

## Indians

Real and personal property of Indian wars of the the government residing within Yakima county and on the reservation will not be assessed for taxes this year where patents on the land have not been applied for according to a decision of L.M. Tyrrell, county assessor. There are about 56 such tracts of land on the rolls including about 42,000 acres of and formerly returning in taxes about \$150,000.

Some of the Indians have already called at the court house to learn what is being done about taxes against them for this year. They have been informed that where patents for their land have not been accepted there will be no assessments made or taxes levied.

All back taxes now on the county's tax rolls for past year which remains unpaid will still be carried against the Indians and their property says Lillian Bush, Busch, county treasurer.

The reason for the 56 tracts of Indian lands being found upon the tax rolls is explained by the fact that they were listed to Mr. Tyrrell by the Indian agency for taxation. Patents for the land had been received at the agency and the superintendent had supposed that this constituted ownership of the land for the Indians and by virtue of which they would become citizens.

A test case from Benewah and Kootenai counties in Idaho was carried to the United States Circuit court of appeals which rules that no Indian became a citizen or owner of the land allotted to him until he had accepted the fee simple patent issued to him by the government. The fact that such a patent had been issued and was being held for him was not construed as constituting ownership. The Indian must accept the patent. The Yakima Republic, April 16, 1924.

Wapato  
project

## Reservation

There are approximately 1,000 more cows on the Indian reservation projects of the Northwest at this time than one year ago, L.M. Holt, superintendent reported upon his return from an inspection trip to Klamath, Ore.

This is held a direct result of the drive for more dairy cattle that is being carried on this year.

There are 4,012 cows on the reservation at this time as compared to 3,095 last year. Hogs have decreased from 5,200 to 1,100 while there are 33,00 head of sheep or about the same number as last year.

The cultivated acreage dropped from 80,767 to 79,782 during the past 12 months. Holt says the decrease is due to the dropping of marginal lands for farm purposes and the removing of Japanese from the Wapato Indian reservation. At one time 12,000 acres were farmed by Japanese on the reservation while at this time there are only four families farming some 500 acres.

Holt gives the number of cars owned by farmers as 907 or 91 more than last year. This would indicate that reservation ranchers are prosperous. The annual crop report is not completed.

As only \$60,000 is available for work on the Wapato project during the next fiscal year there is little that can be done Holt says. Only one camp is being operated at this time that one being on the Satus. Work has not been cut down to any great extent to date but will be as soon as Holt has time to visit the reservation--The Yakima Republic, July 3, 1924.



## Indians

Olympia -The State alien land law can not apply to land within the boundaries of the Indian reservation, John H. Dunbar, attorney general has advised Sydney Livsey, prosecuting attorney for Yakima county.

"We think it clear that under the provisions of the enabling act and constitution the lands within the Yakima reservation remain subject to the disposition and absolute jurisdiction of the United States and that therefore the alien law can have no application within its boundaries," Mr. Dunbar wrote.

Efforts of the American Legion members, grangers and others to completely oust the Japanese tenant farmers from the Yakima reservation which have been continued for several years are now dependant for their success almost entirely upon the attitude of the Indian service officials instead of upon any legal right. Of the million and more acres of the Yakima reservation not more than 60,000 acres now deeded to white men, come under the state alien land ruling under the most favorable interpretation.

B.P. Six, chief clerk at the Toppenish Indian agency says that as soon as land is deeded to a white man it is considered as no longer a part of the reservation and that the federal government does not presume to exercise any special authority over it.--The Yakima Republic, Feb. 28, 1925.



Indians

Reservation

Fort Simcoe, September 15--I read in the Yakima Republic some time ago a notice written by John Lynch, Esq., U.S. Indian agent of Fort Simcoe, forbidding sportsmen hunting on the Yakima reservation.

In the notice the agent quoted section 2137 United States statutes the law ~~forbidding~~ forbidding every person, except an Indian, under pain of forfeiture of all guns, ammunition, traps and peltries; adding also a penalty of \$500 but excepting the killing of game for subsistence.

The law was passed and went into force against all white intruders who would be likely to hunt and kill game in any Indian country.

This includes the class of people now existing termed "half breeds" as the Indians are the only people with whom the United States has any treaty relations existing.

Not only against any white intruders but against any white man in Indian country lawfully residing or in the Indian service, position or residence does not alter the force of this law while in Indian country.

This law applies as much in the case of an Indian agent and his employees who may go out into the Indian country and shoot game, as it does in the case of whites who come into the Indian country from the outside of the reservation limits to shoot game. As long as the aforesaid section says "every person, except an Indian," no citizen, whether he be in the Indian service or outside of the Indian country can lawfully shoot game of any kind without violating the law, there being no word inserted in the section providing for the exclusive rights to Indian agents, employees or other persons to hunt and kill game in the Indian country.



Indians

Reservation

U.S. Agent Jay Lynch has received instructions from the department at Washington to prosecute all trespassers on the reservation.

A portion of the instructions relate to fishery rights of Indians to the effect that all rights of Indian~~x~~ acquired by them under the treaty of 1855 must be ~~respected~~ respected and enforced.

The treaty provided that "the exclusive right of taking fish in the streams where running through or bordering on the reservation is further secured to said confederated tribes and bands of Indians as is also the right of taking fish at all usual and accustomed places in common with citizens of this territory."

The instructions to Agent Lynch are:

"If any one should be found fishing in any of the streams in which under treaty the Indian right to fish is exclusive, you will inform them of the treaty rights of the Indians and warn them that if they do not desist they will be liable to prosecution under the law-" Yakima Herald, December 31, 1891.



## Reservation

Governor McConnell--It is all nonsense about talking of opening the reservation, as there is not a quarter of a section left from the allotments of the Indians worth a cent unless a couple of millions were spent to irrigate the unallotted land.

The Indians have been swindled in the Wenatchapam land steal and the magnetic needle of the compass has varied materially by metallic influences until their reservation is so much circumscribed that they have little left.

There are two hundred Indians (Wenatchapams) in Wenatchee who have had no allotments and are left out in the cold. It is no wonder the Indians feel that they have been foully wronged by the white man--Yakima Herald, Feb. 16, 1899.

There are rumors of strained relations between Indian Agent Lynch and the agents in charge of the forest reserve. The latter are reported to the department, it is said, to have told the department that the Indians are largely responsible for the devastating fires which are annually destroying the timber upon the reserve. Indian agent Lynch denies this and claims that the Indians on that part of the reserve on the reservation, where they have treaty rights, have never, either carelessly or by design, set the forests on fire, but in a great many instances the fires are started by herders and campers. The Indians, he claims, have cared for the forests for generations and been the sole guardians of the timber and the American people owe a debt of gratitude to them for their thoughtful care in protecting the magnificent forests of this country. They are now powerless, he says to protect or destroy if they had the disposition to burn the timber. But they ask the



## Reser ation

Inspector W.J. McConnell, returned Monday morning from Ft  
simcoe where he went the middle of the week on official business....

"While I was at the fort the Indians came to see me about the  
300,000 acre tract which has been restored to them and which the  
government has been trying to purchase. They held a council and I  
tried to get them to make an offer but they would not do so and that  
matter stands where it has stood for the last three months...

"All the land on the reservation that is worth anything  
has been allotted and many of the Indians have allotments that are  
valueless. A portion of the reservation that has not  
been allotted has been the subject of negotiations between the government  
and the Indians. At one time the Indians were offered \$1,400,000  
for it and they refused to accept that sum. The land is not

worth a hundredth part of \$1,400,000 --" The Yakima Republic,  
December 7, 1900.

## Reservation

If there is one thing that would benefit Yakima more than another at this juncture or any other juncture of our affairs it would be the opening of the Yakima Indian reservation to settlement.

The Commercial club is undoubtedly doing much good work but it could direct its efforts to no better channel than to an endeavor to bring about this much to be desired result.

The Herald representative has talked to a number of men in the Indian service and they feel confident of its accomplishment if the proper argument is brought to bear on congress.

We already have one friend there in Senator John L. Wilson and Senator Squire and the two representatives should be converted into active partisans in this cause.

The Yakima Indian reservation embraces 800,000 acres of land, over 300,000 of which are choice farming acres and the balance grazing and timber land.

The reserve has been surveyed with a view of allotment and in fact the allotment was made over a year ago by Special Agent Rankin.

The next step to be taken is the appointment by congress of commissioners to treat with the Indians and that can be accomplished during the ensuing session if the Commercial club will take the matter in hand and push it forward, steadily, firmly and intelligently.

The Yakima reserve is one of the choicest bodies of land in the Pacific northwest and is capable of maintaining a population of from sixty to one hundred thousand people, yet in the main it lies fallow and gives but a meagre support to less than two thousand Indians.

Should it be thrown open the Indians would receive lands of an extent which would admit of their handling them with profit and at the same time the sale of the balance would place them in the enviable position.



## Reservation

Hon A.B. Wyckoff, chairman Commercial club, Yakima:

Dear Sir: I beg to acknowledge receipt of your letter of the 21st ultimo. Enclosing copy of the petition of the Yakima Commercial club relative to the opening of the Yakima reservation.

Mr. Doolittle and I are both on the Indian committee in the House and we expect to get some favorable legislation through at this session.

Very Respectfully Yours

S.C. Hyde

Yakima Herald,

Jan. 9, 1896

Commissioner of Indian affairs Browning gives the following information to the Washington correspondent of the Post-Intelligencer:

Nothing can be done toward opening the Yakima reservation until congress shall have appointed a commission to go out there and treat with the Indians, securing their consent to take lands in severalty and accept from the government, a sum in cash for the remainder of the reservation which can then be opened up to settlement under the general homestead law or in any other manner congress may direct.

Some of the Yakimas, I understand, are well civilized at the present time, but there are what are known as wild Yakimas who are among the least civilized of any Indians under the control of this department at the present time. These Indians are not at all anxious to surrender any of their property to the government, fully realizing its value and knowing as civilization closes in around them that every acre is still further enhanced.



## Reservation lands

Wapato, Oct. 25, 1909-Leasing time for reservation land is now in full swing, three months before the usual time and the bidding has been lively, the highest price in the history of the reservation being offered for 80-acre hay tracts.

In one case \$9 per acre is to be paid for a tract, this being however one of the best producing hay ranches on the reservation.

This bidding has been only on the close in tracts and has been brought about by an effort on the part of certain persons to control all the close in tracts, thereby compelling competitors to go further and pay a higher hauling charge for the product.

T. Fleishhauer of Portland is the gentleman who is to pay \$9 an acre and besides this tract Mr. Fleishhauer has leased five other acres. He was forced to pay the price quoted in order to protect himself.

There has been considerable protest from the individual rancher over the ~~1000~~ increase in lease price many of them being forced to relinquish the land they have labored hard to put in good condition, just when they were about to reap a little reward because the price offered by others was prohibitive to them. The Indian agent at Fort Simcoe has been kept busy during the past week looking after the affairs of the Indian leaders and hearing protests of those whose ranches are likely to be taken from them. In the meantime the Indian smiles as he sees the price of his allotment soaring—The Yakima Herald, Oct 27, 1909.



## Reservation land

Recommendation will be made by Agent Don M. Carr of the Yakima Indian reservation that special land leases be granted to white settlers on the Yakima Indian reservation for periods of from five to seven years so as to permit dairying and more diversified farming.

Ranchers who are farming Indian lands claim that the short term leases, none being over three years in length, deter the improvement of the property.

Representatives of the Toppenish and Wapato commercial clubs and the farmers' unions at Toppenish, Parker and Wapato conferred with the Indian agent and several other Indian service officials Monday night and reached the conclusion ~~on the 10th of the month~~ stated. The request will be forwarded through the agency to the Indian department ~~at~~ at Washington.

The agency will also recommend that the time for payment of rental money to the government for the Indians be extended from July 1 to September 1 so as not to interfere with the use of money in marketing crops--The Yakima Herald, Sept. 4, 1912.



## Indian Reservation

Commissioner Barge left for Fort Simcoe on Tuesday with the information that 100 patents for allotments to reservation lands had been issued and that the balance would be issued as rapidly as possible--Yakima Herald, May 27, 1897.

Money for the improvement of roadways in the Yakima Indian reservation, if appropriated by congress, will be expended after investigation by the secretary of the interior with reference to the need of such roads and the probable use of such appropriation. in case it should be made.

The secretary is to report to the next congress the results of the inquiry. These are provisions of the amendment to the Indian appropriation bill finally agreed upon. The bill does not appropriate \$100,000 for road improvement on the reservation from the funds of the Yakima Indians. This is the information contained in a letter received here by L.V. McWhorter from an official of the Indian department at Washington.

From their council lodge on the Yakima reservation the Yakima Indians sent forward to the commissioner of Indian affairs a numerously signed petition protesting against the bill introduced by Senator Jones and asking for the appropriation of \$100,000 from the Indian moneys for road construction on the reservation.

The bill they say was at the instance of commercial clubs of the white men and is looked upon by the Indians as an injustice. The roads, they point out, must from necessity benefit some of the allottees but others, whose money must go for the improvement, will reap no benefit.

Neither the state nor the county they say spends any money for improvement of reservation roadways and they ask "why should we who are in such dire need of houses, barns and other adjuncts to a comfortable life be compelled against our wishes to build highways against our will at the conniving and deeply interested white financiers."



It is pointed out ~~on~~ by the Indians that much of the lands where  
the roads are proposed are in the hands of wealthy white  
speculators who will be benefitted far more than the Indians.

The prayer of the petition is that the commissioner decline  
to sanction the "unjust move." Yakima Herald, March 8, 1911.

Four-column underline of pictures accompanying the WORK OF YAKIMA INDIAN AGENCY

The life of the Indians on the Yakima reservation is pictured in the photographs above. The top life picture shows salmon fishing at Celilo Falls on the Columbia, where fish are caught and dried each summer for the following winter; below it is shown forestry work at the Indian CCC camp; bottom is the Indian exhibit at the last state fair. The second row of pictures shows Father Wilbur, Methodist minister who was first Indian agent in the 1860's, and who is still revered by the tribes, and bottom, William Charley, Indian cowman, in gala dress. On the right, top, is an Indian cattle sale; the two small pictures below are Indian CCC boys working on the roads, and the government lookout station on the reservation built by the CCC. The bottom right picture shows the extension work of turkey farming.

--THE YAKIMA INDEPENDENT, March 14, 1938  
page 2



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page 2

14

About three hundred Indians representing the ~~thirteen~~ tribes on the Yakima reservation met Judge Goodwin and Mr. Barge of the Indian commission at Fort Simcoe on Saturday last to hold a grand pow-wow over the proposition of sale to the government of the unallotted lands of the reservation.

To say that there was hi-yu talking is to but feebly express the continual flow of rhetorical gems from the mouths of White Swan, Thomas Pearne, Eneas, Frank Meacham, Me-Captain Simpson and others of the big men.

Nothing of course was done of a definite character as the Indian is the creature of much deliberation but the commissioners were fully impressed with their statecraft and made to realize that their undertaking would require time as well as diplomacy.

The crafty Eneas and Thos. Pearne who have large cattle interests and want the reservation as a range are of course opposed to any change and they made fiery and bitter speeches against the government and against the agent and then advised the Indians against entering into any agreement for a couple of months assuring them that the new administration at Washington meant an early change of agents at the reservation.

One of the contentions was that the government had not issued patents for the lands which were allotted by Major Rankin a couple of years ago, and another that the survey of the south line of the reservation resulted in an injustice to the Indians. These patents will no doubt be issued now as it is understood they were kept back pending the passage of a law regarding the sale of liquor to Indians which is now before the president for his signature.

A resurvey of the south boundary line was promised by the commissioners and the work will be undertaken by W.H. Redman.

While not discouraged over the result of the council, the commissioners no doubt feel that their hopes that the money to be received from the government for the land could not be used in educational



and irrigation work is in vain, for the Indians are conversant with the details of the opening of the Nez Perce reservation and many of them are envious of the prosperous financial condition of their Idaho brethren.

The general impression seems to be that the Indians will not sell the unallotted lands for less than a million dollars and those who are disposed to sell feel that they should at least have this much. The commissioners are anxious to see that justice is done to the Indians but they will probably hold no more great councils for some time to come as they can see nothing to be gained by such gatherings, but in place will hold council with each of the thirteen tribes in turn and one of these is being held today in this city--Yakima Herald, Feb. 28, 1897.

The Indians of the Yakima reservation do not want the reservation opened to settlement at this time.

At least that is the report brought to North Yakima by Samuel Jackson, interpreter, who is in the city in connection with the Seuffert-Olney fishing rights case. Interpreter Jackson says that the Indians have been for some time considering the question of the reported early opening of the reservation.

The result of their discussion of the subject was a recent council which was presided over by Chief Umpter. At that time the Indians decided to memorialize the federal government to delay the opening.

This will be asked for on several grounds important among which is that in the opinion of the Indians the time is not ripe.

The reservation they think should be theirs for a longer period. They have not had time, they say, to become educated in the ways of the white man. The older people can remember the day when there was no whites in this part of the country and the younger people have had but their generation of contact. That time, it is declared, is insufficient to prepare the Indians for the presence of active white people as neighbors. But a little longer the plea is and the Indians will be better able to hold their own and meet in competition with the white settlers.

Indian Agent Young who is in the city from Fort Simcoe was asked last night if he had heard anything of the council and said that he had not. He also said that the fact that he had not heard of it would not indicate that there had been no such meeting.--The Yakima Herald, June 30, 1909.



The attention of the land buying public has again been forcibly called to the neary opening to settlement of the Yakima Indian reservation by an open letter from Supt S.A.M. Young of the reservation to all merchants and traders in the vicinity with reference to the immediate necessity for adjusting all claims against Indians on the reservation within the next 90 days.

What makes the letter particularly interesting is the fact that although it has been believed for some time that the reservation would be opened to the public in 1910 yet previous to this time the exact date of the opening has been known neither to the local land office or to any of the officials at the reservation and this letter is the first intimation the local officials have had of the intention of the officials at Washington in regard to the matter.

The letter to the merchants which is a quotation from the commissioner of Indian affairs directs each merchant to present for settlement within the next three months any claim and calls their attention to the fact that no claims will be adjusted out of the proceeds arising from the sale of the lands. The letter indicates that the reservation will be opened this summer or fall.

The letter follows:

Ft Simcoe, March 10, 1910.

I desire to call your attention to the following which is a quotation from a circular letter received from the commissioner of Indian affairs with the approval of the honorable secretary of the interior.

You are directed to send to this office at the earliest possible date and not later than three months from the date of this order the accounts or claims of all traders, licensed or unlicensed against any and every individual Indian on your respective reservation from the beginning down to the issuance of the order of the secretary of December 17, 1909. Every single item now claimed should be entered and certified and sworn to by the trader.

Against each of these claims should be entered the amount of the individual Indian moneys ~~and~~ the particular Indian now has in the bank.

The trader should swear also to his knowledge or ignorance of the original order of 1904 in which notice was given that credit accounts against Indians would not be adjusted from the proceeds arising from the sale of inherited or other lands and that any credit extended was at the risk of the vendor.

In recommending accounts for subsistence and clothing the superintendent must consider and report how many persons were rightfully dependant upon the applicant for the necessities of life during the time the account was running.

The purpose of this circular is once for all to make a final clean up of past accounts....Yakima Republic, March 18, 1910.