

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem Oregon June 26, 1876

Sir:

I am authorized and instructed by Hon E.S. Parker, commissioner Indian Affairs to collect and deliver all Snake Indian prisoners and now held in bondage by the tribes as slaves to Ochio, chief of said Snake Indians or his representatives.

It was one of the conditions with said chief Ochio that if he would remove to a reservation with his people that all those held in bondage by other bands of Indians with whom treaties have been made should be returned to them.

Now to carry out these instructions and keep faith with the Snake Indians I have appointed W.C. McKay, physician at Warm Springs Agency to proceed with said Ochio ~~xxx~~ or his representative to collect said prisoners (or slave as they now are) in order that they may be successful in this enterprise I have to request that you furnish his officer an order permitting Dr. McKay to visit your several agencies if necessary for the purpose stated above and directing your agents to render him such information and assistance as he may require in order to carry out his instructions. As it will be necessary for him to go outside this superintendency as I learn there are several prisoners or slaves belonging to the Snakes at Takama and perhaps some at other points.

As I shall leave for the upper country soon I would respectfully ask that you make the order without delay.

Very respectfully etc.

A. B. Meacham

Hon F.S. McKenny

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Olympia W.T.

p. 558-- Policy Enrollment, polygamy, land allotments.

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~~Any~~ ...Any of such persons who may belong to other reservations or tribes must be allowed to elect for themselves whether they remain where now located or return to their own proper reservation. If either case they are to be enrolled and placed on equal footing in every respect with other Indians. Again, any Indian who may for good reasons desire to change from one reservation to another may be allowed to do so when ~~unanimous~~ consent of all .. agent and Indians of both reservations...

...There are many other points coming up on this new state of our Indian affairs that have been submitted to commissioner for instructions, the result of which will be furnished you at the earliest moment

Respectfully Meacham

(Joel Palmer at Siletz)



Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem Orgn. Sept. 6, 1871

Sir:

I have received a letter from one J.W. Evans at the Dalles in regard to the fishery question. He sets forth that you were to act as his agent or attorney in making the arrangement about the fishery and that on your (blank) you agreed with him to pay one hundred and fifty dollars for the season and that you ~~fixed thereon~~ paid therein sixty dollars in currency and agreed to pay the balance or rather that Supt. Meacham would settle with him within ten days.

I now write to you to say settle this thing up in some way. I have too much to do to look out for it. I wish you would without exciting curiosity too much ascertain the number of the fractional sections covering this fishery and furnish this office therewith immediately.

Very respectfully

etc. A.B. Meacham, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Oregon

Capt. John Smith, U.S. Ind. Agent, Warm Springs.

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs  
Salem Oregn. Sept. 6th, 1871

Sir:

Yours in regard to Dalles fishery has been received. In reply I have to say that I have this day written to Agent Smith to settle this business with you. He is fully authorized in the premises. I know so little about it that I would not settle with(it) if I should meet you. What ever Capt. Smith agrees to will be for him and you to settle. It occurs to me that you ought to show some rights or title to the premises before receiving pay, however that is a question to be settled hereafter with you and Smith.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

A.B. Meacham, Supt. Ind. Affairs  
In Ogn.

J.W. Evans, esq.

Dalles City, Og.



Office. Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem Oreg. Sept. 11, 1871

Sir:

Herewith enclosed please find copy of a letter from J.C. Wilson, Eldorado City, Oregon in regard to Indians at Wal-low-wa Valley Oregon. Reference to the Treaty with Umatilla, Cayuses and Walla Wallas in 1855 discloses ~~Edaddad~~ the fact that said valley was ceded in that treaty to the United States. Hence it would clearly belong to the government. Nelson represents that the Indians now there are Nes Perces. Such being the case it would seem that while my jurisdiction extends over the country the question might arise who has jurisdiction over the Indians that are complained of.

I have then respectfully to suggest that some action be had on your part toward their removal. This subject has been several times agitated and must be settled at an early date to prevent a conflict between white settlers and Indians. I have this day written Agent Cornoyer of Umatilla to call in his peoples. If I can in any way assist you in this matter you are at liberty to command me subject always to the duties of my own work. Hoping that you will be equal to the emergency I am

Very Respectfully (etc.)

A.B. Meacham, Supt. Ind. Affairs Oreg.

John B. Monteith esq.

U.S. Ind. Agent, Lapwai, I.T.

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem Ogn. Sept. 13, 1871

Sir:

The necessity is imperative for our Indian people to have the privilege of fishing at the Dalles. To make things permanent we ~~shall~~ must have the fishing reserved from sale.

In furtherance of his object I would suggest that you employ the necessary means to determine what are the ~~numbers~~ numbers of fractional lots covering the most valuable fishing grounds at said location and report the same to this office at an early day.

We should have at least one mile of river front for the purpose indicated. Please give the subject your early attention

Very Respectfully etc.

A. B. Meacham, supt. Ind. Affairs Ogn.

Capt. John Smith

U.S. Ind. Agent

Warm Springs Og.



Salem Oregon, Oct. 25, 1871

Umatilla Reservation. N.A. Cornoyer agent.

In compliance with instructions from Commissioner Parker a council was called ~~with the Indians~~ to meet August 7th at Umatilla Agency to ascertain on what terms the Indians would consent to remove to some other reservation...

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## Warm Springs Reservation

...Agent Smith reports that a fair supply of Indian provisions consisting of roots, berries and fish has been secured which together with such assistance as he can give will enable the people to get through the coming winter. In this connection I desire to call attention to the necessity of having a small portion of the Dalles fishery on the Columbia River reserved forever for the express (?) use of the Indians of Warm Springs Reservation.

By treaty of 1855 with Genl. Palmer Act. Supt. this right was reserved by the Indians but in a supplemental treaty with Supt. Huntington in 1865 the right was relinquished for a small consideration which has been paid.





to the country such amounts of money as will place them on a footing with reservation Indians.

Reference to the records of this office disclose the fact that Supt. ~~Dr~~ Dart made treaties in August, 1857 with these bands together with other bands now broken up or who have accepted benefits and protection from the government by going on to Agencies thereby relinquishing all claim to the country they formerly occupied but <sup>that</sup> ~~they~~ said treaties were never ratified.

It further appears that in 1855 Joel Palmer met the representatives of all the various tribes occupying that portion of country west of the ~~Adidit~~ summit of the coast range of mountains from the Columbia River to the southern boundary of Oregon in treaty council and that a treaty was consummated with the said Indians though never ratified by the government.

There is no evidence to show that any of said Indians above referred to, to wit: Clatsop, Tillamook, Salmon River and Nestuckers have ever received any benefits or annuities beyond a few presents ~~at~~ at long intervals Hence it is clear that they have never ceded to the government their country and since the country was not acquired by legitimate conquest it is also clear that these people have rights that ~~might~~ ought and will some day be secured to them.

Another band is now living oppressed and driven by white men from place to place in a small tract of country about thirty miles wide ~~for~~ by forty long, covering the head waters of Umpqua river in Southern Oregon.

I have carefully examined the records and sought all other information possible and find that these Indians were never represented in any treaty council and that the country above indicated has never been ceded by any band or tribe of Indians nor acquired by legitimate conquest; neither have these Indians ever acknowledged the authority of the United States or secured any consideration for their country.

If our government intends to be just and uniform in its treatment

of Indians these people should be provided for without delay.

Although they may not be the possessors of enough political powers to secure to them the consideration of local politicians they at least as original inheritors of the soil have a God given right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. And no race, however strong under a government claiming to be established on principals of equal and exact justice should be permitted to trample over and exterminate a race whose misfortune is to be untutored and .....

p 616 ... possessing mental power and innate manhood of once developed superior to other races that now enjoy the great and priceless boon of freedom and protection from oppressors of every kind.

As an officer of the United States Ind. Dept. I demand in behalf of the Indians of Oregon that their rights be regarded and justice done them in some way. Either by paying them for their lands or allowing them to locate homes in common with the white men who are making this Indian country so valuable.

This subject is one that concerns the welfare of thousands of white people settled on the lands still claimed by these Indians.

The importance of prompt action is manifest when it is known that some of them have already taken council of able lawyers who give them encouragement to prosecute their claims.

The Indians must be provided for and the peace of the country secured as well.

There are several bands of Indians living on the Columbia river all of whom have been parties to treaties but have refused to comply with treaty stipulations and who under the action of Commissioner Parker last June have thereby forfeited all right and interest in lands and annuities as per treaty and having been represented in treaty council have no claim to the country they occupy.

If this be so, I ask what is to be done with them? They should not be



allowed to remain where now located. This subject demands consideration as also what disposition is to be made ~~and~~ of such Indians as refuse to ~~xx~~ return to their agencies. I have before called the attention of your office to this subject but have received no instructions.

Snake or Shoshone Indians are living in the vicinity of Camp Harney. They were subjugated three years ago. Since which time they have been under charge of the Military Dept.

An effort was made to remove them to Yainax in 1869 but no authority being invested in the Supt. of Ind. Affairs to compel them they persistently refused and hence the failure.

A large tract of country has been withdrawn from sale and settlement for eighteen months from March 16, 1871 within the boundaries of which I was instructed to locate for them a reservation.

No funds having been apportioned to ~~and~~ defray the expenses I am compelled to await such time as funds are on hand applied to such purpose. The welfare of these Indians and the public necessities suggest action on this subject.

Salem, Or. Sept. 19, 1872

Sir: I have the honor to submit this my first annual report...

p. 717 Indians not on reservations

The Clatsops, Nestuckas, Tillamooks and Nehalims with whom no treaty was ever made and who have received but little assistance or attention from the government number in the aggregate about two hundred. They are now in Tillamook county about some thirty miles from Grand Ronde Agency. By the report of Agent Sinnott it appears that they desire to have lands allotted them and allowed to send their children to school at that agency. I think these benefits and privileges should be extended to them.

In Willows Valley in the eastern part of the state there are about two hundred Nez Perces who claim that they were not parties to the treaty made with their people several years ago, that the valley belonged to this tribe at the time of making this treaty that they have lived there ever since, that this has been their country and they oppose its settlement by the whites. Having been directed to inquire into the facts in reference to these Indians and ascertain their needs. I will make this matter the subject of a special report.

The Indians mentioned by Agent Cornoyer in his report as being now on the Columbia River numbering in his opinion two thousand are a source of considerable annoyance to the agents at Warm Springs and Umatilla. They have a new and peculiar religion by the doctrine of which they are taught that a new god is coming to their rescue, that all the Indians who have died heretofore and shall die hereafter are to be resurrected that as they will then be very numerous and powerful they will be able to conquer the whites recover their lands and live as free and unrestrained as their fathers lived in olden times. Their model of a man



is an Indian, they aspire to be Indians and nothing else. About four hundred of them belong to Umatilla Agency, one hundred at Warm Springs and the remainder in the Territories of Idaho and Washington. I understand that repeated ineffectual efforts have been made to induce them to return to their reservations. It has not been practicable for me to confer personally with them. It is thought by those who know them best that they cannot be made to go upon their reservations without at least being intimidated by the presence of military forces .

The estimate of the number of Snake Indians has not now on any reservation range from 600 to 1,200. A new reservation was recently selected for them on the head waters of Malheur river but the selection has not been approved as yet and the Indians are still roaming over the vast scope of country which they claim as their own. Their wants have heretofore been fully ~~presented~~ presented to you and it is not necessary that I should now repeat anything contained in my recent report of their conditions.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

T.B. Odneal , Supt. Ind. Affairs

Ogn.

Hon F.A. Walker,

Commissioner Ind. Affairs, Washington, D.C.

File Microcopies of Records of the National

Archives: No. 2

Roll 11

Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs

Instructions and Reports---1850--1855. National Archives 1944

Introduction

This 194 -page volume was begun during the administration of Superintendent Anson Dart and bears on its backstrip the title "Instructions". It opens with a copy of the instructions of Luke Lea, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to Dart, dated July 20, 1850, and ends with a copy of a letter of Commissioner George B. Manypenny to Superintendent Joel Palmer, dated December 4, 1855. Between these extremes appear copies of the following: Dart's first report on Indian Affairs in Oregon dated October 22, 1850; his report of October 20, 1851, on the claims of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions for losses sustained at the hands of the Indians for 1847; his annual reports and those of his successor Joel Palmer for 1851, 1852, 1853 and 1854, and numerous letters of instruction to, and a few reports from Indian agents, subagents and special agents. The originals of some of these documents are sometimes to be found in the registered series of letters received by the Oregon Superintendency, and other copies sometimes appear in the Superintendency letter books for the period.

The volume contains a 2-page typed index arranged by the surnames of writers. Like the similar indexes found in the letter books reproduced on precious rolls of this microcopy it was prepared in the Office of Indian Affairs long after the records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs were received there.

In citing this volume, scholars may wish to state that records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs constitute a part of the Indian Field Service records now in the National Archives. The following is suggested as an appropriate method of identifying the volume in citations: Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, Instructions and Reports, 1850-54, p. 10. SIA is frequently used as a symbol for Superin-

tendency of Indian Affairs



July 30, 1850

Sir: I have been officially notified of your appointment as superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Territory of Oregon under the act of the 5th ultimo, creating that office and am directed by the Hon Secretary of the Interior to Prepare appropriate instructions for your observance in the discharge of the duties of your office.

Such instructions must necessarily be of a general character--that territory having been but recently organized, the files of this office do not ~~xx~~ as yet afford sufficient material for more specific details than those formerly given ~~the~~ to Governor Lane (copy of which you will find among the accompanying papers) and circumstances may require an occasional departure from or modification of any general code of instructions emanating from a point so remote from the scene of action as this. On this point much is left to your own discretion and better judgment when your superior local knowledge will have enabled you to act more advisedly in the premises but such departures, if any, you will report at once to this office in order that it may be constantly advised of the state and progress of Indian Affairs in your superintendency.

The instructions then to the late ex officio superintendent will serve for your general guidance until the department is in possession of further information upon which to base (p. 2) others more in detail; and in view of this desirable object it is both hoped and believed that you can do much towards furnishing such information in a short time after your arrival in the territory and that the Department will not rest for any great length of time under its present embarrassing want of reliable statistical knowledge of Indian affairs in Oregon.

The above mentioned papers taken in connection with the report of Governor Lane (a copy of which is also herewith enclosed) will



at least as an outline for your initiatory action and until further instructions by that practical experience and observation from which as before mentioned much is anticipated.

Among the papers enclosed you will find the regulations for the prevention and suppression of the whiskey trade among all Indian tribes--Governor Lane speaks of the traffic as being carried on by vessels coming into the Columbia and particularly at Bakers Bay and Astoria. It is doubtless introduced at other points and as the country becomes more densely settled the evil it is apprehended will be greatly increased. The suppression of this traffic has always been considered by the Government as one of the most ~~important~~ important measures for the civilization of the Indians and every effort has been made throughout the whole Indian country to keep it beyond their reach. I beg leave therefore to call your particular attention to this branch of your duties and to urge upon you to enforce a strict compliance with the laws and regulations and by every effort in your power endeavor to put a stop to this deplorable evil. You will find in the p 3 intercourse law a copy of which I enclose full power to enable you to discharge this duty.

It has been represented that most of the goods that have been given to the Indians of Oregon have been purchased of the Hudsons Bay company, thereby conveying to the Indians the false impression that they were conferred by persons belonging to a foreign government. It is to be hoped that this has not been done to an extent to produce as yet much bad effect, but as it is adverse to the policy of our Indian relations, as well as injurious and insulting to our government to cause these people to believe themselves the recipients of foreign gratuities I would suggest that you make all your purchases from American citizens when practicable and embrace every opportunity to impress on the Indians that it is the American government and not the British that confers upon them these benefits. The Indians should also be prevented from crossing the line into the British possessions.



The Hudsons Bay Company has so long ~~wielded~~ wielded an undue influence over all Indians within their reach, that you may perhaps find it a difficult matter to carry out. these views but perservance will no doubt finally effect it or at least go far towards correcting the present condition of affairs. Under no circumstances should the company be permitted to have trading establishments within the limits of our Territory and if any such establishments now exist they should be promptly proceeded with in accordance with the requirements of the Intercourse p 4 law

In this connection it is proper to mention that it is the policy of the government as far as ~~xxx~~ possible to <sup>avoid</sup> ~~and~~ the payment of money by way of presents or otherwise to Indians. They are wasteful and improvident and but rarely expend money for any useful object. They should receive nothing but what will tend to their ~~happiness~~ happiness and comfort.

The President has appointed two agents as authorized by the recent law, viz: Anson G. Henry and Henry H. Spaulding. They are requested by the act to perform such duties as you may assign to them and will be directed to report to you for this purpose. The ~~next~~ first thing to be considered is their proper location so as to give the greatest efficiency to their labors. It is presumed you will find it best to place one of them east and the other west of the Cascade mountains. It is desirable that this office should be advised as to their locations, the limits of each agency and the name, strength, condition etc. of each tribe as early as possible. A copy of your instructions to each agent should also be forwarded as soon as practicable. A great and important object to be attained and which must be done mainly by the agents is the reconciling all differences among the Indians themselves. The agents should represent to the Indians that their Great Father, the President of the United States enjoins it upon them to live in peace and harmony, and that they must shake hands and live like brethren together. The best way to accomplish this is by inducing bands hostile to each other to enter into written treaties of peace and amity, stipulating



to preserve friendship amongst themselves and towards the whites and to refer all their misunderstandings and differences to the umpirage of the proper representatives of the United States government.

Great efforts should also be made among the Indians to induce them to engage in agricultural pursuits, to raise grain, vegetables and stock of all kinds. It would not be amiss to encourage them by the promise of small premiums to be awarded to those who raised the greatest quantity of produce, horses, oxen, cows, hogs etc. the presents which may be given to them from time to time might be applied to this object.

The agents under your supervision will find among the Indians Christian missionaries of various sects and denominations differing in some articles of form and faith but all engaged in the good work of extending the blessings of Christianity to an ignorant and idolatrous people, and of civilizing and humanizing the wild and ferocious savage.

The orthodoxy of any of these missionaries is not to be tested by the opinion of the Indian Agent or any other officer of the government. None of these can rightfully be the propagandist of any sect or the official judge of any article of Christian faith. All therefore who are entrusted with the care of our Indian relations in Oregon are instructed to give the benovolent and self sacrificing teachers of the Christian religion whom they may find there equal countenance and encouragement and that they merit their good will be uniform ~~kind~~ kindness and concession to all leaving them  
p. 6 free alike to use such means as are in their power to carry out the good work in which they are respectively engaged. The rapid increase in our population, its onward march from the Missouri frontier and westward and from the Pacific east, steadily lessening and closing up the intervening space renders it certain that there remains to the Red Man but one alternative -- early civilization or gradual extinction. The efforts of the Government will be earnestly directed to his civilization and preservation, and we confidently rely upon their Christian teachers ~~that~~ that in .... with their ~~civil~~ spiritualization they will ~~and~~ aid in carrying out this



policy; that stationed as they are among the various Indian tribes they will use all their influence in restraining their wild roving and predatory disposition and in teaching them the arts and bringing them to the habits of civilized life.

If this can be attained, if they can be taught to subsist not by the chase merely, a resource which must soon be exhausted but by the rearing of flocks and herds and by field cultivation we may hope that the little remnant of this afflicted race will not utterly perish from the earth but have a permanent resting place and home on some part of our broad domain once the land of their fathers.

It is represented that the missionaries exercise great influence adddude over the Indians of Oregon and no doubt could be made powerful auxiliaries in carrying out the policy of the United States. To this and it might not be amiss to let them know, in such manner as the delicate nature of the communication may suggest to you, that the government whilst affording them every possible ~~facilitate~~ facility and protection, expects in return their aid and cooperation in executing its laws. The happiness of the Indian is the common aim of both and the extension of our laws and regulations over them being for their own welfare this class of philanthropist could not more effectively advance their own humane intentions than by inculcating obedience on the part of their wards, at the same time instructing them that they are solely dependant ~~on~~ on this, and not on the British Government and must adhere to it alone and that with a sincere desire to protect and favor those who abide by its laws it has ~~also~~ also the strength and disposition to furnish those who infringe them.

The governor of the Territory who has until the passage of this law been ex-officio superintendent of Indian Affairs is in possession of all documents, books papers public money and property belonging to the superintendency. He will be notified of your appointment and requested to turn over to you every thing pertaining to your office. From him you will probably receive most, if not all, the important papers



accompanying this communication, yet as a matter of precaution, duplicates ~~xxx~~ are herewith furnished.

The sum of \$20,000 will be advanced to you from ~~the~~ the Treasury to be applied as follows:

Buildings for the superintendency and three agents \$5,000

Salary of Supt. one year \$2,500

Do of three agents at \$1,500 each \$4,500

Pay of interpreters, presents provisions to Indians ~~visiting~~ visiting the agencies contingent p 8 expenses, embracing necessary travel in the Indian country on business, house rent, fuel, stationery, collecting statistical information etc. etc \$8,000.

Total \$20,000.

The item for building is intended to embrace your own and the houses of the agent but as yours will probably be permanent the largest portion of the sum may be thus supplied ~~xxx~~ not however to exceed \$4,000. As it will probably be ~~xx~~ some time before the agents are permanently located and their agencies arranged; but a small sum will suffice to put up temporary residences for them; in this however, as in other matters, much must be left to your own judgment and discretion, keeping in view that the sum appropriated for the whole object must not be exceeded.

Your own salary and those of the agents will be paid quarterly

The amount set apart for provisions presents, contingencies etc. is not divided into specific items for the reason that it would be impossible to designate how much should be expended for any one of them. The sum is a much larger one than is usual in such cases or supposed to be necessary for the objects specified; but the distance to your superintendency being very great, it is advanced to you as a measure of precaution and it is perhaps needless here to enjoin on you the greatest economy in its disbursement.

Your official bond has been received and is approved. Your salary commenced on the 1st instant, the day of its execution.



You will please communicate with p 9

the department as frequently as occasion and opportunity may offer, and in return your ~~xxx~~ will from time to time receive such additional instructions as the public service may seem to require

Respectfully

Your Obedient Servt.

L. Lea

Commissioner

Andon Dart, esq.

supt. Indian Affairs

Oregon Territory