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p. 20-Legislative (ore.) resistance to U.S. Treaty.

p. 22-Resistance to treaty, reflected by ~~xxxx~~ territorial legislature.

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p. 63-73-Annual estimate of funds required for the tribes of Oregon.

pps. 96-7-Instructions to Olney regarding coast assignment.

89p p.103-Grand Ronde supply contracts.

pps.110-13--Problems caused by attacks on the Cascades

pp. 115-24--Uneasiness on Grand Ronde reservation.

pp. 128-31-Claims of Oregon for depredations, 86 Supt. to Comr.

pp 167-75-Port Orford, to extend reserve all Indians of So. Oregon.

p. 18084-Transport of Coast-Indians by steamer.

p. 194-95- Letter announces close of war in So. Oregon and Northern Calif.

p. 225-226-Prep. to move Klamaths from Grand Ronde reserve to own country.

p. 227- 82-Grand Ronde, Siletz, Rogue affairs.

pp. 335-342 Letters Nesmith

p 355- Est for Wash Territory expenses to Sept 30, 1857.

p. 363-66- Restoration and maintenance of peace estimates \$15,000.

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Oregon Superintendency, Indian Affairs

1848-73

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Office Superintendent of Ind. Affairs

Dayton, O.T. March 25, 1856

Sir:

In accordance with my advices of the 8th inst. I proceeded to the Dalles of the Columbia anticipating a journey into the Cayuse country with a view of confederating the friendly positions of those Indians with the Wasco and Des Chutes bands and removing them to the Warm Springs Reservation, But prior to my departure for the Dalles Agent Thompson had visited the superintendency upon business connected with his district leaving me in charge Agent Olney who dispatched a messenger to the friendly Indians in the Walla Walla valley advising them to leave their country and temporarily join the Nez Perces upon which advise seconded by the fear of additional ill treatment towards them they removed their camp into the Nez Perces country; I therefore went no further than the Dalles.

By an arrangement ~~xxxxxxxx~~ previously made Agent Thompson on his return to the Dalles notified the chiefs of the several bands included in the Wasco ~~Sanitary~~ Treaty of his desire to examine the reservation designated and accordingly accompanied by Agent Olney and all the principal chiefs and head men they proceeded to the Warm Springs reservation and after a thorough examination the Indians were satisfied that the location designated by the Treaty was the best that could be selected and they all agreed to accept of that tract as a permanent reservation. This step was taken in furtherance of the last proviso of Article 1st Treaty of 25th of June, 1855.

The Des Chutes band desired to remove immediately to their new home but those of the Wasco bands residing near the Dalles and who had farms, owing to the lateness of the season and the consequent delay in preparing fields and preparations for planting desired to remain until (sic)

p. 83

....Measures have been for some time preparing to remove those bands and such as still remain friendly will be collected and placed at the military reservation at Port Orford until the requisite arrangements can be perfected for their removal to the coast reservation. I have in contemplation the [blank entire word omitted] of Agent Nathan Olney to the service and as I propose reparing to the Dalles of the Columbia with the view of perfecting arrangements in Mr. Thompson's district for the removal and... of the Indians in that vicinity to their reservation

p. 83

I shall visit Mr. Olney in person and satisfy myself to certain rumors indicating improper conduct on his part to which I referred in my letter of 11th Feby. The substance of which rumors and allegations are that he had cooperated with certain menials and servants of the Hudson's Bay Company and others in middle Oregon in inducing a state of war and improperly ordered all the whites in ~~xxxxxxx~~ that country to abandon their possessions, previous to their being any demonstration of hostility on the part of the Indians there.

That a written order to that effect had been given ^{to the} ~~the~~ ~~xxxxxx~~ person on charge of the Hudson Bay Co. post at Wallawalla, indicating a concert of actions had been had or a preconceived plan arranged with a view appearing of fastening upon the government any damages for property that was hastily abandoned which ~~so~~ if real danger had been apparent would not have been ...

That in his ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ apparent mention of controlling and directing the affairs in Oregon and Walla Walla county acting as Indian agent on the occasion of his visit in company with the Volunteers

and acting as aid to Col. Kelly he had given improper counsel and advice and contributed in a great degree to the death of Peo Peo Mux Mux and his party who had come in under a flag of truce. That after the fight he had in conjunction with disreputable persons seized and drove from that country large bands of horses belonging to the friendly as well as the hostile Indians, driving them to the Dalles and applying them to his private use.

That he retained in his service and had men around him of disreputable character, calculated to bring the Indian department into reproach That much of the ill feeling and bad treatment shown by the Volunteers toward the friendly Indians was induced by his participating in the acts They allege that if an Indian agent be permitted to come into the country and drive off large bands of horses and apply them to his own use they ought to be allowed the privilege of taking as many as were required whilst in the service. In the event of finding these reports well founded I shall suspend Agent Olney from the service, however efficient he may be in the other respects and in that case we will be compelled to rely upon a special agent to take charge of and remove the coast tribes.

...p. 84

yours etc.

(unsigned)

To Hon. George W. Manypenny
Commissioner Ind. Affairs
Washington City, D.C.

they could put in their crops of grain and vegetables and at the same time avail themselves of the fishing season to prepare food for the coming winter. This plan has been finally adopted and preparations are making to construct a saw mill. Smith shop etc. upon the reservation and putting in large crops of fall wheat; barrels and salt are to be furnished the Indians to prepare a sufficient stock of salmon. They continued commission of acts of robbing and theft by hostile Indians or what is equally probably by organized bands of lawless whites who infest that p 92 country render it unsafe to commence preparations for the removal of the Indians unless protected by military escort . Accordingly I called upon Col. Wright, commandant at the Dalles, who has assured me that one full company will be in readiness to escort them and will remain upon the reservation to enable us to carry out the contemplated movement.

No advise has yet been received as to the disposition of the President and Senate in regard to the Treaty with these tribes, but in consideration of the facts that they must be subsisted by the government where they now are it was better in my opinion to remove them to a point more remote from the settlements where they themselves contribute to their subsistence by hunting and procuring the usual variety of roots and berries at the same time preparing a permanent home. Should the tract be confirmed as a Reservation. The suggestion in a former letter in relation to placing these Indians upon the Coast Reservation I now regard as likely to meet with strong opposition of our citizens and objected to by the Indians themselves and whilst it may be looked upon as ~~an~~ ultimately possible and desirable, it may not be prudent to urge the adoption at this time.

No further important advices had been received from the Port Orford district, since my last communication but such only as are confirm tory of previous advices.

There is no longer any doubt as to the murder of special Agent "right and some twenty others by the hostile ^Rogue Rivers. Agent Nathan Olney is now here to receive his instructions; he will leave tomorrow and take passage on the steamer going down and during my absence to the Dalles I made such partial examination as could be into the allegations against him , but found nothing of a positive, tangible or reliable character . His own reports called for by me have just been received and will be laid before you the next mail. The business at the ^Grand ^Ronde is progressing to my satisfaction, all ~~things~~ there is peace and quiet...

I am etc.

[unsigned]

To Geo. W. Manypenny,
Commissioner Ind. Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

microcopy 2, Roll 6, Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs 1848-73

p. 107

Office Superintendent Indian Affairs,

Dayton, O.T. April 11, 1856

Sir: I sent up yesterday five teams with Indians and their effects. They are the Mollalas and a part of the Wallalah Band, sometimes called the Wascoes. I would suggest that they be allowed to go into the building originally built for the Umpquas, or upon that side of the river. The enumeration of the band and those here awaiting transportation stand: Men 132, women 180, boys 68, girls 60, total 440, all of whom have been paid their goods.

The teams transporting the bands sent up yesterday and as many others as ~~xx~~ can be spared from the reservation will be required to transport those remaining here, as they have a large amount of ~~luxurious~~ baggage; I desire you will send them back immediately. Several of these teams have not been branded, it will be well to have that attended to. I had anticipated sending a few of those last purchased to the Dalles but the outbreak at the Cascades and consequent stoppage of the communication unless by water, and the countermanding the order for a company of United States troops, to accompany the Indians and employes to the Warm Springs reservation will prevent any movement in that quarter for a time. And as the property purchased for that object may be used advantageously by you I have thought it best to turn over all oxen and wagons and when we may require them for ~~xx~~ other service I will receipt back to you. I had expected to start up to day but as we have not funds to meet the current expenses and can only dispose of drafts after the arrival of the mail steamer. I shall go to Portland and try to obtain coin for the drafts on hand.

I am etc. (p.109 unsigned)

To R.B. Metcalf, esq.

Sub agent, Grande Ronde

p. 122

Office Superintendent Indian Affairs
Dayton, O.T. April 21, 1856

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 13 inst. has this morning been received. The appointment of D. Humason and D. Hammond as local ~~agents~~ Indian agents in your district is approved.

The suggestions in reference to postponing the removal of Indians to the Warm Springs reservation, until after the fishing season I think a good one, and with the aid of your two local agents and perhaps a sufficient number of troops for guard duty, you might form two encampments at the fisheries, one for Wascoes and one for Des Chutes Indians.

I have already secured a portion of the barrels and contemplate filling them with flour and forwarding. The sudden ~~ix~~ rise in that article induced me to await the return mail steamer in hopes of a decline in prices but shall on going below, send authority, or forty barrels; and will also forward salt.

The season is far advanced and the probability that nothing can be done with teams for some months, it will perhaps be well to await the melting snow on the mountains and send oxen and wagons across the emigrant route. In the meantime should the volunteers be disbanded and the teams now held by them offered for sale, it might be economy to purchase at the Dalles if they could be had, on reasonable terms.

The opposition of political hucksters to the coast reservations seems not to abate and the desperate extremes to which they resort may ultimately defeat the policy of government. ^{the} The citizens as well as the Indians are kept in a constant excitement and alarm; nothing I fear but the sentint of out three or four regiments of regular troops can save the country from a war with all the tribes. We may by energy and untiring assiduity prolong the time but it must in the end come. The few troops scattered over the great extent of country 100 is powerless

to do good. They are barely sufficient to defend themselves, let alone the defense of the settlers and to think of punishing our enemies with such a force is preposterous. I regard the volunteer organization so far as its influence in subduing the foe; an entire failure. We are now one hundred per cent worse off than when the war commenced, so far as prospects for peace are concerned; besides an influence and impression among the Indians adverse to the successful carrying out of any system of policy designed for ^{bettering} ~~improving~~ their condition, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and impressions which years of untiring energy and devotion of agents cannot surmount. I have not been advised as to what action will be taken by the President or Department at Washington upon the memorial and petitions ~~of~~ of our one horse legislative assembly last winter asking my removal etc.

p. 123 You will notice by the article in the Statesman of 15th inst. that the hue and cry is likely to be kept up and as may be naturally supposed, causes considerable obstacles in the way of maintaining order among the Indians. Fire brands are thrown among them in the way of messengers counselling a course of conduct adverse to any order or directive we may give and when those professing friendly persons advise them they often put more reliance in their statements than in those of agents, as it appears more in accordance with their superstitious notions and whims. I am as yet unable to trace these yarns to their proper source but hope some day to fasten them upon the right leg.

I shall probably leave for Portland tomorrow and forward a few tools, flour etc.

I am etc. (Unsigned)

To R.R. Thompson, esq. Ind. Agent, Dalles, O.T.

Microcopy 2, Roll 6, Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs. 1848-73

p. 219

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs,
Oregon City, Sept. 14, 1856

Sir:

I desire to be informed of the condition of the Indians under your charge, , the number, if any, that you are feeding, where they are located, their health, whether they have or need a physician, your opinion as to the policy of locating the friendly Indians on the reservation with any other information you may think best to communicate & Ascertain whether in the event of the Indians being located on the Reservation the officer in command at Fort Dalles is authorized and willing to furnish a small force to be stationed on the reserve.

Very Respectfully

A. Hedges

supt. Ind. Affairs

R.R. Thompson,
Indian Agent,
Dalles, O.T.

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs,

Dayton, O.T. June 28, 1856

Sir:

I have the honor herewith to transmit a letter written on the 10th of April inclosing 2 letters from Agent Olney also an extract of my letter to him under date of 24th instant written at Portland, My letter of the 10th was withheld in hopes of obtaining information disabusing my mind in regard to his acts and justifying his continuance in the service of the Indian Department and as the services of an efficient officer was greatly required at Port Orford and having no agent or sub agent that could be properly assigned to that duty I instructed him to repair to that point not doubting but that even if his course had been objectionable in the Wallawalla country he would feel desirous of reinstating himself in the confidence of the ~~community~~ community and those who had sought to place him in the public service and stimulate him to an energetic performance of duty, but his conduct in that district has been such as to destroy all hope of an efficient and proper attention to the duties of his office. It has been so characterized by a degree of recklessness and disregard for law and order and even for the common decencies of civilized society as to wholly disqualify him for the position of an agent with a due degree of allowance for exaggeration. The information is such as to warrant me ~~and~~ in charging him with dissipation, gambling and debauching among the native women. With a disposition to pander to the prejudices and passions of an excited community, leading to lawless acts, not only acquiring but actually encouraging and participating in violations of law and I need instance but a single case. Prior to my arrival at Port Orford and at the invitation of Mayor Reynolds a part of the Coquille Indians has come into Port Orford and were located among the friendly bands upon the military reservation at that point with those Indians came two men who were charged by the citizens as having two years

previously been engaged with others in killing white men on the Coquille river. The citizens demanded their arrest and one was secured and put in the guard house by direction of Lieut Macfeely in command of the military post. The other one made his escape a few days subsequently Mr. Olney called upon Lieut Macfeely and requested that the Indian might be turned over to him for the purpose of having a judicial investigation of his guilt or innocence. He was accordingly turned over. Mr. Olney, thereupon gave him into the hands of a mob and aided in a mock trial by whom the Indian was condemned and executed. It is said that he acknowledged participating in the alleged murder and upon that confession they passed sentence. The trial was by a self constituted hetergening [?] mass of citizens and miners and others, the Indian may have been guilty of the offense, he was in safe keeping and might have p. 2 165

been retained until the sitting of the court in the guard house. Mr. Olney was at the trial, gave encouragement and council and even urged the matter forward. It will be seen by my letter to him I have suggested that he should resign, but his conduct in Middle Oregon and at Port Orford merits dismissal from the service. In connection with this ~~subject~~ subject I have to say that it is exceedingly difficult securing the services of suitable persons to discharge the duties of agent or sub agent at the rates of salary now allowed by law. There are numerous applicants but few however can be found of sufficient capacity and clear of other objections, willing to undertake each service. I hope to be able to suggest some one for appointment by the sailing of the next steamer.

I am etc (unsigned)

Hon Geo W. Manypenny,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington City, D.C.