

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Nov. 24, 1879

Commissioner: Sir: I have the honor to request the privilege of purchasing an organ for the schools, not to cost more than one hundred and twenty-five dollars and pay for the same out of miscellaneous money. Quite a number of the girls of the schools and some of the boys would under a competent teacher, such as we now have, would be greatly advantaged by said instrument in school. Please answer at your earliest convenience.

Yours truly etc.

Hon B.A. Hayt, Nov. 29, 1879

Commissioner, Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report for the month of Nov, 1879
The month has been favorable for plowing and putting in fall grain.
The Indians of the agency have never manifested as much interest
in farming as this fall They are constantly making improvements,
fencing, plowing and teaming during the month 32 four horse teams
have been sent to the Dalle on the Columbia river for freight
purchased by your agent and discharged at the Dalles, 65 miles
from the statio . Owing to the snow on the mountains p 360 fifteen
of the teams were obliged to travel at least one hundr d miles from
the Dalles to the agency. These teams with their wagons and harness
belong to the Indians. Each ran drove 4 horses and made as good
time as any experienced white man.

The work in the shops is increasing as the Indians go on making
improvements. The schools are doing well. The grist mill with
double the capacity of former times is ..to do the grinding for the
agency.

The Piute Indians are behaving well and are increasingly
industrious. They have grubbed 40 acres of land, have been
cutting wood for the station, driving teams and assisting in ?
The ..of the month has been thr e or four times as much as is
usual for this time of the year. Plowing and seeding,hauling lumber
for fencing and shopwork, wood for the station and the transportation
of about 46 p .361 tons of freight from the Dalles has kept the
Department teams and many of the Indian teams constantly at work.
Everything is running smooth with the employes and the Indians
of the agency. I am etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Dec. 4, 1879

Hon H.A. Hayt, commissioner

Sir: I have the honor to request authority to stock our steam saw mill this winter. This work can be done by the Indians at a time when they would be idle without this work, and at a time when it would not interfere with their plowing, and seeding in the spring, or their haying and harvesting in the summer. We need 300,000 feet of saw logs--the logs delivered at ~~0000~~ the mill would cost three dollars and twenty five cents per thousand. If your Hon. will grant authority and so instruct me that I can pay out of the "miscellaneous fund" I shall be able to employ Indians that otherwise would be grumbling and gambling. This arrangement would enable us to saw ~~000000~~ early in the spring and use the lumber in fencing and building houses to better advantage than in the past.

I am sir, etc. James H. Wilbur. U.S. Indian agent.

(please answer immediately)

Olney 367

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Dec. 29, 1879

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your official letter dated July 16th, 1878 with a copy of one from Franklin P. Olney dated March 27, 1878. These letters have just come to this office. ^{You} ~~He~~ direct me to ascertain whether or not said Olney has any Indian blood in his veins, or any other just claim to be recognized as a member of the Yakima tribe of Indians. There is no doubt he has Indian blood. He has no other just claim. This Indian blood he claims does not entitle him to any privileges of this agency. He has claimed to be a citizen, paid taxes and voted, held land in common with other p 368 citizens. In years past I had him here and tried to make something of him but failed. He promised to reform and I let him ? again and found him worse than the first. I rejected him. He came again making a confession and promised to reform. I tried him again and in a short time after he broke into the room ~~and~~ where the Indian school girls were sleeping and got into bed with them. From that scene I took him and put him in irons and locked him again in jail and when he was out and required him to leave the agency. He has made me more trouble than any five or ten of the meanest Indians we have ever had in the agency. It is true that some of his relatives live here. It is not true that his mother and step father are living here or ever have lived on the reservation. When he was here he was not ..with his relatives and doing anything he could to create dissatisfaction with the Indians. His step father is a white man much after the stamp of Franklin. Franklin P. Olney has become a citizen. I protest against his ever becoming an Indian upon the Yakima agency.....

Wilbur.

Civ. Oregon R. 694.79

Hon. E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Dec. 29, 1879

Commissioner, sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the recp't of your official letter of Nov. 18th 1879 enclosing a claim of Dillard Sterrit for \$1,834.50 dollars. I have had the Indians Bannock and Piute who are here who are charged with committing the alleged depredations but cannot get any evidence of their being the partys. In the council I took pains to impress upon them that no harm would come to them in telling the whole truth. They say they did not commit these depredations.

I am sir etc

James H. Wilbur.

report--piutes-Church

Dec. 31, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt:

I have the honor to submit my report for the month of December. The first part of the month was pleasant for stock feed business, the last half of the month has been stormy and cold and has required a great deal of labor and vigilance in taking care of the cattle. Up to this time we have lost nothing.

The boarding school has been doing well. The Piute school six miles away under management of George Waters has done better and the children are more constant in attendance than we 372 could have reasonably expected and are making fair improvement. Our shops have been well supplied with material for work and the work in them has been thrifty.

Our grist mill is in first rate order and has been most of the month with grinding. We are not running the saw mill in the winter month.

We have just completed a church 36 by 72 feet with a belfry and a good bell having capacity to seat completely six hundred and fifty. The church is finished entire and is a model building. The new church is located near the old one and enables us to use the old for a school room. p 373

There is a growing effort with the Indians of this agency to be manly, industrious and Christians. There is peace in all our borders and prosperity that attends our efforts to civilize and Christianize the Indians of the reservation.

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

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Yakima Indian (sic) Fort Simcoe W.T. January 18, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor herewith to enclose gold value of currency from January 1st 1876 to June 30th 1878 which I trust will be satisfactory in the settlement of my accts. Also a letter from Messrs Ladd and Tilton Banker, Portland Oregon.

I am sir, your obedient servant James H. Wilbur.

U.S. Indian agent

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Yakima Indian Agency, Fort Simcoe, W.T. Jan. 19, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner: Sir:

I have the honor to make requisition for six hundred and eighteen dollars now due the policemen of this agency for the 3rd and 4th quarters 1879. Sometimes since you informed me the money would be forthcoming. Please send at your earliest convenience and oblige.

I am sir etc.

Yakima Indian Agency , Fort Simcoe, W.T. January 31st, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, Commissioner.

Sir: I have the honor to report the condition of this agency at the close of this month. On the afternoon of the 9th we had the most destructive wind ever known in this part of our country-- miles of post and board fence were blown down--when the posts were not broken off at the top of the ground the boards were blown off the posts and many broken. The damage done to our fences was great and I think about one thousand dollars. ✓

Our new church edifice which was completed on the 9th and was to be dedicated on the 11th -strongly built and well finished outside and in was moved on its foundation 8 inches. No great damage done to the building except readjusting the foundations. p 379

This building is 36 by 72 feet 20 feet ceiling having a belfry and a good bell, a model church having capacity to seat 650 comfortably. Since the addition of the Piute and Bannock prisoners our old church would not accommodate more than two thirds of the people who came to church on the Sabbath and there was an necessity of using the old church for a school for said Piute and Bannocks. ✓ Our new church is constructed and was dedicated according to the original plan on the 11th and is well filled from Sabbath to Sabbath.

Companies of the Indian men with their teams are in the woods cutting and hauling logs for the steam saw mill to stock it with logs for the coming season.

The cattle and horses of the agency are wintering with comparatively little loss.

The boarding school at the agency has not been as full this winter as sometimes in the past. I am making a vigorous effort to fill up the school to its utmost capacity. The Piute and Bannock children are being instructed 7 miles from the station in the old church by George Waters with good results.

Our shops with head men to work and plan are supplied with apprentice boys learning the different trades , 4 in the carpenters and wagon, 2 in the camp and two in the blacksmith shops.

Amid all the clamor of the people outside of the agency desiring to drive the I_ndians to parts unknown our Indians are settling into work and making permanent improvements.

I am sir

Your obedient servant etc.

Yakima Agency, W.T. Ft. Simcoe, Feb. 4th, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner Indian Affairs

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated Sept. 27th, 1879 directing me to forward a statement of the disposition made of \$4,000 remitted me for subsisting the Indians recently located on this reservation. I must ask your indulgence for my delay in providing my reply and would plead a press of business that has prevented my giving the subject attention.

I forward herewith the statement called for by which it will be seen that at the prices ruling here at the time the value of flour and beef issued the Piute and Bannack Indians over and above that purchased with funds allotted for them was \$7,110.38, making purchases in the 2d quarter p.382 of 1879 (illegible) agricultural implements purchased for the exclusive use of the Piutes were included in the same voucher with those purchased for the Indians belonging here.

In making the enclosed statement I have included only the value of subsistence issued the Piutes and Bannocks though have shared equally with the Indians belonging here the benefits of all appropriations of the government.

Very respectfully your obt. servant
James H. Wilbur U.S. Indian Agent

Yakima Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 7, '80

Hon C.P.Ferry

Hon.Sir: I have the honor to request you to pardon Aleck McCoy who was sent to prison from the coast at Vancouver, W.T. Hon Judge Green presiding. There were then amend ?? and Slek and Leo belonged to this agency and the other man to Warm Spring. The man from Warm Springs went to the prison at Salem Oregon for two years. He was the leader and deserved double punishment. He is out. Leo is dead and I am persuaded it would be right and just for Alek (sic) to be released. All our head men join in requesting you to pardon.

I am sir,your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent.

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, Wash., Feb. 10, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir: Herewith I have the honor to return spoliation claim of Theodore Gauthier for depredations alleged to have been committed by these Indians in 1858. This matter has been delayed from having mislaid the papers in the case. In compliance with instructions contained in your letter of May 29, 1879 marked in margin "C Yakima" I called a council of the Indians belonging to this agency and submitted the claim to them, but after the most diligent inquiry, could gain no information on the subject whatever, all leading Indians expressing themselves as well convinced that the people whole claim was baseless and no such occurrence took place, with any

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of the Indians belonging to the Yakima Reservation. Whether any such depredation was committed by Indians belonging elsewhere I am of course unable to say.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

Yakima, Fort Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 13, 1880

Hon E.A. Hoyt, Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

On looking over my property returns for 4th quarter 1879 I find that an error occurred in taking up property shipped from San Francisco and the following articles were omitted from Abst. B to wit:

55 papers tacks

600 lbs carriage bolts

50 lbs horse nails.

These articles will be taken up on Abstract B and accounted for in 1st qr. 1890. The great amount of clerical work required to make my answer to the exceptions taken of the accounts in the office of auditor and controller during the 1880 time my quarterly accounts were being prepared p 395 prevented a close accounting as could have been desired.

Trusting that the ...suggested with reference to this accounting may be approved, I remain etc.

[Wilbur]

(Fairchild)

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, Feb. 16, 1880

Hon Commissioner Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir:

In compliance with instructions from your office I have the honor to forward you this day my estimates for supplies and annuity goods required at this agency other than for boarding school, police rations and subsistence for Piutes, estimates for which were forwarded on the 6th inst. for the year ending June 30, 1881.

Every estimate has been signed, scrutinized, and which it is while believed the amount estimated for, will be sufficient (with the exception hereafter noted) yet every thing has been cut down to the lowest limit possible, consistent with the successful prosecution of the necessary work of the agency. It will be seen that my estimates aggregate as follows: pg 397

No. 1-Estimate for subsistence for Boarding school, police rations and Piutes, Feb. 6 \$679.96

No. 2-General estimate annuity goods \$122.42

No. 3-Estimate for subsistence stores for the Yakima Nation \$492.46

making a total of \$7,244.84

At prices ruling last year

By office letter of Nov. 29, '79 requested in my letter of the 6th inst. I was informed that the Honorable Secretary of the Interior had authorized me to advertise in the Oregonian for proposals to furnish needed supplies for the boarding school, police force and Piutes to the amount not exceeding \$10,000. It will be thus seen that my estimates for the whole amount needed at the agency comes far within the sum named by implication at least, as intended for only the classes named. I desire permission to expend the difference between my estimates and the \$10,000 via \$2,755.16 in the purchase of such agricultural implements as are required here.

In my estimates I have not included plows for the reason that it is impossible so long before to tell with certainty the kind and quality desired. Unless a plow is a good one it is about useless and by going in person from one dealer to another I can secure about as favorable terms as could be got by advertising, with the certainty that no inferior article will be put off on me. Again, it is quite probable that by the time I am ready to purchase some other agricultural implements may be more necessary than plows and if I am permitted to expend the money as the exigencies of the service require at the time, more real good will be accomplished by the disbursement of twice the money at a time when the articles are not so much required. I am glad to be able to say that the most of these Indians have long passed the point where a blanket and string of beads represents the whole sum of human happiness and have reached the stage of development where plows, harness and agricultural implements are far more desired than articles for personal advancement. Give them enough agricultural implements such as are suited to this condition and p 399 capacity, and question of subsistence will solve itself. For these reasons I respectfully recommend that I be authorized to expend whatever amount may be allotted this agency, for the purpose of civilization over the amount of my estimates, in the purchase of such agricultural implements as the exigency of the service may from time to time require.

As stated in my letter of the 11th inst. it is the unanimous wish of the people that whatever amount may be awarded them as compensation for subsistence issued the Piutes from stores belonging to the Yakimas be expended in the purchase of plows, wagons and harness material.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant
James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, Wash. Ter, Feb. 20, 1880

L.D. White, esq. Salem, Oregon.

Sir:

Upon the recommendation of E.R. Miller esq. carpenter at this agency, I have this day nominated you to the commissioner of Indian Affairs as engineer and sawyer at this agency at a yearly compensation of \$1,000. Your services will be required (should you accept) April 1st and your pay begin as soon as you commence work.

Transportation will be furnished you from the Dalles to the Agency by government teams. This appointment is of course subject to the approval of the Department of which I entertain no doubt. Please inform me immediately if you accept, that I may have time to make arrangements for your transportation to the agency and notify you of the same, or in case you decline, look elsewhere.

Very Truly Yours

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent

Warm Springs p 405
Leevy or Seery
Piutes Otiz

Yakima Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 20, 1880

Captain John Smith, U.S. Indian Agent

Dear Sir:

Leevy has been here for two weeks and has been visiting and conversing ~~carousing~~ with his people and has been interpreting for me. He wants to know what the decision was in reference to Otiz and his family. I told him I had rec'd orders from Washington to keep Otiz here and so I shall do until the order is countermanded. Otiz is contended to stay. If any change in his location should be ordered he desires to go to your agency. You are aware the recommendation of the commissioner was to have all the Piutes brought to this agency. Since p 406 the visit of Sarah Winnemucca, her father and Hatchesi to Washington there is talk I see of their going to the Malheur Agency. We are to wait the action of the Department in the case and when an order is rec'd for them to go to your agency or the Malheur I shall hasten their departure to their assigned destination without any unnecessary delay.

It was not at my suggestion or in accordance with my judgment that they were brought here, but having been brought and turned over to me and receipted for I am to keep them until ordered otherwise,

I am sir, etc.

James H. Wilbur.

Yakima Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe, W.T. Feb. 20, 1880

William Bland, Esq. Dear Sir:

When you were here I told you I would try and do something to repay your expenses in looking for your stolen horse. I herewith send you \$20 which I have made the poisoner pay. I have him here and trust we may with the punishment inflicted prevent the like occurrence at least with him. Please acknowledge the recp't of this money.

Very truly

James H. Wilbur

Hon Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington D.C.

Sir: Herewith I have the honor to forward my report for the month of February, 1880. During the latter part of the month the weather has been very inclement. Snow fell about the middle of the month and remained till the close. In consequence our spring plowing and seeding, usually well underway by the last of the month has this year been somewhat delayed. A large force of men and teams have been kept busy cutting and hauling sawlogs to the steam mill, while others have been employed getting out fence, wood (except employees) for this month as well as last has been paid considering entirely 414 of annuity goods so that I should have no occasion to forward any report of irregular employes for either January or February.

In making these issues it has been my object to extend the benefits of the annuities to all whether Yakmas or Piutes and to require from each a fair equivalent so that none who were willing to work have been deprived of their share. Gratuitous issues, principally blankets, have been made to a number of old and infirm of both sexes. The shops have been kept busy in repairing plows, wagons, etc. in readiness for spring work.

Constant and rapid progress has been made in the boarding school, though the attendance has been less than could have been desired.

This has been owing to a variety of causes. In some instances parents profess themselves unable to do without the assistance of their children in the lighter labors of the farm and household-- others are unwilling to have their children removed from their contact,

but all without exception profess a full comprehension of the benefits of an education, 415 for their children and an earnest intention to send them very soon.

The day school for Piutes, under charge of Dr. Waters, one of our home educated Indians, is succeeding remarkably. The children

learn rapidly, and having now acquired a tolerable knowledge ~~and~~ of the English language, may reasonably be expected to make still greater progress in the future. It is hoped that funds may be provided to enable me to supply these children with clothing which is much needed.

Regular weekly issues of flour and beef have been made to the Piutes with salt as often as required. In the distribution of annuity goods no distinction has been made between them and those who were perhaps more entitled to them.

As authorized by Department letter of Oct. 2, 1871, I have purchased 1,000 bushels of wheat and am pleased to say have had no occasion to go outside the reservation for it. If necessary I have no doubt but two or three times as much could readily be bought on the reservation, the surplus product of Indian labor. I take much pleasure

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in recording the fact that the crop raised by these Indians last year has proved sufficient not only for their own support but ~~the~~ has afforded sufficient subsistence for about 500 from another nation.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent.

Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe, March 10, 1880

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D.C.

I ask authority to purchase ten best plows at seventeen fifty;
ten sets farm harness at twenty-two dollars; two hundred pounds
harness leather at thirty-five cents and pay from surplus
miscellaneous funds in hand.

Necessity for immediate deliver, answer.

James H. Wilbur, agent.