of an immigrant party on the Snake River and I have thought due to yourself as charged with the executive office of the Territory and as especially interested in all that pertains to the welfare of this section to inform you as to the military dispositions I have made with respect to the rescue of the survivors of the party and to communicate to you what has been recommended to the authorities at the East and what is in contemplation as measures to protect the immigration in future.

You are doubtless aware that the first rumors that reached us here of the massacre were exaggerated/ Parties who have since come into the Umatilla Reservation have reported more favorably as to the number killed. Inclose a copy of a letter to the commanding officer at Fort Walla from Mr. B.M. Dawes, resident at the Umatilla reservation which contains

their statement. The person Mr. Dawes dispatched to meet the survivors failed however to fall in with any. It is hardly to be presumed that they could have made an extended search. Since then five more of the survivors are reported to have reached Walla Walla.

Immediately upon receiving this report being then at the Walla I issued directions for 100 mounted men to proceed at once along the immigrant route to the scene of the massacre for the rescue of the surviving immigrants and for the punishment if practicable of the Indians. I enclose a copy of my orders upon the subject. The reason however is so far advanced and the necessity of rendering assistance to the sufferers to get them in may be such that no sufficient punishment of these Indians is to be expected. In the spring an expedition will be fitted out to carry on the war against these savages actively and vigorously.

I do not apprehend any new suspicion of danger to the settlements or the immigration route from these Indians. They have always been a plundering and marauding collection of bands without however the disposition to attack parties capable of resistance.

The immigration route notwithstanding the alarm naturally created by the late massacre be made safe even with the troops at ~~any~~ my disposal provided some concerted arrangement with regard to the time of parties entering the Snake country and the time of dispatching escorts to conduct them be adopted, and the money is appropriated incident to the increased demands for transportation of supplies and for the new Post at Fort Boise. Of the post much has been said, but as yet ~~no money~~ no money has been voted ~~for the new post~~ by Congress for its establishment. The selection of the site in obedience to an Order from the Secretary of War directing the establishment of a post there was deferred by his approval in order that better knowledge on the subject of the most eligible immigrant route from the South East point of the Territory into the settlements should have been obtained by exploration. Exploring parties ^{were} now sent out but the ~~hostility~~ hostility

of the Snakes as you may be aware caused the junction of the parties for the purpose of a campaign

A dragoon force was on the immigrant road for the protection of the immigration but the officer in command was persuaded by the representative of the main body of the immigrants that no parties were ahead in rear and hence he came in with them. But for this the party attacked might have come safe, experiencing security from his proximity if not from his actual presence for the Snakes fear troops in any number.

I enclose extracts from my report to the head quarters of the Army of the 10th October. I am sir, very respectfully

Your obedient servant

G. Wright, col 9th infantry.

(Three papers accompanying)

--

Extract from Colonel Wrights letter to General Scottt
Dated Oct. 10, 1860

"They (the Snakes, have ever been a source of annoyance from their thieving propensities and their habits of lurking around immigration parties, and ~~their~~ other bands of Indians to steal animals, cutting off small ~~parties~~ parties or individuals straying from their companions. They have rarely attacked Troops... Every new sweep (?) In a scheme of plunder and murder is necessary to that end, of course emboldens them to a certain extent but I do not see that any new source of danger is to arise from these Indians... All that can be done now is to chastise them as well as we may.. Well organized parties of immigrants who will keep together march, camp and guard their animals or military expedition must necessarily do and reach this country in safety, but this we cannot expect. If they start in large bodies they soon break into fragments and hence as they approach their country and they easily fall a prey to any bands of Indians. From the nature

of the country through which the immigrant have to pass it will be some years before they can do so without military escort. Stationary posts alone will not accomplish this end. A post has been recommended and ordered by the Secretary of War to be placed somewhere in the Boise region. It will be serviceable for various reasons, but will not dispense with the necessity of moving column. Troops must travel with the immigration from the time of their leaving Salt Lake country until they reach the settlements. If it was announced that military escorts would leave Utah about the 15th of July and 15th of August annually to meet escorts from Walla Walla or the new post when established about the 15th of August and 15th of September it is believed that all who desired it could easily avail themselves of such opportunities of travel in safety and thus the yearly immigration be perfectly protected.

I suggest as the country in the Boise region is almost entirely without resources that \$150,000 at least be included in the estimates of the quartermaster Department for building a post of five companies there. The transportation of rations, supplies etc. must likewise be increased should a post be established. Estimates in form will be submitted in due course.

Edts. Dept Oregon Ft Vancouver Oct 20, 1860 a true extract.

James A. Hardie

Capt. 3 arty.

act post adjt. genl.

Secretary of state, Olympia
Indian War Cannister

Western Union Telegraph company

Vancouver Arsenal July 1, 1870

7/1 1870 1115 a m

To Governor E.P. Ferry, Olympia

Have issued arms and ammunition to Yakima, Klitkitat and Stevens
counties. Six hundred rifles thirty thousand eartridges. Will you
sign receipts for entire number due, to complete paper. I will issue
balance as called for. Chief or ordnance reqd inquiring about it.

Kress. Capt. or ord.

.Secretary of State .
Miscls. Territorial Papers

Waitsburgh W.T.

April 20, 1874

Secretary of Washington Territory, Dear Sir:

Herewith enclosed find articles of incorporation of Waitsburgh Cemetery Association which please file. If there is any fees for same please let me know and oblige.

Yours Respectfully

Wm. N. Smith

Wm. N. Smith April 20, 1874

Secretary of State Olympia
Indian War 1855-60 (Cannister)

Western Union Telegraph company

Portland, Oregon 18 June 1878

Received at Olympia W.T. June 18, 1878 450 pm

To Governor Ferry, Olympia:

The following just received from Colman inspector general dated Boise City today and sent General Wheaton at Walla Walla, commanding all forces in up country.

"Owyhee River crossing seventeenth. Major Mason Boise City.

Winnemucca, Piute chief has just returned to my camp with a small party of his men. The interpreter Jerry being among them from Winnemucca and Jerry says that hostiles have left Stein's mountain and are moving into Harney Lake Valley toward the Malheur agency intending to pass on north and including toward Snake River continuing until they make a junction with the Columbia River Indians ~~900~~ first going to the Umatilla and then to the Northern Columbia Indians. They expect to form a junction with the latter and make a clean sweep of everything returning this way. This band of hostiles are composed of Bannocks, Eagle Eyes band of Weisers and Oits band of Piutes in command of all. They have Eagan and his band of Piutes prisoners and say they will keep them till they can by killing white men get arms to arm them with. Eagan has told Winnemucca that he will escape on first opportunity. An Indian who escaped latter and came in says the hostiles have taken horses and everything from Eagan and party and are holding them close prisoners. He says they believe they are going direct to Harney and take the place Whipple with his two companies has just joined me. I will move after the hostiles as fast as possible. Jerry also says the hostiles have killed hundreds of cattle and horses in the vicinity of Steins mountain leaving them where killed. I have sent a courier after General Howard with the report. Sgd. Barnard. J.A. Sladen 292 paid govt. rate and de camp.

Secty. of State, Olympia

Indian War 1855-60 canis ter

Territory of Washington, Executive Dept. Olympia June 19th, 1878

To the President, Wash. D.C.

We have been advised by telegram from military headquarters at Portland that Bannacks and other hostile tribes are advancing to attack Camp Harney and after being joined by Indians at Umatilla Reservation intend to move north of Umatilla reservation unite with Indians and then cross over to unite with Indians in Eastern Washington.

The ~~settlers~~ latter ones being inclined toward peace but no one can foresee what effect upon them by their meeting and the presence of several hundred hostile (xxed out on the war parth)

If report of northern movement is confirmed it tha at least five hundred mounted volunteers be immediately calld out to be stationed--first instance at Wallula near junction of Snake Yakima and Columbia Rivers

There is communication by steamboat from this point to Lewiston, Idaho and by ~~seamboat~~ carrier and steamboat to Portland and by railroad to Walla Walla. If called upon I can raise and arm these volunteers in a very few days but every thing aside from arms will have to be furnished by the government.

E.P. Ferry governor.

Secy. of State, Olympia
Indian Wars Commister 185 5-60
No 12

Spokane Falls W.T. July 25, 1878

Governor E.P. Ferry, Walla Walla, W.T.

Sir:

I came here at the request of some of the leading Indians to explain to them in persons words from General Howard who had directed me to convey the information to them in order to relieve their minds of great anxiety. The accidental killing of three friendly Indians on the Columbia by the gunboat was greatly exaggerated amongst ~~th~~ all of Moses friends (one of the women being his relation) It was reported by the refugees (Columbia Indians) who sought Moses camp frightened to death, that Gen. Howard himself was on the gun boat and was intending to kill all the Indians along the ~~COOD~~ Columbia. Fortunately last evening I met a ~~xx~~ relative of Moses (one of the little Spokane Chiefs) who will carry to him (M) correct information about these matters and the designs of Genl. Howard. Although he did not tell me so directly, but I am inclined to think ~~that~~ Spokane Gary will meet at Tobacco Plains or beyond, more American Indians who have sought refuge in British Columbia, than Kootenay's from the same region.

The condition of Indian affairs in Eastern Washington is somewhat anomolous. The only treaty p2 ~~xx~~ stipulations entered into are under the Yakima treaty. The only lands to wh ch the Indian title has been extinguished are under that treaty. In 1855 when treaties were made w th the Indians placed upon the Nez Perce, Umatilla and Yakima Reservations Gov. Stevens promised the remaining portion of ^{the} Indians not treated with in this part of the territory, they should have a treaty with similar provisions to those in the ~~treaty~~ treaties alluded to. The war of 1855-6 prevented the making of any new treaties or the confirmation of the Senate of those made; wh ch were not finally confirmed until the spring of 1859.

In the meantime-in-1858- the land laws were extended over Eastern Oregon and Washington. With the exception of the lands ceded by the Yakima treaty we find the remaining portion of eastern Washington encumbered with whatever original rights the Indians had to occupancy, the land laws of the United States and the reservations for the N.P.R.R. Co. From time to time the Indians had been promised by representatives of the government that there would be a speedy and satisfactory adjustment of affairs which adjustment has not been made. Many with many of the older chiefs fully understood this history of matters and still hopes to have something done for them whilst the younger Indians simply have a vague idea p 3 that they have been greatly wronged by the government and regard the coming immigration as an encroachment upon them. From their standpoint of reasoning they regard war as their only remedy and as I said in my last communication, but for the wisely planned and rigorous campaign of Genl Howard but few could have been restrained as soon as they were through with their fishing and camas digging. Near all of the better disposed Indians want to take up land in severalty, abandon tribal relations and adopt the customs of the whites; the others (and the majority now) have become imbued with very extravagant ideas of their rights through the counsels of ambitious chiefs. To concede the demands that are being made in order to satisfy them is a surrender of a large proportion of this upper country which with the rapid influx of population would within a short time bring on an inexpressible conflict between the two races, resulting in the extermination of the Indian and the compromise of the dignity of the government. With a view to peace Moses has a very ambitious plan which involves large military and other resources of the government to back him as head chief over all the Indians of this part of the country excepting those who have and will determine to take up land in severalty upon one reservation. If Moses possessed sufficient influence

p 4

with the Indians to carry out his program with his limited aid from the government, the plan would be a feasible one, but he admits himself he cannot exercise exclusive control over his immediate followers and his plan would only involve hostilities for the benefit of him and his immediate followers. Kenasket has a somewhat similar ambitions plan and equally as impracticable. Gary proposes an Indian country including everything north of the Spokane including where all the Indians of this region and the Nez Perce and Umatilla reservations excepting those who would prefer to remain on their present locations taking up land in severalty--should be placed, taking up land in severalty but retaining an Indian jurisdiction subject to ~~Max~~ U.S. Laws. Gov. Stevens rather advanced or conceded this idea at an early date, practicable then but not so now. The Catholic Indians north of this desire to be to themselves under the best possible arrangements they can secure without any regard to the interests or views of the remaining Indians. I have not learned Kamiakan's views yet, but of one thing I am sure, he would not consent to play a secondary part in any of these arrangements. And last, but not least, in consummating final adjustments comes Smohalla, the dreamer or prophet, in times gone by known by the name of Watskel

p 5 or Big Talk on the Four Mountains. He is not a war chief, nor in fact recognized as a chief, but is a kind of high priest trance medium and big medicine man. In former years he wielded great influence which he almost entirely lost, until within a very few years past when he commenced regaining it as the Indians became dissatisfied with the management of the reservations under the different church organizations of which he always had a great jealousy and has labored to secure followers in opposition to them and not with any direct views to making war. He has followers upon all of the reservations in this region of the country and his voice for good or evil is more potent than that of any of the chiefs of the present time.

It will be almost impossible to bring him or any of his followers under what may seem to them any church organization.

To have arrested Smohaller as many recommended would but only increased his influence, for his immediate friends would have claimed he was a martyr to his views and that the Boston religionists were ~~0000~~ trying to get rid of him, fearing his influence. Of my own knowledge I know that ~~and~~ there has been much laid at his door of which he is innocent, pernicious as his practices are. I am of the opinion that of later years, his zeal, in his ways, is not from entire conviction but from a desire to wield influence and rival the church organizations amongst the Indians. Many of the hostiles of last year were followers of his, although he was not ~~responsible~~ responsible for their going to war, which was not premeditated. I am of the opinion that Mary's plan will embrace all of Smohalla's followers, possibly himself, which would secure a safe refuge and homes for all who have been in hostile way heretofore.

The only way to harmonize the conflicting views and incidents amongst them, in my opinion, will be for Congress to enact a special homestead law for the benefit of the Indians in Eastern Washington, instead of attempting to enter into treaty stipulations with them. Some coercion would be necessary to enforce this policy, but less than under any other. This homestead act should provide that the lands would not be alienated for a term of years, the Indian ~~0000~~ ^{title} altogether extinguished to the country and provisions made to assist them in an educational way and in agricultural pursuits which would only involve the expense of a few teachers and superintendents of farming, doing away with the agency system altogether. By this plan the best interests of the Indian, the government and our own people could be observed with a great saving to the government of a large ~~00~~ amount of lands for settlements

besides large expenditures of money. ~~his plan can be made successful~~ and undd would lead the way for the abandonment of reservations now established, instead of a consolidation of Agencies f r a peopddmoo perpetuation of the system. The proposed plan of the Indian Bureau for the consolidation of the Agencies means war from its first attempted inauguration.

With Spokane Gary I am sanguine of being able to induce him to take a reasonable and practicable view of the situation, however it will not be prdd prudent for me to be premature in this effort. Having no authority myself to inform them that any of their propositions would be rejected or received with favor, I have a better opportunity of expressing my own views to them.

I done Smohalla a great favor in years gone by which he has never forgotten. I am arranging to get a two or three days interview with him away from his followers, andwhile I have no hopes of inducing him to quit dreaming, at present; but I feel confident I can induce him to dream the right kind of dreams by which all of the believers in his dreams would be properly influenced and his rinfluence retained and exerted in thepresent excigencies in behalf of peace and a satisfactory solution of all pending difficulties. I desire to make use of Smohalla's influence to counteract the unreasonable demands of the ambitious chiefs.

I feel safe in assuring you that theIndians I have particularly referred to will remain quite this year, but unless the situation is relieved by Congressional legislation next winter and other precautionary steps taken, Eastern Washington will be the soond seat of war next year.

I ha e thehonor to be very respectfully your obt svt.

A. J. Cain

Any communication will reach me at or from this Post Office. (filed Aug 20 1878) 1878