

The next great rush for land in the northwest will be into the Yakima Indian reservation. When that section is thrown open for settlement "boomers" will line up on the border just as they did at the time of the Oklahoma land grab, and it will be a race with the head man the most lucky.

That is the opinion of Frank Weatherson, land agent for a party of homeseekers who sent him on in advance from eastern Minnesota and who will follow when he says the word.

Mr. Weatherson was on his way into Asotin county to look over the land situation there. He will go to Dayton and take a team overland from that city, viewing the prospects along the road. He spent some time in the Yakima country.

"There is plenty of good land fenced up inside the Yakima reservation," Mr. Weatherson said, "but no one can get at it at the present time. It is just the same as though it were at the North pole. Nearly all the other land in the northwest, generally speaking, has been filed upon by settlers and the little that still remains is worthless so far as I have thus far been able to see. I have not yet been into the ~~Washtucna~~ Washtucna country but presume that all of the good land there is already taken up. In Asotin county I hope to find something that is worth homesteading.

"There are thousands waiting for a chance to cross the line into the Yakima reservation and when the time comes, as it will, there will be many a boomer grow suddenly rich and many another who will be sorely disappointed. There is no better wheat land in the world than that on the Yakima reservation and the time is coming when the world will have its use. Even the Indians know that and are waiting for the time to come when the settlers will cross the imaginary line into the reserve.

"If I am in this country then I shall have my try with the rest

but the farms that are covered up by that reservation are worth
an effort--" Walla Walla Union, March, 1902.

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Reservation

To the honorable senators and representatives of the 54th congress

Your petitioner, the Yakima Commercial club, embracing among and its members over one hundred of the leading citizens of the largest property holders of the county, respectfully requests that the Yakima Indian Reservation may be thrown open to settlement at the earliest practicable moment for the following reasons viz:

That the reservation embraces 887,040 acres and lies nearly in the center of the Yakima county. The lands along the river are level plains and rise gently to the mountains 25 miles distant. About 200,000// acres of these lower lands having the finest crop soils are now desert and covered with sage brush, but can be readily put under irrigation ditches at moderate cost when 10,000 families could make prosperous homes upon them.

There are about 1,900 Indians on the reservation who have all accepted their allotments of land in severalty of the government. They have made considerable progress in civilization, farm about 15,000 acres of sub-irrigated lands, are virtually self supporting and are good neighbors to the whites.

If their surplus lands were purchased 10,000 industrious white families could speedily reclaim the irrigable sage brush lands now of no use whatsoever to the Indians and turn them into fruitful orchards and gardens. There is perhaps no other body of land of the same dimensions in the United States which will give permanent prosperity to an equal number of intelligent agriculturalists and without working any injury to the Indians.

On the contrary they will be enabled with the proceeds of the sale of their surplus lands to build comfortable houses and develop their own farms, while the bunch grass hill tops and forest covered mountain sides will remain the grazing ranges for their flocks and herds.

Whatever action may be taken regardless of the entire reservation, you r petitioners feels assured that the wisdom of congress will prompt instant legislation to purchase the desert sage brush lands of t e Indians and offer them for sale in small tracts.

In this manner the government would be reimbursed for the purchase money, the land would be reclaimed and thousands of industrious inhabitants beaded to the population of this beautiful valley--
Yakima Herald, Dec. 26, 1895.

Reservation

All of the irrigable land on the Yakima Indian reservation will be allotted to Indians according to a letter from the general land office to Senator W.L. Jones. This letter has been inclosed by Senator Jones with one he has just sent to the Commercial club of North Yakima and throws more light upon the opening of the reservation than yet received.

The letters also indicate that the information has come from the general land office that persons have been exploiting the opening for their personal gain and it is desired that the letter from the land office may be given wide publicity so that all may know the actual conditions.

"...Replying further to your suggestions that the lands within the Yakima Indian reservation be opened to settlement and entry at an early date under the registration plan heretofore used in opening Indian lands, I beg to call your attention to ~~public~~ reports recently made to this office by F.X. Salzman, chairman of the Yakima appraising commission who has gained an intimate knowledge of these lands through examinations made in classing them. He says in part:

"There is nothing in this reservation which would justify bringing the people here for the purpose of registration. After the allotments shall have been made to the Indians there will not be a quarter section in the Indian reservation open to settlement on which a person can make a living or that would be suitable for any purpose but grazing. Dry farming has proven a dismal failure on the reservation in the past and doubtless will continue so.

"There will be less than 1,200 homesteads of 160 acres each in the Yakima reservation, not one of which will be

other than grazing land. The amount of land which will be open to entry is approximately 260,000 acres from which all the irrigable lands have already been selected for allotment. None of the land open to settlement is irrigable."

"None of the lands covered by the government reclamation projects will be subject to entry as they will all be allotted to the Indians and from Mr. Salzman's report it would seem that the other irrigable lands in the reservation will be allotted to Indians.

"The lands open to settlement can only be entered under the homestead laws which require continuous residence and cultivation and the character of the land as described by Mr. Salzman is not such as would in my judgment justify the holding of a registration.

"It is probable that the reports of the classifying commission and the allotting agents will not be ready for approval before January 1, 1911; and the lands cannot therefore be opened to entry until next spring when they will probably be opened in the usual manner without registration." Yakima
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Republic, July 20, 1910

To Open the Reservation

B.P. Douglas, a special agent of the general land office for the examination of surveys, is now inspecting the surveys of the Umatilla reservation, and from there he will come to Yakima to go over the work now being done on this reservation. Mr. Douglas has given it as his opinion that a great portion of the Yakima reservation will soon be declared open. The sooner this result is attained the greater pleased the people will be. In this connection, the Spokane Falls Review says:

It is gratifying to observe that a movement is being made all along the line to secure legislation from congress looking to the opening of the vast Indian reservations throughout the west, and it is even more gratifying that eastern people are beginning to perceive that the worst enemy to Indian civilization and advancement is the reservation system. It is now realized by those informed on the subject that the proper way to advance the Indian in the matter of industry and intelligence is to bring him into closer relations with white civilization and that this is impracticable as long as the reservation plan is adhered to. ✓

It is said that the leading citizens of Yakima are making plans for securing the opening of the great reservation in the valley and that they have met with encouragement to hope that the next congress will act on the matter. The lands of the reservation are of the finest quality and will attract many thousands of settlers whenever opened to occupancy. The result would doubtless be to increase the population of North Yakima to the extent of 10,000 in a week should an order go forth like that opening the Oklahoma country--The Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory, May 2, 1880.

Reservation.

A long felt want in the way of good roads is to be filled on the Yakima Indian reservation. The department of the interior has just approved the application of the county commissioners of Yakima county to build five roads on the reservation and it is probable that the work on these highways will be begun and carried out as soon as possible.

The people on the reservation have been after these roads for a number of years. Last year definite action was taken and the matter gotten into such shape that formal application could be made by the commissioners. The application was duly forwarded to the department of the interior and the formal approval has just been received. It was sent to the commissioners from Superintendent S.A.M. Young at Fort Simcoe.

"Under date of October 14, 1909, I submitted to the department for approval your application for the opening and establishment of certain roads on the reservation known by you as the Alex McCredy road, the H.M. Gilbert road, the H.C. Martin road, the E.T. Stone road and W.F. McNatt road. The blue print, field notes were forwarded with the application.

"I am in receipt of a letter from the Indian office, dated October 27, 1910, to the honorable secretary of the interior recommending that the application be authorized. In submitting the application I called attention to article 3 of the treaty with the Yakima Indians 1855 which provided:

"That if necessary for the public convenience roads may be run through the said reservation and on the other hand the right of way with free access from the same to the nearest public highway is secured to them, as also the right is common with citizens of the United States to travel upon all public highways."

"The office states in its letter to the secretary that it is of the opinion:

"That this part of the treaty has no application to the lands in question as the latter have been allotted and do not now comprise a part of the reservation.."

"The United States supreme court handed down a decision under date of December 20, 1909 in the case of the United States vs Harvey Sutton and Robert Miller to the effect that the allotted lands are still a part of the reservation and the fact of their being allotted and held in trust for the Indians for a specified period does not separate the land from being and remaining a part of the reservation.

"The office holds, however, that there is authority for the opening and establishment of roads in Section 4 of Act of March 3, 1901 (31 St L 1084) which is quoted in the enclosed letter to the secretary and the office recommends in the same letter that the application for the roads in question be approved and that you be authorized to open and establish them.

"The Hon. Secretary of the Interior approved the recommendation under date of January 12, 1910 and I am inclosing you herewith a copy of the approved recommendation for your information and guidance.. "The Yakima Republic, OJano Feb. 4, 1910.

1899

"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 will 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.

Sept. 14, 1899--Judge C.H. Hanford of U.S. Circuit Court has decided that as soon as lands are allocated to Indians and patented the Indians may sell such lands as they see fit.

The court holds that the clause inserted in all patents to Indians of lands providing that the Indians shall not alienate title for 25 years is illegal and void. Effect far reaching.

In Pierce county it will permit purchase of Puyallup reservation lands adjoining the city of Tacoma. Purchasers have long desired to purchase such lands, but scared off. (referred to as odd homesteaded land only)

Wenatchee

Indians

Agent T.L. Erwin of the reservation and Special Agent Lane from the cooperative committee in the final settlement of the Wenatchee bridge matter.

The Indians have no further use for the bridge. The agents left this city on Saturday for the Hamn fishery on Lake Wenatchee to negotiate for the purchase of the structure on behalf of the government. The council will be called at Fort Simcoe on the 19th inst--Yakima Herald, December 14, 1893.

Reservation

In order that Indians who do not deserve allotments may not be provided the Indians on the reservation have named members of a committee to examine all applicants.

The following members of the committee were chosen by a council held at the fort on July 5: Watson Homer, Charley Wesley, See-luse-kun, Louie Simpson, See-lister, Yellup, John Shela-kish, Alex Tan-we-ash-nute, John Lumber, Dan Popta-wit, Tahkeal, Tecumsch and Rev. George Waters.

This committee will examine all the Indian applicants for allotments on the reservation. The work will begin as soon as the allotting agent makes the necessary preparations which are now under way.

The report of the big council which has just been received from the fort is to the effect that the Indian dept. at Wash. d.c. has granted to this committee full power. It is said that the committee has the right to prevent any applicant from receiving a allotment or take away any allotment no matter what given if it can be proven that the applicant or allottee does not belong to the Yakima tribe.

Rev. Waters will be chairman of the committee. The choice of a secretary brought about a hot contest. Pete McGuff, a half breed was finally named-Yakima Republic, July 15, 1910.

In the Holiday Farmer we gave something of a history of ^{the} Simcoe. Below we give a few facts about the inhabitants of the reservation.

The area comprised in the reserve is 1,400 sections, 896,000 acres extending from the Yakima River and along the ^{the} Antanum to the Summit of the Cascade mountains. One fourth of this land is rated as first class for agriculture the remainder being excellent grazing ranges and forests.

This is inhabited by about 3,000 Indians when they are all home. Though about half are at present absent. They are made up of two tribes, the Wascos and Yakimas who speak entirely different dialects. The Wascos number 500 persons. The Yakimas divided into Klickitats Topnish and Simcoes count 2,500 heads. Until recently there were several hundred Pah Utes on this reserve but they have gone. Paddy's band of 65 being at Duck River in Nevada, Legging's band of 300 at Pyramid Lake, Nevada and Oite's band of 50 at Warm Springs.

Two years ago Gen. Milroy regarding the tribal government as barbarous desposed the chiefs and had the red men elect justices of the peace of which there are five in the several precincts. They hold office two years. He then appointed three Indian judges. At the last election in November the judges were elected. The jurisdiction of the justices corresponds to that of similar officers of the whites. The judges hold court at the fort in case of dissatisfaction with the ruling of the justices appeals are made to the court of appeal judges or in the last resort to Gen. Milroy, the agent. The judges court holds two sessions a year. After Gen. Milroy had established this system he received from the department a circular authorizing

the appointment of judges but the order did not give the court jurisdiction over the collection of debts or damages while under Gen. Milroy's method they do have this power.

The Captain of police, Tom Simpson, a full blood Indian performs duties similar to a sheriff. He has under him eleven policemen whose authority corresponds to that of constables. They serve warrants, subpoenas, verbally as they cannot write and read.

There are three white commissioners who official duties are the same as those among the county commissioners of the whites. They lay off road districts and assess annual tax of \$1 per head for the purpose of working the road. If the work is not done or the \$1 paid prior to January 1st by each able bodied male Indian between the age of 20 and 50 years an additional tax of twenty five cents is levied.

The road tax fines imposed by justices etc. are paid into the treasurer.

The school Up to a late date there were 160 children in the school, now there are only about 100. The depletion in numbers is attributed to a special agent who informed the parents that they were not compelled to comply with the territorial statute making it obligatory that every child of school age attend school or pay a fine and in addition to the falling off from this cause some 35 pupils went with the Utes for the south.

There are four teachers, the branches taught are spelling, reading, writing, geography, arithmetic as far as vulgar fractions and the common school history of the United States.

In the industrial departments a teacher for Boys drills them at farming and gardening, cutting wood and enough grain and vegetables are raised by them to supply the tables of the school.

A woman practices the girls in cutting and making their own clothes. A white cook instructs them in the culinary art and serves the food. An Indian husbandman shows them how to wash and iron. A white carpenter, white wagon maker and blacksmith impart information in their lines while an Indian harness maker and Indian shoe maker put the young fellows up to snuff in their trades.

Scattered along the various streams are ~~va~~ many Indian families who have houses and besides tilling the soil raise horses sheep, hogs, poultry etc. Considerable reforms have been inaugurated by Gen. Milroy during the past two years--The Washington Farmer, January 27, 1885.

Indian reservation

Agent J. Lynch was in from the Fort Simcoe last week and states that the final papers for the allotment of reservation lands in severalty to the Indians have arrived and he apprehends much trouble in consequence.

The allotting agent favorably considered the claims of over 2,500 Indians, some of whom gave their tribal names and others those by which they are known to whites. This is one of the difficulties but the principal one is that there are at present over 1,700 Indians on the reservation, the decimation being due mainly to death.

Mr. Lynch estimates that during the past year between 300 and 400 Indians have died on the reservation and the law is that in case of death the land shall go to the heirs. In a number of instances entire families have been swept away and there are no known heirs but such a multitude of claimants that the entire tribe of the reservation are clamorous for a division. The allotted lands cannot be sold for a period of twenty-five years and this adds one more difficulty under such circumstances--Yakima Republic, April 14, 1899.

Indians

Reservation

Charles Lombard, clerk of the Yakima Indian agency, arrived in the city on Saturday last, on a week's leave of absence, to get rested up from his labors.

Mr. Lombard said that the Indians had been shown a plat of the new boundaries of the reservation and that they were very much dissatisfied.

A large territory on the Mt Adams side which had always been claimed as reservation land was by the surveys declared outside of the boundary and the Indians held a pow-wow over the decision and concluded to send a delegation of three or four of their number to Washington to see the Great Father and ask him to protect them in their rights--Yakima Herald, January 14, 1892.

Reservation --range.

Apportionment has been made by Don M. Carr, superintendent of the Yakima Indian reservation of the winter and spring range the demand for range being large, greater than could be provided for.

Under the agreement entered into all the old permit holders are again taken care of where they asked for grazing rights. The reservation carries some 12,000 head of Indian sheep and in addition the permits grant the use of range to approximately 20,000 head of sheep owned by white stockmen.

In outside sheep the reservation carries on the summer range approximately 45,000 head of stock and application for the use of this summer range are now to be received by the agency until November 11.

The Yakima Herald, October 9, 1912.

Indians

Reservation

Franklin P. Olney , one of Simcoe's Siwashes, has been devoting himself to alfalfa this year and has so far made four cuttings. Now he is thinking of trying hops.

Eneas, another leading Indian, has the largest crop and best varieties of apples, plums and peaches of anyone on the reservation. He says he is weary of paying exorbitant prices to merchants for dried fruit and in consequence has dried about 400 pounds and has plenty of fruit yet to dry. Eneas is a great hustler.

Bears are returning to the mountain and getting scarce on Toppenish creek and other points on the reservation.

Although a million feet of saw logs are now at the mill , Wilbur Spencer states that the mill will not start up until the first of next April.

Toppenish creek is reported well stocked with fish and on May 15 and September 23 (the period between) F.P. Olney's record is 654 trout ranging from 6 to 18 inches in length. Mr. Olney is quite a sport. He wants someone to furnish him with a Winchester repeating shotgun so that in a fair field he need show no favor to the chickens, pheasants, grouse, ducks, coons and foxtail gray squirrels which abound--Yakima Herald, October 7, 1891.

Many changes are in progress on the Yakima reservation according to information given out by D.A.M. Young, superintendent and his last visit to this city and one of the innovations which will prove of interest to many North Yakima people, now that the summer season is approaching, is the decision to charge a fee of \$1 per head for every member of parties camping on the reservation, such fee to hold for 30 days.

The reason for this is to give the reservation police better control of the situation than has been the case heretofore and permit of some tracing of responsibility for fires which unquestionably in the past have resulted from the neglect of camping parties.

A commodious cottage for employes has been built at the fort. This building gives quarters for the school mess and for seven employes.

A strong automobile, as a result of road work which the agency is doing will soon be able to make the run as far as Signal Butte which is southeast of Mount Adams and about 55 miles from North Yakima. The trip has already been made by automobile to within four miles of Signal Butte, but it takes a machine of heavy horse power to do the trick.

One of the results of the agency roadwork, however, will be roads passable for automobiles from Toppenish to the Fort, from Wapato to the Fort and from North Yakima to the Fort. Roads are also being constructed to Soda Springs and to Vessey Springs and it will be possible to make the round trip from North Yakima to Soda Springs from the Springs to the Fort and from the Fort to North Yakima. This route however will not be open to automobiles under present condition unless some venturesome chauffeur proves them to be passable.

Extension is now being made of the telephone lines into the forests so that when all are completed the Agency will have at its service some 50 miles of telephone lines and four forest cabins. These telephone lines will be of especial benefit in the case of forest fire--The Yakima Herald, May 24, 1911.