

"What can be the meaning of this? Is it not plain that they are a source~~xx~~ of riches to him? He starves them and sells their supplies..."

She did not mention the refusal of ~~many of them~~ some of them to work and make their own future secure, as the Yakimas were striving to do.

Sarah, banished from the reservation, barnstormed about the country for a time, disseminating her opinions of the Wilbur administration and the wrongs suffered by her people and few contradicted her. She grew poor and she grew old until she died near Monida, Montana, her Indian name of Tocmetone and her two marriages to Army men, ~~xxx~~ Bartlett and Hopkins, forgotten.

Wilbur wrote his resignation as agent on August 15, 1882 and went to Goldendale and eventually to Walla Walla, spending considerable time answering government correspondence because even he was compelled to make long and exacting accountings.

He died, October 8, 1887, when he was 76 and Mrs. Wilbur died about the same time. She too had been a tireless, companionate worker.

General R.H. Milroy, former superintendent of Indian Affairs in Washington Territory succeeded as agent.

He promptly sold most of the Indian Department cattle, built up through increase and purchase which of course derived no benefit whatsoever and

was considered ill advised.

In addition to the loss of the cattle much of the confidence of the Indians was lost before Milroy was discharged by Presidential order and after he had advocated that the reservation be closed, the Indians given allotments and the thousands of remaining acres be sold to settlers.

Timothy A. Byrnes became superintendent, September 21, 1885 followed by Charles H. Dickson, April 17, 1886 and Thomas Priestley of Wisconsin, who was appointed December 6, 1886. ~~IN HIS REPORT THE FOLLOWING EXAMPLES WERE~~  
~~SHOWN:~~ Cattle and horses roamed about the reserve which was held in common for the tribe despite the persistence of settlers. Although herders attempted to control the livestock problems there was much trouble from trespassers who attempted to range ~~out~~ on the reserve.

The Northern Pacific Railroad, completed through the reservation to Yakima City in 1884-85, brought a new era and the stations of Toppenish and Simcoe, ~~Simcoe~~ but the latter was changed to "apato ~~when freight~~ to ~~shipments~~ clear up confusion for freight shippers. And Agent Milroy's report disclosed great improvement in the Indian police system. Eneas retired as captain of police in 1879 and was succeeded by Thomas Simpson. Sergeant John Lumley was appointed captain in the early period when salaries were \$8 for the captains and \$5 for the other men.



Other early-day officers were Moscoe Miller, ~~How~~ Yow How An, Klickitat Peter, Luxillo, Oscar Mark, Charlo, Jim Wesley, Benson, Dave Wallamet, Thomas Cree, Hoptowit, Shusta Sattas, Sattas Aleck and George Colwash. Lumley was commended for returning "two-hundred fugitive Piutes."

It was during the same period that Dr. G.B. Kuykendall, father of Judge Elgin V. Kuykendall of Pomeroy was agency physician and on occasion ~~acted~~ acted as agent.

The Indian courts were successful in dealing justice. The old form of government used by the chiefs was changed and each policeman had a district in which he performed the duties of constable for the justice of the peace.

The reservation court of three judges operated very much for the purpose of taking appeals for the Justice Court.

The reservation was divided into three districts and a commissioner was appointed for each to form a board. These held jurisdiction over their particular area, very much like a county commissioner.

The agency's twenty-nine regular employees and twenty-one irregular workers can be compared with the hundred or more on the staff at the centennial year.

The 1880 census was 3,400, and one hundred years after the Treaty it

was slightly in excess of ~~4x0~~ four thousand and was increasing.

In 1880 there were 1,727 residents and they were largely engaged in agriculture. When seasons were favorable they raised agricultural products for their food; when seasons were bad they fished for salmon which for a few years had been curtailed by whites occupying most of the best fishing stations. The Yakimas were deprived of clearly defined rights of taking fish at usual and accustomed places.

The majority were practically ~~xi~~ civilized and were rapidly adopting manners and customs of their neighbors, and their herds were increasing.

On May 13, 1890, Webster Stabler became agent and pointed out that the people were unanimously opposed to apportionment of their lands. These

The district commissioner that year was chosen by ballot and five justices of the peace were elected, Stick Joe, the agency interpreter being named chief justice.

In 1891 when Jay Lynch became superintendent the school enrollment was 125. In addition to the superintendent of schools, Stokley C. Roberts, there were three teachers. The agency staff remained much as it had been excepting for the addition of a fieldmatron, Mrs. Emilie C. Miller, who visited the homes. But the Indian women were shy at first and hid from her. After she gained their confidence she aided them in everything from



treating a toothache to providing material for a dress and it was not uncommon for her to preside at a funeral. The women were good cooks and kept their clothing clean. The mothers and fathers were extremely fond of their children and were very kind to them.

Even now the Yakimas follow their ancient custom of going to the mountains in the spring for edible roots, in the summer for berries, to the Columbia River for salmon, to the hop fields in September and sometimes to the mountains for hunting in the fall. On such journeys into the mountains the old people impart the culture of the old days and wisdom of the old ways to wide-eyed boys and girls.

In the insecure security since the Treaty there were a succession of twenty-three sub-agents, special agents and superintendents. Many were devoted to developing irrigation which in turn helped to reveal the potential of rye grass, sagebrush and timber ~~land~~ land on which Governor Stevens and Superintendent Palmer placed such small value, but which was the ~~Native~~ Earth to whom the red men looked for worldly and spiritual wellbeing.

Jay Lynch ~~was~~ who succeeded Stabler in 1891 was replaced in 1893 by L.T. Erwin and he remained until 1897 when Lynch returned for eleven years. Then a succession followed: S.M.A. Young, 1909-1912; Don

M. Carr, 1912/-1914; Evan W. Estep, 1925-1930; H.W. Camp, 1930; C.W.

1936:

Whitlock, 1930-1935; M.A. Johnson, 1936-1943; L.D. Shotwell, 1943-1950;

xx Perry Skarra, 1950-1954 and D.E. LeCrone who succeeded Skarra when he was appointed assistant area director.

Legislation in 1922 ~~rm~~ provided for the removal of the agency headquarters from old Fort Simcoe to Toppenish. The boarding school, which had contributed to the education of the boys and girls was closed and weathered away with the years. The students grew up to build a new life on the reservation or outside it, their children were absorbed into the public schools. Hangman's tree in the grove of great oaks showed signs of age ~~and old and old~~ but the attempts of the years to cover over the notched limb where a scaffold arm once hung and from which wrongly accused people were executed, never completely ~~hid~~ hid the ~~xx~~ scars.

Kamiakin was the first to introduce irrigation to his people ~~xx~~, learning about it from the Oblate Fathers who founded St. Joseph's Mission at the Antanum in 1847-48 and from the earlier introduction of irrigation ~~and old and old~~ in the Walla Walla Valley. Kamiakin, it will be recalled, insisted on leaving the Treaty Council so he could return to his gardens. Many others planted small patches or fields on the tiny streams that wound down the mountains through the semi-arid lands. Families in the Medicine



Valley, White Swan and Toppenish Creek areas are still using some of the ditches their grandfathers dug. But the waterflow was scanty and frequently dried up during the summer and the food fish runs died.

With the war came the soldiers. In the spring of 1857, less than a year after the troops started building Fort Simcoe, the 9th Infantry cultivated gardens and built a dam to provide irrigation water and a pond where ice could be cut for summer use.

The high hopes for the vegetables the soldiers craved were blasted by millions of crickets, but the following year ~~they had~~ the troops had an abundance and melons were a delicacy picked for special occasions.

When the troops were constructing the dam they washed out several small nuggets of gold--just a few--but the discovery stirred their imagination to such an extent that many bolted and went to the Colville and Fraser River diggings. Besides they were becoming bored at working month after month, cutting timbers, making bricks and building the fort and drawing ~~xxxxxxpaydenddd~~ Army pay while crews of twenty to thirty civilians working alongside them drew large salaries.

But now, irrigation is well established and new projects are proposed.

A survey was completed in 1954 for the Proposed White Swan Irrigation Project that would provide irrigation for ~~14,000~~ 14,100

acres in the upper end of the Wapato Valley. It would cost an estimated \$5,500,000 which would be repaid by the water users.

Another plan, talked about for years, would divert water from the Klickitat River to the Yakima Valley, through a tunnel, bringing thirty thousand more acres under cultivation.

Surveys are also being made in the Centennial Year on Satus Creek to locate a site for a flood control and irrigation dam which would impound sufficient water to irrigate ten thousand acres as well as the deeded lands to the east of the reservation with water surplus to the needs of the Yakimas. The flood control dam would eliminate future floods in the ~~xxx~~ area and make it possible to reclaim any abandoned farms along the creek.

The Wapato Project, which matured into three units, the Wapato-Satus, Antanum and Toppenish-Simcoe, was commenced in 1897 and by 1906 Congress was making appropriations which finally totalled two million dollars.

The diversion dam was in the Yakima River just south of Union Gap.

In 1954 there were 123,748 acres farmed within the Wapato-Satus ~~Project~~ units, 4,760 on the Antanum, 2,848 on Toppenish-Simcoe and 3,047 on Satus. These amounted to 135,198 acres of which 11,000 were double cropped and the value of ~~xx~~ their crops reached ~~\$23,206,947~~ \$23,206,947. The average was \$166.48 an acre.



There were fifty different kinds of crops raised, the acreage ~~value~~ value ranging from \$21 on the lowest, hay crops, to a high of \$1,342 ~~for~~ for apples. The next highest value crop was sweet cherries with an average value of \$1,193 followed by hops, \$770; apricots, \$559; pears, \$546; potatoes, \$443; plums and prunes, \$402, onions \$381; ~~apricots, \$559~~ asparagus, \$358 and berries \$346.

~~Ex~~ The suyapos of the Yakima Valley honored Kamiakin for his far-sighted view of irrigation when they gathered ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ in "Iley Grove at the old mission in 1918 and placed a historical marker. This marked a ditch, a quarter of a mile long, that fed from the waters of Ahtanum Creek.

And Father Wilbur's letters are replete with references to irrigation. One, in 1880, is typical:

"...An immense amount of labor, digging and repairing irrigation ditches (has been done)...at least ten miles of ditches have been dug..."

In 1882 he put a high value on irrigation "...we have completed a ditch twelve feet in width, in some places three or five feet deep, over four miles long."

He told how the ditch was cut, fifty acres of land cleared, eighty broken ~~to~~ to seed (when the cost of clearing and breaking ground was \$7.50 an

acre ) with Paiute labor and "at the cost of \$195 for regular employes."

That same year Colonel William F. Prosser of Yakima City was notified that a contract for a ditch on the reservation was unacceptable to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. Prosser, who homesteaded the Benton County seat ~~was~~ for which the county was named, was ~~edergoddd~~ energetic in early Yakima Valley irrigation before going to Seattle.

~~Yakima~~ The city of Yakima was unborn when Alex Reed, secretary of the Sattas Ditch and Irrigating Company of Walla Walla was notified by Agent Milroy that "the only objection made at a council was that a dam would prevent the salmon run up the Sattas and cut off an important source of food."

Financing for the Wapato Project ~~as~~ was through \$17,000 in funds which the Yakimas had received from the sale of their Wenatshapam fishery that Kamiakin insisted on reserving at the Treaty.

A general council convened on March 28, 1885 at Stwireville (White Swan) for the purpose of "considering the question of granting the right of white men to construct an irrigation ditch out of Satus Creek, but this was refused on grounds that it would damage the salmon run.

Jay Lynch, agent in 1891, was censured by settlers and cattlemen for contesting the Northern Pacific, Yakima and K Irrigation Company's



proposed dam on the Yakima River. He asserted that appropriating water from streams that bounded the ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~ reservation "would become a serious question in time..."

Paul Schultze of the Northern Pacific, who like Doty the Treaty secretary later committed suicide, called a mass meeting at Yakima City and there again Lynch insisted that the dam would "...seriously interfere with the rights guaranteed by treaty of 1855 in regard to fishing... they also need the water for irrigation."

Agent Erwin pointed out in an official communication that it was costing the government "more than \$3,000 a month to run the reservation and pay the forty-two white and other employes." "It must be remembered," he wrote, "that this is gracious on the part of the government for they fulfilled their Treaty obligations fifteen years ago."

He said the answer could be put in one sentence.

Help them irrigate their lands. The idea of allotting eighty acres of barren sagebrush and expect them to go upon it and make a living sounds impossible."

He announced that \$5,000 had been placed to his credit to be used in building irrigating canals and that the tribe had decided to cut a canal 25 miles long to irrigate 25,000 to 30,000 acres.

By June 6 thirty teams and seventy men were working on the ditch. By September, eight miles had been finished. In 1899 (April 13) water was turned on in the "Erwin Ditch." ~~and the water was turned on in the~~

In 1900 the tribe received its first stimulating encouragement after a long procession of disappointments and in the face of continuing demands ~~and the~~ "opened the reservation" by new-born towns and newly-arrived settlers, to "open the reservation."

An error in the western boundary was acknowledged which added nearly 294,000 acres to the reservation and for which the Indian commissioners offered to purchase for \$75,000, "but the Indians refused because they thought the land, mostly covered with pine timber, was worth more."

By 1924 irrigation projects had become so acute that Agent Evan Estep, L.M. Holt, project superintendent; and William Charley inspected 23 large ditches and many smaller ones to work out a policy and submit a litigation report.

Holt reported that farmers had 907 cars, 91 more than the year previous, and that dairy cows increased to 4,012, nearly a thousand more "due to a drive for more cattle." Hogs dropped from 5,200 to 1,100 but there were 33,000 head of sheep.

Drainage work was commending, the result of recommendations of Dr.



Elwood Mead.

Crops on the Yakima Project then were valued at \$8,247,000, ~~led~~ led by potatoes accounting for 71,820 tons that returned three million dollars on the basis of \$40 a ton. Apples, of which there were 1,150,000 boxes, brought \$1,400,000.

And that has been the story since with development of projects and carrying out of reclamation and soil conservation practices with increasing intensity. Still, much of the land was leased and the people were still learning slowly how to capture the reservation's resources.

But other things besides irrigation had transpired and left their impact. This involved the Earth that was so important to the treaty chiefs when they thought of the people yet to be born.

The Allotment Act of February 8, 1887 worried the people. They were reluctant to accept allotments, believing that the government would turn them loose but a majority finally agreed to accept land "staked out" for them, and 305 allotments were issued in 1891.

Special Allotting Agent John K. Rankin reached the reservation in 1892, prepared to allot about 112,000 acres under the new law which gave 80 acres to every man, woman and child, or about one-seventh of the reservation or one-half the arable lands.

At the same time one hundred homesteads were taken up in Klickitat County and forty patents were issued to those living apart from the reservation

The trust period under the allotment act was fixed at twenty-five years with the President having power to extend the time.

Then another complication arose. By 1902 cases calling for determination of heirs were presented to the Indian office.

It was assumed that state courts had jurisdiction, but no jurisdiction was made. On May 8, 1906, an act was passed giving ~~xxxxxxx~~ authority to determine heirs to the Secretary of the Interior. This created a peculiar situation, making the Secretary counsel for both plaintiff and defendant as well as judge upon the bench.

In all lands granted under the Allotment Act the government holds the fee until the restricted period is ended. When the final patent is issued the fee of the land is thereby extinguished in the government and the Indian or the purchaser acquires ~~an~~ a perfect or unburdened title.

By 1905 there were 2,484 allotments and practically all of the land ~~whoddd~~ considered fit for irrigation had been taken. Dry sagebrush lands were being "staked out" although it was not known how irrigation water could ever be obtained.



There were 379 leases covering 28,559 acres made that year to non-Indian operators. Improved land leased from two to five dollars an acre, unimproved lands for terms of five years from 50 cents to a dollar an acre.

It was apparent the trend of public thinking, even in those days, was toward private ownership.

By the end of 1911 there were 3,160 allotments. In 1914 the rolls were closed and 4,506 individuals had been granted 44,000 acres. Those born since then are without original assignments and if they own land, it is inherited.

Even before then good land was scarce. Those who entered a claim before 1908 were receiving marginal plots or grazing land and sometimes timber.

A provision which allowed Indians to request patents placed them upon the same footing as non-Indians, their lands were subject to taxation and they were free to dispose of them. The fullblood Yakimas did not look with favor on this trend.

Land sales became frequent by 1911 and 290 had been made covering most of the patents which had been issued by that time.

The lands were for the most part valuable irrigated land and brought prices ranging from a few dollars to \$150 an acre, compared with a

Centennial year value of \$350.

Funds from the sales were placed to the individual's account and held in trust by the Department.

During early years strict control was maintained over funds, especially those for lands. Since 1951, however, individual Indian moneys may be withdrawn upon request of the individual unless he is a minor or an incompetent.

Before restraining action was taken by Congress, over 90,000 acres had been alienated for sale and patents and 26,953 acres were conveyed in public land patents to white ownership.

The climax came in 1917, at a time that the administration had no authority to declare whole blocks or groups of Indians competent without individual applications and proceeded to bestow fee patents upon them.

Many objected and the case was brought before the Supreme Court. The decision was that the Secretary of the Interior had exceeded his authority in waiving the twenty-five year stipulation of the Dawes Act and that those who had been required to pay property tax should be reimbursed. This resulted in hardship on several counties.

To combat the heirship status Congressman Hal Holmes, at the request of the tribe, introduced a bill ~~makx~~ making it possible for the



tribe to purchase fractionated heirship tracts from individuals and resell them to other Indians.

The tribal budget for the 1956 fiscal year provided an expenditure of \$150,000 for acquiring such land.

A General Council, elected by majority vote, is the tribe's governing body. It meets at least twice a year, or ~~after~~ upon proper notice.

Every member has the right to attend and participate in the Council and may initiate measures of importance to the tribe as a whole.

Each has the right of free expression of opinion, and debate is unrestrained. Any member, over 18, is entitled to vote, and a majority determines the issue. No more democratic meeting can be found anywhere.

The General Council's origin is ancient. Originally the people were called together by the chiefs to decide vital issues.

It was in pre-Treaty days that the chiefs, ~~were~~ confronted by the westward migration and decided what should be done.

The Yakima Tribal Council is the business ~~in~~ committee of the tribe and is composed of fourteen members, representing the original Treaty tribes. Members of that body are elected at General Council meetings. Power to transact all tribal business, excepting that expressly reserved, was delegated to the Tribal Council in 1944. Meetings are held the

first Tuesday of each month.

The Yakima Tribe has its own code of laws regulating conduct between its own members on the reservation; and ten major crimes are handled by the Department of Justice through the Federal Courts.

Allotment rolls ,made in the 1880's and 1900's were the only roll of members for many years and the ~~and~~ need for an up-to-date roll became imminent. In 1945 the General Council voted to seek Congressional action that would include members living not only on the reservation but also those who held public domain allotments within the ceded area. ~~and the need for~~ Legislation ~~conforming with~~ in accordance with the wishes of the General Council was introduced in H.R. 6165, 79th Congress, 2d Session, by Congressman Holmes.

The Council had established a minimum degree of blood requisite for enrollment at one-fourth or more of the blood of the ~~14~~ fourteen tribes constituting the Yakima Nation. The bill, enacted August 9, 1946, represented the majority. A tribal committee was created to see that no application was not thoroughly investigated before being presented for Department approval.

The past 10 years have brought about a gradual change in the policy of the Indian Bureau. Restrictions have been relaxed, leaving many major



decisions to the tribe. Simultaneously the Bureau has been transferring services to the State and County. This includes education, welfare, ~~AgriXXXXXXXXX~~ Agricultural-Extension, some of the roads program and cooperative assistance from the highway patrol, county sheriff's office and juvenile authorities.

Health activities will be transferred to the Federal Bureau of Public Health on July 1, 1955.

Federal appropriations have gradually diminished. Supported activities now include administration, roads, soil and moisture, conservation, grazing, dental office, forestry and part of law and order. An examiner of inheritance was provided by the Solicitor's Office to eliminate the backlog of ~~unXXXXXX~~ unsettled estates.

To maintain services formerly furnished the public by the Bureau, the tribe has taken over financing of land, leasing and Indian money, financed as a fee collection system; and credit, financed by interest collected. The tribe also assists in forestry, fire control, law and order, road construction and maintenance.

The policy of Congress and the Department of the Interior is gradually forcing Indians to assume more responsibility in handling their own affairs.

Duties of the Tribal Council are rapidly increasing. Future programs for the benefit of the tribe as a whole, without regard to personal desires, are planned constantly. Programs are under way to benefit the landless, school age, delinquent, orphans and unfortunates.

Cooperation with Bureau officials is very good although a ~~small~~ minority group, composed chiefly of those who have little Yakima blood, persists in trying to divide the tribe and discredit activities of the Bureau.

Meanwhile the Yakimas continue to amend themselves to new needs. At the same time they help perpetuate the old ways by cooperating with their neighbors at such activities as the Toppenish Fourth of July Rodeo Pow-Wow. This has grown to be a traditionally nationally-known attractions because of its Indian village, parade and participants and their tribal costumes and Indian ponies.

Individual Yakimas have also added ~~exotic~~ Indian atmosphere to the Ellensburg Rodeo, another outstanding western program presented each Labor Day, and groups of them also participate in pageants and other celebrations, far and wide as individuals or groups.

The "grand old man" of the Toppenish Pow Wow is Chief Jobe Charley, wise in the ways of his people and rich in the lore of the tribe. He has been rodeo chief since the founding of the Pow-Wow. The late



Jim Looney ~~of~~ of the White Swan Long House was chosen later to serve with him and in 1954 Eagle Seelatsee was similiarly honored.

To serve as queen or princess of the Pow-Wow and other functions is an honor coveted by Yakima maidens, noted for their beauty.

A Yakima girl, Arlene Josephine Wesley, won the honor as Miss Indian America I in 1953 at Sheridan, Wyoming, American Indian Days, over contestants from twenty-five other Western and Plains tribes.

In more ways than adapting themselves to new needs, the Yakimas are proving themselves good neighbors.