

Hon. R.E. Trubridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington D.C. January 7, 1881

Sir: I have the honor to report operations at this agency for the month of December, 1880 as follows:

Our winter commenced somewhat earlier than usual, snow falling towards the last of November and remaining on the ground till the present time with no prospect of more favorable weather.

This has rendered the employment of quite a number of men necessary for gathering up the bands of cattle from their grazing grounds in various parts of the reservation and feeding them when gathered.

This service has been paid entirely from annuity funds. I fear the severity of the winter will cause the Indians to lose many of their cattle and horses and notwithstanding that the Department has a large supply of hay, yet many 688 of our cattle have probably escaped observation in the bushes along the creek bottoms and are lost.

Early in the fall I informed the Indians that if they would cut and haul to the mill the logs I would see that the same were manufactured into lumber and houses and barns erected or such as desired. In consequence of this promise several parties have been equipped and we now have men at work getting logs to the mill on their own account.

The school is remarkably prosperous. Several causes combined to give the Indians a better appreciation of the advantages of the education and the result has been that our ~~recommended~~ accommodations have

been taxed to the utmost and even then we have been unable to take all the children that were offered. The boarding house and school rooms are only calculated for 60 children but this winter we have had as many as 90 at one time while the average has been over 80 for weeks. Of course this results in much inconvenience to teachers and matron and the utmost care is required to preserve 689 the health and cleanliness

Horses. Claims.

Scummit ORand N

Yakima, January 23, 1881

Agent of Oregon R and Nav. Co.

The Dalles, Ore.

Sir:

I<sub>n</sub> a communication from Col. Wm. J. Pollock, inspector of Indian affairs, I am informed that the Or. Railway and Nav. Co. have expressed a readiness to settle for the horses killed on their line belonging to Charley Scummit a Yakima Indian, on a basis of \$15 each for the horses and \$25 for the mule, or \$70 in all. Upon consultation with the Indians here, I find that though the fact of two of the horses being broken to harness somewhat increases their value, yet on the whole the above amount will be satisfactory and I am prepared to accept it as a full compensation.

Very re. etc

(Fairchild)



Customs. Medicine men.

Deaths. Crime

Yakima Feb. 10, 1881

Hon R.E. Trowbridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I regret to report an unfortunate occurrence which illustrates the power of superstition over Indians who have made considerable progress towards civilization. The daughter of one of our Yakima Indians recently died of consumption. Her father was fully persuaded that her death as well as the deaths of several other children he had lost was occasioned by the incantations of an Indian doctor or medicine man named Geo Buls and determined on revenge,

First however he desired the assent of the head chief, Joe Stwire, and dispatched p 704

a messenger to procure his consent. Whether the messenger failed to understand Stwire's answer, or whether the chief approved the murder does not very clearly appear, but the messenger returned with an answer that Chillums (the father of the dead girl) construed to mean consent and another Indian was employed to commit the deed.

Entrance into the medicine man's house was effected and he was killed with an axe, quite a number of Indians being fully cognizant and entirely approving of the act. As soon as I was informed of the circumstances I caused the arrest of all those most actively engaged and called a council of all Indians to determine what disposition should be made of the murderers. The council met on the 8th inst and after careful ~~cons~~ deliberation decided to try the case after their own p 705 customs and punish these guilty in it according to their own laws.

Several favored the surrender of the criminals to the civil authorities to be tried by the United States Laws but the great majority favored the trial by themselves. I respectfully ask if the above disposition of the case was in accordance with the law. Very rec. (Wilbur by Fairchild acting agent.)

Yakima Feb. 26, 1881

W.V. Rhinehart, esq. (could be Rhinehardt)

Farmer in charge of Malheur agency, Or.

Sir:

Your favor of the 4th inst. enclosing schedule of public property at Malheur agency and requesting information etc as to steps to be taken for the transfer of said property to this agency is received.

Agent Wilbur is in Washington and will probably not return before March 15th. still I have no doubt but he will be here in ample time to make all necessary arrangements for the transfer. Our instructions direct the employment of Indians as far as practicable and I judge it to be the intention of the agent to start out with a number of teams from this agency, as early in the season as the mountains can be crossed.

Very etc.

Fairchild.



Monthly Report  
Winter loss

Yakima, Feb. 28, 1881

Hon R.E. Brownbridge

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report from this agency for the month of February. As stated in my report for January the winter has been one of unusually severe character.

The loss of stock throughout the whole country has been enormous and the agency has by no means escaped. Both the Indians and Department will suffer considerably, though not as much as I at one time feared. We were well provided for any ordinary winter but the present has been exceptional. About the 16th inst the snow commenced melting and at this date is nearly gone that no further loss of stock is anticipated. It is impossible p 717

to guess at even approximately the loss of either the Indians or Department. Many Indians had nearly enough forage put up to last through the winter and all had more or less. As their own feed became exhausted, they were directed to drive their stock to the Dept. hay yards and this stock fed with that belonging to the Government. The shops as usual have been employed in repairing agricultural implements in readiness for spring work, and manufacturing in the carpenter shop, chairs, windows, doors, sleds etc and in the harness shop, harness, bridles, halters and the blacksmith shop has been kept busy repairing.

The school has maintained its numbers and interest. The children are making rapid progress in the ordinary branches of English study while out of school hours they are taught useful branches of labor.

A number of the larger boys are working in the various shops as apprentices and the girls are being taught needle work, housekeeping, cooking in the boarding school p. 718 house.

Regular weekly rations of flour, beef and potatoes have been issued to the Putes and a number of the poorer Yakims.

This number must now be largely increased. The extraordinary severity of the winter has prevented the usual hunting and those of the Yakims who had sufficient food provided to supply themselves till spring, have been compelled to divide with others who depended in a large degree upon hunting and with others who have supplies of salmon at the fisheries which they had intended to bring to the agency during the winter so that now nearly the whole population are destitute of subsistence.

The Yakims claim that they are certainly as much entitled to subsistence now that they are destitute as the Putes, who, for two years have been subsisted at their expense, and it is difficult to find any answer to the claim other than affirmative.

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

(no signature)



Wilbur in Wash.

Mrs. Wilbur. Warm Springs  
Malheur Agency

Takina, Ft. Simcoe, Feb. 28, 1881

A.R. Smith, Esq.

Special U.S. Indian Agent,

Malheur Agency

Sir: Your favor of the 12th inst. came to hand per this mail. I regret to say that Father Wilbur is still in Washington but will probably return at an early day. If permitted to express an opinion, I should say that your proposition was an excellent one, and I doubt not will meet the hearty approval of the agent.

He has been detained by the severe illness of Mrs. Wilbur, but the last letter from him informs me that she is rapidly recovering. I would forward your letter to him but presume he will be on his return before it could reach him. I am sure he would p

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be very glad to meet you here.

Very Respectfully, your obdt. Servant

J.H. Fairchild

Clerk in charge.

Yakima, Mar. 16, 1881

Tresspassing

To Mr. Allen

Upper Satus:

Sir-Many complaints are made to me regarding your presence on the reservation with a large band of horses and of your dealing with the Indians.

I do not wish to have any controversy with anyone but I have a duty to perform which I would, if I could, disregard. You must be aware that you are on the Reservation in direct violation of the laws of the United States, that you have been once required to leave, which notice you disregarded. I do not wish to make trouble for any one, or gain the ill will of any person and just so far as my duty as representative of Agent Wilbur will allow, I desire to accommodate all persons. For these reasons I passed over the disregard of my previous p. 737 notice and should not have objected at this time had not several Indians complained that their horses having been lost were found in your band, branded with your brand, you claiming to have bought them.

I desire therefore that you remove your band of horses from the reservation immediately which you are hereby directed to do.

Very respectfully

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent, by

J.H. Fairchild, acting agent.



Piutes Warm Springs 754

Yakima (F<sup>ort</sup> Simcoe) March 28

Piute Louis

Warm Springs

Dear Sir:

Your father wants me to write you to say that you r brother is very sick and they want you to come and see him, immediately. Father Wilbur has returned and wants me to say to you that the president told him that all the Piutes at Warm Springs were to come to Ft. Simcoe and he wants you to come and he will try and get you appointed interpreter, and he has no doubt the appointment will be made.

He ~~saw~~ saw Natches and Winnemucca and some of your people. The Malheur Reservation as you probab<sup>ly</sup> know will be sold and the goods now there will be brought to Yakima Reservation.

Yours Truly

J.H. Fairchild, clerk.

Surveyor

Yakima, March 28, 1881

Hon Thomas M. Michal

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash, D.C.

S, r: I respectfully ask authority to employ an engineer and sawyer to manufacture lumber in our steam mill. During the past winter the Indians have displayed a remarkable activity in cutting and hauling logs to the mill, with the expectation of building quite extensively during the summer. The amount of logs at the mill will necessitate the employment of a sawyer and engineer for several months.

The compensation to be at the rate of \$1,000 per annum each.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient etc.

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.



School 756

Building

Yakima, March 28, 1881

Hon Thos. M. Michal

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir: In submitting the enclosed estimate of funds required at this agency for the 1st and 2d quarters, 1881, I respectfully ask attention to the absolute necessity for an appropriation to build a school house and boarding house at this agency.

The Indians here are beginning to realize the importance of education. During the past winter, with accommodations at the utmost for 60, we have had from ~~20~~ 90 to 100 while many parents whose children could not possibly be accommodated, have been clamoring for the privilege of sending them. We can keep our boarding school up to the full average of 120 p 757

~~0000~~ scholars without difficulty and the rapid progress made during the past winter gives most encouraging promise for the future.

By furnishing lumber from the steam mill and using the agency employees as far as possible, I am satisfied buildings of the necessary size can be erected and furnished for \$2,500 and I have therefore only asked for this amount.

It is a misfortune not only to the Indians but to the whites, to turn away an Indian child, asking for an education and I earnestly urge upon the department the necessity and importance of allotting at least the amount asked for, for the purposes named at this agency

Very respectfully

your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.

Malheur French.

Dalles

Yakima (F<sup>r</sup>t Simcoe) March 29, 1881

Messrs French &amp; Co.

The Dalles, Ore. Gentlemen

I expect to send a number of teams to Malheur Indian Agency as soon as the state of the roads will admit to bring the I.D. foods that are there to this agency. As the transportation funds are limited, it has occurred to me that it might be adviseable to haul light loads of freight to Canyon City or other points on my road provided there was plenty of freight offering. Please inform me if there is likely to be a chance to load my teams at reasonably fair rates. We shall probably start the latter part of May or first of June.

Very Truly yours

(no signature)

U.S. Indian agent.



Ahtanum- York- Lynch  
Seed "heat

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Yakima(Ft.Simcoe) March 27th, 1881

Mr. Lynch

Ahtanum; Sir:

Mr. York of Yakima C.ty informs me that you have seed wheat which you proposed to sell at the rate of \$1.00 per bushel delivered at your place.

I am in need of 50bushels and will take that amount at \$1.00 per bushel. I am not in funds just now, but will personally guarantee that payment shall be made within six weeks.

Very Respectfully

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.

Please let me know by the bearer if you can let me have the wheat on the terms named above and I will send over for the wheat.

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent

Yakima (Fort Simcoe) March 30th

Hon Thos. M. Michal

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir: I am informed by the Indians that Inspector Pollack on his visit to this agency last winter promised to return in the spring and distribute our herd of cattle among them.

Against any such action I respectfully protest. Its effect on the could (copy) only be bad while it would deprive the government of a resource that has proved of immense value in the past. I respectfully ask the Department to take into consideration the fact that within the past two years our herd has furnished nearly 600 head of beef cattle worth at least \$12,000 which has supplied subsistence to the Piute prisoners located here without expense to the Dept. besides some hundreds of head issued p 764 to meritorious Indians and the natural increase has more than kept the number of cattle at its original proportion.

To make the distribution to the Indians as suggested by Inspector Pollock would compel the government to furnish a yearly fund for the purchase of beef for the Piutes and school, and be a real injury to the Indians.

All experience shows that what is gained without effort is rarely prized at its value, and the Indian is no exception to the average human nature. While, if the proposed distribution should take place, there might be a few of the Indians who would appreciate and care for the cattle they received, by far the greater number would look upon it as a windfall to be enjoyed as quickly as possible and notwithstanding all the efforts of the agent would drive their stock off the reservation, sell them and soon dissipate the proceeds. It has been my practice to issue cattle to Indians who I saw were industrious and economical and use the prospect of such an issue as an incentive to good conduct and industry.



I have carefully guarded the herd till it has reached such proportions, that the natural increase renders it possible to supply beef to the Piutes and School and to issue each year several hundred head to deserving ~~Indian~~ young Indians without diminishing the herd. To deprive the agent of such a means for the encouragement of good conduct would seriously cripple his resources and greatly impair his power to assist and encourage merit and industry. I respectfully ask that such instructions be immediately given as shall prevent any such distribution and set the minds of the Indians at rest on the subject.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.

Powell..Cattle

Yakima Indian (copy)

Fort Simcoe March 30, 1881

Hon David Powell, Dear Sir:

I arrived here on Saturday last. Find the weather very fine, grass quite good. Hay at the ranch both on the hills doing well. ~~Those that~~ Those that have lived will all get through alright now. When you chose to come up and look for your live cattle the way is open. I think it would be better for you to delay about two weeks as the Department Cattle could at that time be gathered and counted and you could work in with us in the gathering.

The grass of the agency has never looked better. Hope the gathering ~~will show~~ and counting will show the loss that has been reported (copy) written in margin.

Yours Very truly

James H. Wilbur Etc.



Plutes, Vancouver  
Gen. Wheatons

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Yakima March 30 (copy) 1881

Hon Th mas McMichol (or al)

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash . D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of communication from your office dated March 10th, marked in upper left margin CIV enclosing copy of telegrams from Gen. Wheaton, U.S. A. in reference to the disposition of Plute prisoners now at Vancouver.

In reply I have the honor to say that I am in possession of no information whatever concerning said prisoners. I have no personal preference in the matter but as I understood when in Washington that all the Plutes now at Warm Springs would be transferred to this agency, would suggest it might be well to bring those at Vancouver also.

James H. Wilbur etc.

Yakima, April 1st (1881)

Hon Thos. M. Nichol

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash.D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of operations at this agency for the month of March.

On my return from Washington I found, in many respects, a material change in the condition of affairs and that by no means for the better. One cause for this was the unprecedented hard winter, more severe than any before known for thirty-four years, to my personal knowledge.

For nearly 95 days the snow remained on the ground, varying in depth from one to three feet, a large portion of the time with a heavy crust that rendered travel for the animals impossible except in well broken roads.

Under these circumstances the loss of 769 stock could not be otherwise than heavy and in fact fully four fifths of the horses belonging to the Indians are supposed to have been lost. Cattle fared somewhat better, though the Indians have probably lost 60 per cent of those belonging to them.

I had made unusual preparations for a hard winter and had a supply of hay much larger than ordinary, so that the Government will lose a much less per centage of cattle than any stock owner in the country. What the loss will actually amount to it is as yet impossible to say, but it is my intention as soon as practically to gather up and count the herd. I shall then be able to report the precise amount of loss.

The other circumstance to which I alluded, as causing a changed condition of affairs from what existed when I started for Washington was the unfortunate impression left on the minds of the Indians by Inspector Wm. J. Pollock while investigating the Agency during my absence in Washington. Whether intended by him, I do not take upon myself to say. p. 770 but I find the Indians expecting a



of the inspector in the spring to make a general distribution of the government herd among them which they declare he positively promised.

Another most unfortunate impression made on them was, that the inspector disapproved of the manner in which the annuity goods have heretofore been distributed as compensation for labor actually performed and during all the past years while they had been performing service under the direction of the agent, the Department intended and supposed that the goods were being gratuitously given to the Indians and that the agent had been paying them cash for their labor.

Consequently I found on my return that where I had left smiles, cheerfulness and good feeling, I was met with averted looks, sullen discontent and a spirit of suspicion that was terribly discouraging. As soon as practicable after I had ascertained the extent of the expectations created among them, I called a council of all the Indians, and explained the course ~~be~~ heretofore pursued which I intended to adhere to p 771

with the reason for the same and pointed out to them the good effects produced in the past. I am glad to say that all with the exception of one or two chronic grumblers, appreciated the reasons for my course heretofore and cheerfully acquiesced in my plans and methods for the future. Still the impression is not wholly eradicated and will doubtless be a source trouble and discontent for years.

The work of the agency during the month in addition to the regular shop has been plowing and seeding ground, repairing fences, etc. We have sown a large amount of wheat, barley and oats and propose to plant an unusually large amount of potatoes, all of which will probably be needed to subsist the Piutes.

The school is in a most flourishing condition, the children happy and contented, notwithstanding their crowded quarters, and making rapid progress.



School has now been opened for the Plute children about 25 of whom have been gathered, and comfortably clad and are now in school. They learn very rapidly and promise to, at least equal the Yakimas in the readiness with which they acquire the rudiments of an English education.

The shops have been employed to their full capacity in repairing wagons, plows and in such other work as was required and the grist mill has been thoroughly overhauled and put in proper condition to do effective work. I am glad to say that the Plutes seem to have recovered their spirits and cheerfulness. Nearly all the able bodied men and many of their women have been steadily at work either for the Department or for such of the Yakimas as may require their services, and I have been enabled to (p 587) very materially reduce the amount of free issues of subsistence to them.

Many controversies and disputes having arisen lately among the Indians living on the Sattas respecting the boundaries of their farms, and the stakes and other evidences of the former survey having disappeared, I purchased for \$50 a surveyor's compass and chain and devoted 12 days to running lines and locating and allotting lands. I had not before realized how strong was the desire of these Indians to have their locations definitely settled and their lines conform to the Govt. survey. After considerable trouble I succeeded in locating the lines of the official survey and from that proceeded to survey and assign to the several Indians tracts of land of different sizes according to the location, capacity of the Indian to cultivate number in family etc. No claim was allotted for more than 200 acres and none for less than 80. No measure that I have adopted of late years has given so (p 588) much satisfaction as this and it is my intention to continue the survey and allotments till all who desire have received lands. If this action of the agent could be supplemented by the issue of patents by the govt. the Satisfaction of the Indians would be complete. ✓



I have not yet had time to perfect my plans relative to the Piutes. I had a conference with them a few days since and informed them of the decision of the Dept. that they make this Reservation their future home. They appeared to acquiesce readily and as soon as possible I shall personally select lands and locate them permanently.

In conclusion I desire to express my grateful sense of Divine Providence that has returned me in safety to my field of labor, and with profound gratitude for the past and unfaltering trust in the future lean with confidence on the same sustaining and guiding hand

Very respectfully

James H. Wilbur etc.