

Refer in reply to the following: L

36821-1890

2480-1891

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, January 24, 1891.

Webster L. Stabler, Esq.,
U. S. Indian Agent,
Yakama Agency,
Fort Simcoe,
Washington.

Sir:

On November 24, 1890, this office received a letter from Rev. M. R. Brown presenting the request of the Methodist Episcopal Church, for the assignment for its use for missionary purposes of three tracts of land on the Yakama Reservation, containing respectively, 20, 5, and 160 acres, and transmitting the written relinquishment of Joseph Stwire and wife - Indians - of the twenty acre tract to the Church and a similar relinquishment by Yes-mow-it and wife, also Indians, to the five acre tract; the exact metes and bounds of the tracts to be ascertained by joint action of said Indians, the Indian Agent and the Church. Mr. Brown stated that the 160 acre tract had never been assigned to any one.

This office addressed a letter to Mr. Brown in reply on January 5, 1891, informing him that no objections existed to the assignment of the lands at once for the temporary use and occupancy of the Church but suggesting that it wait until the reservation is allotted in severalty under the General Allotment Act of February 8, 1887 (24 Stats., 388), and then request that the occupancy of such tracts be confirmed to the Church under the 6th Section of the Act.

Mr. Brown replied on the 13th instant, asking the immediate assignment of said tracts to the Church.

On a further examination of the matter, I find that under date of August 31, 1887, Thomas Priestley, Esq., then Agent at Yakama Agency, in a general report as to missionary establishments upon the Reservation, stated that said 160 acre tract was claimed by "Shuster", that the church thereon was erected by the "M.E. Society", and the Indians, and that the church on said 20 acre tract was built by said Society with the assistance of the Indians.

You are instructed to ascertain and report whether said "Shuster" has a valid right to said 160 acre tract, or makes any claim thereto and the basis of such claim, and if he does, claim the land and is willing to surrender his right thereto to the Church, you will transmit his written relinquishment thereof, with your report. You will also ascertain and report whether the Indians who aided in the erection of said churches have any objection to the assignment of said tracts to the Methodist Episcopal Church for missionary &c., purposes, and if so, the grounds of such opposition in full.

You are further instructed to furnish this office a description of said tracts, designating the legal subdivisions in which they lie. An early report on the subject is desired.

Very respectfully,

J. J. Morgan

(Cooper) C

Commissioner.

(Cooper.) C

Commissioner.

Very respectfully,
they lie. An early report on the subject is desired.

tion of said tracts, designating the legal subdivisions in which

You are further instructed to furnish this office a description in full.

for missionary &c., purposes, and if so, the grounds of such opposition in full.

the assignment of said tracts to the Methodist Episcopal Church who sided in the erection of said churches have any objection to report. You will also ascertain and report whether the Indians

You will transmit his written relinquishment thereof, with your land and is willing to surrender his right thereto to the Church, claim thereto and the basis of such claim, and if he does, claim the "Shuster," has a valid right to said 160 acre tract, or makes any

built by said Society with the assistance of the Indians.

and the Indians, and that the church on said 20 acre tract was "Shuster," that the church thereon was erected by the "M.E. Society," the Reservation, stated that said 160 acre tract was claimed by

Agency, in a general report as to missionary establishments upon date of August 31, 1887, Thomas Priestley, Bad., then Agent at Yakima

On a further examination of the matter, I find that under the assignment of said tracts to the Church.

Mr. Brown replied on the 13th instant, asking the immedi-