

Dissatisfied Indians Again

The old saying that "one must leave home to learn the news", is strikingly illustrated in the letter of "Krito," (weekly Oregonian April 28th) - referring to certain matters connected with this Reservation - It would be difficult to crowd more errors into the same number of lines relating to any thing that had any foundation in fact.

The simple facts of the transaction are these - Learning that certain of the Topnish Indians, were in the habit of meeting to run horses, and gamble on Sunday, the Agent dispatched seven policemen, under the lieutenant Thomas Simpson, to investigate the matter, learn the names of the leaders, and report - If the police understood that they were to arrest any one, they misapprehended their orders - Arriving at the Topnish they found some hundreds of Indians assembled to attend the funeral of an influential man, who had just died - The ceremonies were being conducted according to their ancient custom.

which includes drumming, singing &c = The police entered the house, and inquired for the head man, and were informed that there was no head man in particular, that all had met, with sorrowful hearts to bury their friend = The lieutenant, then told them that the Agent desired to discourage such heathenish practices, but under the circumstances, they would not interfere, and they might bury their friend in their own way = The police then left, but afterwards concluded to return and arrest one man who was said to be very active in the drumming =

In the scuffle, (it could be dignified by no other term), nobody was hurt and the police were compelled to leave without their prisoner = Their "long Cavalry sabers", were as mythical, as the balance of "Kuto's" circumstances = Before daylight the next morning, the Tappish people, who had taken part in the row, were at the Agency, to beg the Agent to pardon them = He was placed in a very embarrassing position = If he upheld the police in what was certainly

an inexcusable imprudence, he must punish a whole people;—if he disavowed their action, their friends, the best Indians on the reserve, would be likely to be dissatisfied, = A Council was called, and after a patient examination of the whole matter he decided, to drop the whole affair on the promise of the Tsimshian Indians to discontinue their objectionable practices = Perhaps the dissatisfaction that "Krito" alleges would be less, were there less consultation with the whites outside the reservation, which is probably pretty much one-sided = The summary of the whole matter may probably be found in the letter from Washington, published in the Oregonian last season, and the petitions for a change of administration here, so industriously, and quietly circulated through the Country about that time =

In a previous number of the Oregonian some correspondent gave an account of an affray at the Stage Station on the Sattas, as far removed from fact as "Kritos" account of the police fiasco

It is news to us that Indians are not allowed to dispose of their horses, when, and to whom they please. = The Department has always encouraged the sale of ponies, and hardly a day passes, that numbers are not sold in Goldendale, Dalles or Yakima City, besides the hundreds driven from here each year, by parties who establish themselves on the reservation, by permission of the Agent to purchase. = The only instance to the contrary, was this season, when in compliance with the urgent request of the Head Chief, and numbers of the other Indians, one Allen was notified by the Agent to cease purchasing horses, because the Indians declared he was taking advantage of their ignorance and cheating them. = The sale of Cattle is discouraged, except under certain circumstances, for very evident reasons. =

If any think the police do not receive the full amount of their pay, they have only to consult the law establishing the force. = Possibly some member of the

force may think himself defrauded,
but if so, it is because of representations
from outside parties, whose motives may
be found in the letter above referred
to as published in the Oregonian last
Season

Fort Vincoe May 3d 1882

Veritas

copy sent to
Oregonian
to Doll