

Refer in reply to the following: L.

26848 - 1889

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

Washington, Oct. 14, 1889.

W.L. Stoble, Esq.,

U.S. Indian Agent,

Yakama Agency,

Fort Simcoe, W.T.

Sir:

I am in receipt of a letter dated September 14, 1889, from W.G. Flett, Shelby, Oregon, stating that there is a colony of some 150 or more peaceable Indians engaged in pastoral and agricultural pursuits along the Columbia River in Klickitat County, Washington Territory; that they are without title to the lands occupied by them; that they are desirous of securing the same as homes for themselves and families; that there is enough public land in that vicinity to make allotments to them in severalty under the 4th section of the General Allotment Act, approved February 8, 1889; (24 Stats. 388), and, that they are averse to removing from their old abodes.

You will proceed to the country occupied by these Indians and advise them that they should make application to the Register and Receiver of the proper local land office, that Territory, to have the lands occupied by them, allotted under the provisions of said

Act; that in selecting and locating each Indian claim, it should be done in such manner that they will not overlap or conflict with each other; and, that unless they take some steps to obtain title to the lands to which they assert claim, they will meet with trouble in their effort to hold them.

I enclose, herewith, copy of said Act, blank applications for allotment, and circular of information issued by the Department, September 17, 1887, as to what is necessary to be done and how to proceed under the Act referred to, which you may fully explain to the Indians.

By General Land Office Circular of October 26, 1887, approved by the Department, October 27, 1887 - copy enclosed - Registers and Receivers everywhere, "are enjoined and commanded to permit no entries upon lands in the possession, occupation and use of Indian inhabitants, or covered by their homes and improvements", and "to exercise every care and precaution to prevent inadvertent allowance of such entries." "It is presumed" the circular continues, "that you know or can ascertain the localities of Indian possession and occupancy in your respective districts, and you will make it your duty to do so, and will avail yourselves of all information furnished you by officers of the Indian Service."

They are further instructed that "where lands are unsurveyed

- " no appropriation (of lands) will be allowed within the region of
- " Indian settlements until the surveys have been made and the land
- " occupied by Indians ascertained and defined".

To the end that the local land officers may be fully advised in the matter, you will forward to them a description of the lands occupied by these Indians, and invite their attention to the enclosed circular.

You will report any action in the premises to this office.

Very respectfully,

[Handwritten signature]
Commissioner.

(Hinton)

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Commissioner.

Office of the
 Washington, D.C.

J. J. Morgan
 Cante.

Requesting "Stobler
 agent to proceed
 to Columbia River
 in Kliffitah and
 make inquiry of
 Condition of
 Settlers."

(noting)