

Sakima Agency W.T.
December 6th 1879

Explanations and Answers to Suspensions
of Cash Accounts of James A Wilbra
DS Indian Agent "Under bond of Aug
30th 1873 from that date to April 12th 1877
Suspensions received at Ft Simcoe
Dec 3d 1879

In your "Statement of Differences"
You refer to transactions prior to
Dec 31st 1875 = On this Connection
I beg leave to refer to Office letter from
Hon W W Upton Controller of the Treas.
(Copy herewith) under date of Sept
21st 1878 from which I quote -
- "it affords me pleasure to state"
"that your accounts as Indian"
"Agent from the time you entered "
"upon the duties of that Office to the"
"31st of December 1875 have been "
"adjusted and settled and the balance"
"of said accounts up to the day last "
"named is found to be \$2874.89 "
"which balance was the sum then in "
"your hands chargeable to and "
"properly held by you as such "
"Agent," etc etc = My

Accounts having been settled up
to Jan 1st 1876 I see no good
reason why any examination should
be made prior to that date, and
unless some error or impropriety can
be shown in such settlement must
respectfully protest against such
prior examination

Taking the letter above referred
to and the settlement to Dec 31 '75
as the basis, the acct would show

Balance due the BLS Jan 1st 1876
1st Apr 1876

2874.88

Cash Receipts

From Grazing Cattle \$ 330.23

" Sale of Articles fabricated
or raised on Reservation 164.04

" Sale of Subsistence to
Employees 35.78

" " of Miscellaneous

articles belonging to the

Indians of the Lakota Nation 731.30

Total Mifs Receipts 1261.35

Total to be accounted for

1261.35

\$ 4136.23

Answers to objections to the
Cash accounts for

1st Apr 1876 = Forward

Abst Con

Forward

266 40 15454 87
15454 87

2d Qr 1876 - Objections Answered

1 Knapp Burrill Ho - Wagons &c

Certificate as to value of gold & c

herewith

Explained

53 73

Paragraph 26 of "Instructions" cited
requires a copy of Authority to ac-
company vouchers for payments made
on Contract, which I suppose is the
clause referred to

In reference to this suspension I
desire to say - that the notice sent me
of the appointment of Lieut M H
Boyle as Inspector of Indian Supplies,
and of Contracts made in Portland
by the Board of Ind Commissioners
directed me to pay vouchers for such
supplies on receipt of the same certified
by said Inspector - The specific author-
ity for such payment for the 2d Qr 1876
has been mislaid and I am at present
unable to find it

There can be no question of the fact
that funds were in my hands to pay for
these supplies - that the Contract for the
purchase was made by the Board of
Ind Commissioners, at the prices set
forth in the voucher - that the goods

Forward

1020 13 15464 87
15454 87

Abst	Don	1 st Qr 1876 = Forward	4136 23
1		<u>Receipt Roll of Employees</u> A corrected Receipt Roll is sent herewith Suspended Items <u>Charley - Splitting Posts</u> \$42.50 1700 Posts @ 2 ⁵⁰ per hundred Explained	42 50
		<u>Lydia Spencer</u> - 13 days @ \$1 Corn Certificate showing relative value of Gold and Currency at this date enclosed Explained	1 85
23		<u>J B Dickerson</u> Oats and Wheat Same as above Explained	13 39
25		<u>H Hanson</u> Seed Same as above Explained	2 15
		<u>Undisputed Disbursements for</u> <u>1st Qr 1876</u> are	906 50
		Total Disbursed 1 st Qr 1876	\$466 40
		<u>Receipts during the 2^d Qr 1876</u> From Sept June 22 ^d \$10 950 ⁰⁰ " <u>Grazing Stock</u> 26.67 " <u>Sale art. fab. on Res.</u> 183.23 " " <u>Sub to Employees</u> 63.24 " " <u>Miss. Articles</u> <u>belonging to Indians</u> 95.30 Total Miss - 368.64 368.64 Forward	11318 64 966 40 15454 87

Forward 1020 13 1545487

were inspected by the regularly appointed Inspector, and shipped according to instructions, and that the money was actually paid by me in good faith, in the manner and for the purposes named

I hope therefore that the sole fact of my present inability to lay my hand on a document sent me so long since may not be considered sufficient cause for a further suspension of these accts

Explained 483 55

= Note Office Copy of voucher gives June 24th as the date - (some of the articles were purchased in April) see Explanation of vou 10 below - and the Contract makes the wharf at Portland Or the place of delivery =

2 Corbett Failing Co Hardware

Suspended 625.22

Explanation same as vou 1

Date on Office copy June 24 and place of delivery as in vou 1 Portland Or = Exp 625.22

3 Fleishman Meyer Co Dry Goods &c

Suspended 768.78

Date June 28th Place of Delivery Portland Oregon

Explained 768.78

Forward 2897 68 15454 87 1546487

Absh

Von

Forward

2897 16 1545487

4

Corbitt & McLeay Groceries &c \$335.93

Date June 24 and place Portland Or

Remarks to Von 1 apply Explained

335 93

5

J K Gill & Co School books \$67.48

Date June 24th - place Portland Or

Remarks to Von 1 apply Explained

67 48

6

Goldsmith & Lowenberg Stores \$191.10

Dated June 24 - place as above

Remarks to von 1 apply

Store furniture Consisted of the usual articles sold with Cooking Stores - viz
1 Boilers - 6 Tea Kettles - 6 clippers
12 Baking pans - 6 Coffee pots - 6 Frying pans
12 iron pots 6 griddles 6 dripping"
6 large forks 6 do Spears 6 Steamers
12 tin baking pans

In reference to the suggestion that such furniture should be taken up on Property Return, I would say, that as all the furniture has gone with the Stores whether issued to Indians or expended in the service, it would seem unnecessarily encumbering my property Returns, already sufficiently bulky

Explained

191 10

Forward

3492 16 1545487

Mst

von

Forward

3492 16

15454 87

7 Workrup & Thompson Spokes &c #104.00

Date June 23 place Portland Or

3492 16

15454 87

Remarks to von, apply - Explained

104 00

8 Hodge Catel & Co Paints &c \$99.72

Date on Office copy June 26 place of delivery

Portland Or - Remarks to von, apply

Explained

99 72

9 W Jackson & Co Sundries \$157.55

Date of delivery June 24 place Portland

Remarks to von, apply - Explained

157 55

10 O S Nav Co Transportation \$201.92

Date of performance as per voucher - viz - April 14 & 19th
 June 29th - Certificate as to relative value of coin and
 currency is herewith forwarded

Authority to purchase supplies must certainly be
 considered to imply authority to transport to place of
 destination

Note 1 - In this connection I desire to remark that
 the Government has come far short of fulfilling its
 treaty stipulations with the Indians of this Agency -

The treaty provides that all goods, annuities,
 supplies &c purchased by the Department for these
 Indians, shall be transported to the Agency free from
all expense to them - This has never been done but
 the Agent has been compelled to pay cost of trans-
 portation from money appropriated

Forward

385343 #15454.87

Forward 3853 43 1546 87

by treaty for their benefit =

= Note 2 - I desire further to remark in explanation of many evident imperfections in some of my papers, that although the clerical duties at this Agency are, with perhaps a very few exceptions, more onerous than at any other in the United States, it is only very recently that the Agent was allowed by the Department a clerk, and for years he was compelled, after a day of constant and severe toil in the performance of his other duties, to devote a large part of the night to his very large correspondence, and making up the regular papers of his Agency = Under these circumstances it would be very strange indeed if some formality had not been inadvertently omitted, or some error of detail escaped his observation = I trust this fact may be deemed sufficient to excuse merely clerical omissions or errors =

The Oregon Steam Navigation Co is a Corporation navigating the waters of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers in Oregon & Washington Territory = Owning the land and railways on both sides the Columbia River at the pass of the Cascades, they have an entire monopoly of the transportation between Portland and the Dalles = There are no means of getting freight to the Dalles but by their boats and railways, and all shippers public or private must conform to their regulations = Freight rates are computed by measurement at 40 feet per ton 3853.43 1545 87

Forward

3853 43 1546487

and the only "Bills of Lading" given or signed by them are the Company's receipted freight bills, such as accompany my accounts = Unless by special agreement no freight is ever delivered by them till all freight charges are paid, and no double payment is possible unless by the grossest stupidity of the persons making the second payment = The Agent at Yakama is compelled to accept the Company's terms, and pay their bills before he can receive his supplies, and in justice to the Company perhaps I should say that as a general thing their terms are not unreasonable = I trust this may be deemed a sufficient explanation of this and other accounts of this Company paid by me on their regular freight bills receipted

In explanation of the different dates when this service was performed I remark — the Agent had that year been selected as a delegate to the Gen Conference of the M & E Church and had received permission from the Department to attend = On his way to Philadelphia^{Baltimore}, where said Conference held its session, in April, he ordered a few much needed supplies from Knapp Burrill & Co which were shipped immediately, but not paid, or taken up on a voucher till his return in June when the balance of the purchases in vol no 9 & 14 were made and the April purchase included in vol no 1 = At this date I am unable to particularly specify

Forward

3853.43 1546487

Alaska

Forward

3853 43 15454 87

the articles purchased in April, and can only say that the freight transported under von 10 was that purchased under von 1 to 9 and 14 inc Explained

201 97

11 Dalles & Rockland Ferry Co gold \$23.50

Certificate of value of Cy herewith = Exp

2 61

12 Thomas Connel gold \$5.73

Same as above Explained

64

13 A J Waldron Drugs &c gold 69.80

Same as above = Explained

7 75

Certificate of Agency Physician as required herewith Explained

55 00

14 Wm Karpus Wall Paper gold \$8.95

Certificate of value herewith Explained

7 28

15 J H Wilbur Expenses gold \$16.39

Same as above - Explained

1 83

16 Receipt Roll

Merns - White Salmon Tom. Charcoal \$239.55

(Number of bushels is correctly taken up on Property Return)

1397 bush @ 15¢ Explained

239 55

E S Turner \$225.00

Forward

437006 15454 87

Abst

Vou

Forward

4370 06 15454 87

This is a clerical error - Office Copy is correct = It will be now impossible to procure a new receipt from Mr Tanner, he having left the country = If required therefore I will send my Office Copy = In this connection I beg to refer to note 2 vou 10

Explained

223 000

In replz to the objection urged to the payment of more than \$6000 to Employees I desire to call the attention of the Accounting Officers to the clause - evidently overlooked by them - in the act cited, which provides that said limit of \$6000 shall not apply to those Agencies where the treaty provides for a larger sum being paid = The treaty with these Indians stipulates for a much larger force of employees than that limited in the act, and the act making appropriations for the fiscal year ending June 30th 1876 appropriates \$158,000⁰⁰ for employees at this Agency exclusive of Agent, Interpreter, and Head Chief = So much of this objection ^{over}

Forward

4596 06 15454 87

Forward 4595 16 15437 87
 therefore as applies to the 1st 2^d q^r
 1876 is Explained

Undisputed Disbursements
 during 1st and 2^d q^r 1876
 including amount suspended from
Pay of Employees

10062 90

Deposited with 1st Nat Bank to credit
 of the DS at close of 2^d q^r 1876

195 45

Miscellaneous Receipts carried to
 3^d q^r 1876 as per letter of Comm^r
 of Aug 13th 1875 of which a
 copy accompanies this Statement

601 56

15437 87 15437 87

In further explanation of objection to Pay
 of Employees I would cite letter of Commission^r
 of Sept 6th 1876 informing the Agent that
 the Hon Sec of Interior had allotted for
 Pay of Employees at this Agency for the fiscal
 year ending June 30th 1877 \$12200 00

As the Treaty provides for the number
 of Employees I presume the statement asked
 for is no longer required

Lest however there may be some question in
 relation to the matter I forward the list as
 desired

3^d Qr 1876

Balance due the PS at the close
of 2^d Qr being Miscellaneous
Receipts held by the Agent and
disbursed by him as per letter of
Commissioner of Aug 13th 1875

601 46

Note — I can find no record of
disbursements during or prior to
the 2^d Qr 1876 under the head
of "Fulfilling Treaty with the "
"Hakamas prior to 1873" and am
utterly at a loss to comprehend
this objection = It is possible there
may be an error in the "Tabular "
"Statement of Funds" sent me
from Washington, but if so, I see
no justice in holding me to a
responsibility for it = Unless
this be the meaning of the
objection, I can form no idea
what is meant = How could
the Agent make an "overdisburse-
ment" when he "held no funds"?

Explanation is requested —
Authority for disbursement of
funds derived from Miscellaneous
receipts is given in letter
of Act Commr Aug 13th 1875.
See Copy herewith Forward

601 46

Forward		608 46
Explained Miss Expenditures	15-27 47	
<u>Received during 3^d qtr 1876</u>		
From <u>Grazing cattle</u>	555.56	
" <u>Sale of Art. fab or raised</u>	98.20	
* " <u>Miss. belonging to Indians</u>	1086.86	1670 40
Total <u>Receipts</u> 3 ^d qtr		1670 64

4 th qtr 1876		
<u>Received During the qtr</u>		
From <u>Courts</u>	13,250.00	
" <u>Miss Receipts viz</u>		
" <u>Grazing cattle</u>	106.66	
" <u>Sale of Art. fab. on Res</u>	150.42	
" " <u>Sub to Employers</u>	82.44	
* " <u>Miss articles, the</u>		
<u>Property of Indian</u>	19531.3	2292.35
Total <u>Receipts of Cash</u>	16,542.35	16,542 35

objections to Cash acct
 Considered
Receipt Roll - Items
Charles Olney - Suspended '75
 A clerical error = Olney was
 employed from Oct 23 to 31st month
 being a skilled workman he
 received 15th per day Explained
 Forward

75	17814	45
	17814	01
15-28 22	16022	57

* see note
 at end of
 "Explanation"

1
 Receipt Roll Continued Forward 1528 22 ~~17816 51~~
 1781446

Dan Boone Suspended \$1.48

This is an error - Dan Boone was employed in the Harness Shop at \$90 per yr and therefore entitled only to \$2.50 - Excess must be charged to my ac

1 98

White Salmon Town Charcoal

Property taken up on Property

Return 477 bushels @ 15¢ = Exp =

71 55

Job^{ny} Terwilliger

This is an error and must be charged to me

1 00

1 Brooks and McFarland Sundries

Certificate of relative value of Gold

and Currency enclosed Explained

200 00

\$781¹⁶ of this voucher is disallowed as being in excess of the \$2000 allowed by Act of Aug 10th 1876

Now as this purchase was made Nov 7th 1876 it would be hardly possible for me to have Official notice of the passage of said Act =

= In this Connection I desire to

1799 77

17817 40
17817 49

remark -

Forward

1799

77

17817

43
~~48~~

that my official superiors in Washington seem to have but little comprehension of the location of this Agency and the time required for their communications to reach us.

To illustrate this point I may cite the suspensions now under consideration - These are dated Aug 2^d and the Agent is informed that 90 days only are allowed for his answer, yet they only reached here Dec 3^d one day over 4 months from that date - It would seem therefore unreasonable and unjust to hold me accountable to a law of whose existence I could have no knowledge - I am aware that ignorance of the law is not considered an excuse for its violation, but this case is very like holding me accountable to a law that had no existence till after its alleged infraction.

Between this Agency and the Columbia River is a lofty range of Mountains which become impossible after the snows of

Forward

1799

77

17817

43
~~48~~

Forward

1799 77 17817 49

Winter have commenced to fall

Usually we can cross them with loaded team till Nov, 15th but in some seasons the roads close much earlier than that date = It is therefore a matter of the utmost importance that our supplies be purchased early in the Autumn to ensure their delivery at the Agency = The goods in question were greatly needed for winter use = Authority for the purchase had been asked and granted and the prices were not unreasonable =

It may be well to state further that when in Washington in 1878 the Agent called the attention of the Commissioner, the Auditor and Controller to this purchase, and was assured by those Officers that in case this purchase should be deemed to come under the provisions of the Act cited, he would be permitted to include the amount in 2 vouchers = In view however of the facts heretofore cited and the absence of Official information as to the existence of the law it is believed that this purchase will not come under its provisions

I trust therefore the amount may be allowed
 et Explained 781 16

2 Dalles and Rockland Ferry Co \$11.83 Coin
 Certificate of value of C^y herewith Explained 90

Forward

2581 90 17817 13

Abstract	Account	Forward	2581	90	17817	49
3	<u>J H Wilbur Hotel Bill</u> \$7.78 incy Certificate as above	Explained		78		

5	<u>J B Conzle Harneast</u> \$183.56 Refer to explanation to you 1	Explained	183	56		
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4	<u>Thos Cornell</u> horse keep \$8 Coin Same as you 3	Explained		89		
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Purchases charged on the Abstract

<u>Billa</u> Oats	21.00
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<u>Showaway</u> Buffalo Robe	10.00
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<u>Katherine</u> Oats	16.00
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<u>Luxillo</u> Wheat	17.25
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<u>Charley Mann</u> Wheat & oats	56.63
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<u>Noah</u> " " "	9.00
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<u>Watchornie</u> " "	23.25
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<u>Smith</u> Saddles	54.00
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<u>Sampson</u> Oats	5.25
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<u>Winaco</u> "	4.88
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<u>Stannah</u> Buffalo Robe	10.00
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<u>Albert</u> Oats	5.25
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Properly Certified vouchers are herewith enclosed	Explained	231	57
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Forward	2998	64	17817	49
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Abst Von

Amount Forward

2998 64 17819 49

Abstract under added

1 00

Authority for expending money derived from Miscellaneous sources as per explanation to 2nd 3^d Qr 1876 is found in letter of Comr of Aug 13th 1875 Explained

854 56

1st Qr 1877

Receipts

From sale of Articles fabricated

and raised on Reservation 193.43

" " Subsistence to Employees 21.32

* " " Articles belonging to Indians 477.93

To be accounted for 691.78

691 78

Suspensions Considered viz

3 Chas Olney 72.00

5 Schuyler 49.00

6 Dick 101.25

21 Coke Helm 49.99

An itemized statement of the work performed by these parties and dates of employment forwarded herewith Explained

282 25

9 A Sunderland Services \$172.37

An overpayment, taken up and charged to myself on account Current

Forward

4136 45 18508 97

* See note at end of "Explanatory"

von

Forward

4136 45

18328 97

~~18371 24~~

25 00

for 3^d qtr 1878

17	<u>Hampton</u>	13-
22	<u>Louis</u>	10-
38	<u>Edward</u>	96-
42	<u>Wm Topnisk</u>	24-
44	<u>Elijah</u>	<u>15-</u>

On office copy Hampton, Edward and Louis have signed all papers in their own name while Elijah and Wm Topnisk appear at one time to have signed by mark = I am unable to account for the discrepancy unless it be from the repugnance which many Indians who are little accustomed to writing feel to signing their own names, and these parties may in one or two instances have preferred signing by mark =

They can all write and should have signed their own names = The amount was actually paid and if this explanation is thought insufficient I will procure other and properly signed vouchers

Explained

158 00

57 Brooks & McFarland Sundries \$83²²/₁₀₀

Certificate required hereinto - Explained

5 31

18534 21

~~18533 92~~

Forward

4299 76

~~18536 27~~

1st Apr 1877

Abst von Forward 4299 76 185-33 97

32 H J Walstrom drugs &c

Date Feb 10th place of delivery

The Dalles Oregon - Explained 40 28

Authority for disbursing \$955³³

Miscellaneous Receipts, Suspended

is found in letter of Commissioner

heretofore cited of Aug 13th 1875

Explained 955-33

In reference to the \$97.52

received by G B Kuzkendale

as Postmaster, it seems to me that

the PQ authorities - not myself - are

the parties to be held responsible for

this payment - This money never

passed through my hands - I knew

nothing of the amount received by

him as Compensation for his services

as Post Master - he was already the

Agency Physician when appointed

Post Master and in fact, though the

records of the PQ are in his name

the duties were performed and the

compensation received by a member

of his family - I can see therefore

no justice in requiring me to

Forward

529537 185-34 21
~~185-33 97~~

Forward

5295 37 1853 97

suffer for the short comings of the
PQ Department = As Dr King-
kendall was already employed here
at a compensation of \$12,000⁴⁷ the
PQ authorities should have declined
to allow him the compensation for his
services as P.M. - as it seems to me -
and not now - some 2 1/2 years after
he has received his money, - compel
me who knew nothing whatever of
his compensation as P.M., to pay
from my own pocket, what the PQ
authorities have wrongfully per-
mitted him to retain

I was aware that Indian Agents
were held responsible for many things
they never did, but never before suppos-
ed they were to be responsible for the
misdeeds of all Departments of the
Government = I cannot admit
the justice of this charge \$97.52
Deposit Credited under this
bond \$72⁵

Disbursements for the 3^d q^r 4th
quarters 1876 and 1st q^r 1877
undisputed and not objected to

Forward

5295 37 1853 97

185-34 21

Forward	5295 37	18538 97
to by the Accounting Officers of the Treasury viz		
3 ^d qr 1876 - Miss Receipts - Exp		
4 th " " Passed	7749 37	
1 st Qr 1877 " "	903 24	
<u>One the US April 1st 1877</u>		
<u>Miscellaneous Receipts</u> \$ 691.78		
<u>One under bond Aug 30th 1873</u> " 389421	458594	
	18538 97	18538 97

In further reference to the items headed Miscellaneous Receipts I would further remark that by far the greater part of these receipts were in fact issues to Indians for labor performed, and not in any sense properly Cash receipts = I was not at the time very well posted as to the proper manner of keeping the Book of "Receipts and Disbursements" as required by law and entered in it articles issued to Indians in payment for labor, as if sold for cash while on the other hand the amounts allowed them for such labor was entered as if "Cash Disbursed" = As a general thing I may say that all entries that

as Receipts for goods and annuities sold to the Indians were actually paid them at the prices set forth for labor performed either for themselves or the Department, as provided by law

An itemized Statement of these Receipts is forwarded herewith showing the sources from whence derived and the proportion that should properly come under the head of "Issues to Indians"

It is hoped that this may be deemed sufficiently full and explicit to remove all suspensions of my accounts prior to April 1877

= Note = In making up the account of Miscellaneous Receipts in their explanations I have followed my book of "Receipts & Disbursements" - The itemized Statement forwarded herewith shows some trifling discrepancies arising from error in footing, which are taken up at close of "Explanation of Accounts from Apr 13th 1877 to June 30th 1878"