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The Indians belonging to the treaty, who are not yet on the reservation should be brought to it and every effort made to induce them to cultivate the soil.

Leaving Fort Simcoe on the 3d we arrived at Walla on the 4th and in the evening recrossed the Columbia River to meet Colwash and his band. These Indians belong to the Yakima reservation and are a portion of those who have refused to adopt the habits of the whites except many of their vices. They were living at their fishery, ten miles distant on the Columbia and had come to meet me in response to a message

from Agent Wilson. I could only give them advice and urge upon them the necessity of settling on their reservation. I mention an incident here which indicates an unexpected trait in the character of these Indians.

Leaving the Indians at the top of the bank at dusk and coming down to the edge of the water we found a wagon load of small groceries and other goods scattered along the shore. The owner, a trader from the interior, leaving them there, crossed the river with us. On being asked if the Indians would not steal them, he replied: "No sir, If all the white men were on one side and all the Indians on the other, I would always leave my goods on the Indian's side."

Mr. WILBUR informed me that although the Indians were constantly coming and going he did not use locks at the agency and he had never lost anything.

The second record of the council held on the Yakima reservation is herewith submitted (See appendix)

A report in regard to the Indians with the minutes of the council was transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior under date of 15th November to which you are respectfully referred (See report etc. Appendix P.)

I returned to Portland after the Umatilla council with the intention of proceeding at once to Grande Ronde reservation in Western Oregon and thence to Oregon; but the receipt of letters and statements in regard to alleged abuses in Washington territory led me to change my plans and go to Olympia. After my arrival and on consultation with General T.J. McKenney, the superintendent, it was thought best to employ a small steamer as the only mode by which the agencies of Puget Sound could be visited in a reasonably short time. Pending this arrangement I visited Victoria. On the 26th of August I left Seattle on the little steamer Black Diamond, Captain Hill, and accompanied by Gen. McKenney we arrived on the evening of the same day at the Tulalip reservation.

Looking over the work of the past year we see marked improvements in every department. The mills, shops, farming, stock schools and churches are in the advance of what they were a year ago. Every bushel of grain raised, every farm opened, every house built, every wagon bought, every harness manufactured, every child instructed in the schools and every service in their sanctuaries, tends to lead the wild away from their wildness to adopt habits of civilized life.

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent

Washington Territory

(To Commissioner of Indian affairs)



To Commission of Indian Affairs

Report of Felix R. Brunot  
Pages 118-120.

AGENCY REPORTS

Year 1871

File-Click Relander

Typed-June Lindberg

I left the Warm Springs agency on the morning of the 26th (July) and arriving at Dalles City on the following evening found it necessary to remain there a day or two to rest the horses and repair the wagons.

Starting on the morning of the 28th I arrived at Simcoe or Yakima agency, 65 miles north of the Dalles on the Yakima reservation in Washington territory, Saturday evening, July 29.

The Yakima reservation is in extent about fifty by sixty miles. It was set apart by the treaty in 1855 which was ratified in 1859. The agency was established eleven years ago at which time the Yakimas and Kliketats were entirely wild and considered the braves, warriors and best hunters west of the Rocky Mountains. The number belonging to the reservation is estimated at 3,500. The number who make it their home is about 2,000, most of whom have made more or less progress in cultivating soil. A large portion of them dress and live like white people. They have about one hundred and sixty houses and about one hundred small barns or stables. They have cut their own logs, hauled them to the mill and erected their own houses. Their fences have also been made by themselves of materials which they have gathered and hauled; some few of them are good board fences. They have made fence about 4,000 acres of land and over 3,000 acres plowed. The agent aids them in breaking the land and starting their farms, after which they require but little more than verbal instruction and advice. Those who till the soil are mostly in comfortable circumstances, some of them quite well off. The number of horses is estimated at ten or twelve thousand and cattle 1,400 head.

About two hundred of the Indians are professing Christians belonging to the Methodist Church. They have taken Christian names and dress and live as comfortable in their houses as frontier whites. They have two churches erected by themselves to suit different neighborhoods and Sunday services are held in them alternately. There are a few Catholics and there is a Catholic mission near the reservation. Some of the young men were taught to make harness while in the school; and an Indian apprentice in the smith shop, it is thought, will be able to take entire charge next year. There are two native preachers, members of the Oregon Methodist conference, who have been educated in the reservation school and who now preach to their race.

The school has been under the direction of Rev. J. H. Wilbur, at first as teacher and subsequently as agent for about ten years and has been very successful. It has been conducted as a boarding school, the boys being taught to labor and the girls, while being instructed in the elementary English branches, to sew and do housework. The insufficient appropriation for the school, although eked out by the labor of the pupils has necessarily limited the number who could be received and greatly lessened its usefulness.



At the period of my visit the school had not been in operation for some time but the arrangements were all made for starting early in August. The appropriation for the support of this school should certainly be increased.

On Sunday we went to the church and found it filled with decently dressed Indian men, women and children, many of whom had come in wagons and on horseback. After the usual service of singing, reading and scriptures, praying and preaching by Rev. Wilbur and the two Indian preachers, the meeting was thrown open to all and all were invited to speak. About thirty men and women gave their religious experience and their difficulties. The meeting continued for three hours and was deeply solemn and interesting. After its adjournment the Sunday school was opened; the teachers being mostly Indians and some of the white employees. I am assured by the white residents that the character and daily life of these Christian Indians accord in the most striking manner with their profession. Rev. Mr. Wilbur states that the cases of failure among those admitted to the church or on probation are not more frequent than among the white congregations of which he has been pastor.

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Looking over the work of the past year we see marked improvements in every department. The mills, shops, farming, stock, schools and churches are in the advance of what they were a year ago. Every bushel of grain raised, every farm opened, every house built, every wagon bought, every harness manufactured, every child instructed in the schools and every service in their sanctuaries, tends to lead the wild away from their wildness to adopt habits of civilized life.

Yakima agency, Fort Simcoe, August 31, 1870. Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1870-71

Colonel: In accordance with instructions contained in circular letter of June 1, 1879 emanating from the Department of the Interior Office Indian affairs, Wash. D.C. I have the honor to submit the following annual report regarding the condition of Indian affairs at the Yakima reservation, together with statistics of education, return of farming and sub-reports of employees now engaged at this agency.

I arrived at this agency in September last receipted for property and moneys involved to me by my predecessor, Mr. Wilbur and took charge on the 13th of September, 1869. I entered upon my duties under very unfavorable auspices as regarded the possibility of the Indians subsisting themselves during the approaching winter from the fruits of their labor in the previous spring as the crop put in by themselves had proved a failure owing to drought. Nevertheless, by issuing some flour from the product of the farm and purchasing some more with the beneficial fund on hand when their own and agency flour was exhausted, I was enabled to relieve most of the sick and needy. The harvest this year has been more satisfactory, taking into consideration the limited quantity of seed grain at their and my command, and it is with feelings of gratification that I have it in my power to report peace and quiet throughout the reservation. The statistical return of farming will give more detailed information.

The arable land on this reservation, in itself of no great extent, is dependant entirely for success in grain raising on the quantity of rain which falls. If this is slight and there are no showers when the sun commences to act, a drought issue to follow. Very little facilities exist here, outside of the agency grounds, for artificial irrigation.

The farming department, lately placed under the supervision of Mr. Hays, has been properly and successfully conducted in all its branches.



All sorts of vegetables have been raised by the employes for their own use, on a piece of land laid out for that purpose contiguous to the fort, and the Indians have been greatly encouraged by this example to do the same for which purpose I purchased and distributed among them various garden seeds.

The vegetables planted the previous year suffered in the same manner as the grain which prevented the raising of seeds.

The riding animals at this agency are old and worn out and a great want is felt here for them in keeping up communications between the farm mills and the agency, separated from each other from six to eight miles, not mentioning the occasional necessity ~~to~~ to communicate with more distant points, such as the location of Indian bands scattered over the reservation and with the nearest post office Dallas, Oregon (copy) 65 miles distant.

The cattle are thriving which cannot be otherwise on such unequalled grazing land as this reservation affords.

The public buildings are generally speaking in good order, although some of them show signs of decay and need repairs to make them habitable during the coming winter. After harvest the carpenter will be directed to attend to the matter.

The mills are in running order, but the flume will soon need repairs. Lumber has been furnished to the Indians as fast as logs for sawing have been delivered. During the year past they received some 60,000 feet of lumber. About 6,000 bushels of grain were ground besides the wheat and barley produced at the department farm.

The saw mill could have been more advantageously located--say on the Top-nich river, four miles from the fort, which affords better water power than the present site of the mill, 8 miles distant, and offers greater facilities for getting logs. A portable steam saw mill would have proved in the end of greater benefit to the Indians than the one erected for them; and it would not be amiss if this could yet



be considered.

The employes now engaged here are all good, moral men attending to their several duties to my entire satisfaction and making it a matter of conscience to get a good example before the Indians.

On account of gross misconduct caused through machinations to have my predecessor reappointed as agent, I had to discharge several of the employes I found here. I could not discharge my duties and carry out the policy of the government ~~in~~ regarding the Indians, impartially and faithfully, with such mischief-breeding elements about me; hence with the approval of the superintendent I discharged those who succeeded in making themselves obnoxious and recommended such persons to fill their places as were willing to cooperate with me cheerfully for the good of the Indian service generally.

The plow and wagon-maker, the carpenter, blacksmith and gunsmith have all been constantly employed in attending to the wants of the Indian Indians either in repairing old or making new articles for their use. I beg to refer you to each of their reports, herewith inclosed. Their monthly reports will show an amount of work done of from \$100 to nearly \$200 per month each.

The school has been attended in only limited numbers. Teaching in reading, writing and arithmetic has been done in the morning, and saddlery has been taught in the afternoon in the several branches with good success. For more detailed information I beg to leave to refer you to the statistics of education, the reports of the superintendent of teaching and of the teacher; all herewith inclosed. I will here also suggest that in order to make an Indian school a success the children should be separated from the parents and their people and entirely taken care of at the expense of the government.

This has been done ~~one~~ here so far, but only with a small number, not having sufficient funds at my disposal to extend this

principle to a larger number of scholars. The education of the rising generation of Indians withdrawn from the influence of their parents and people is the fundamental principle of success in their contemplated regeneration and civilization. But to do this properly and effectually funds must be available for the entire maintenance of such children at the agency. Even so much as can be substantiated of the vaunted success reported to have attended the labors of my predecessor in former years was only effected with ample means. These means have been considerably curtailed of late and a ~~good~~ corresponding result cannot be expected to be accomplished with the limited amounts now given to the agents for support of schools. They can hardly be continued at all in a manner to be effective.

As regards the Indians generally I will remark that their sanitary condition has undergone no material change since previous years from what I can learn. Their principal ailment is venereal disease and its consequent evils; partly contracted in former years and partly inherited from their parents.

Blindness, sore eyes and ulcers are the prevailing consequences. The doctor is endeavoring to cure those so afflicted. His report, herewith sent, will give further information. As a general thing the Indians are industrious and progressing. They have two churches presided over by two of their own tribe, ordained ministers of the Methodist persuasion in which service is held alternately twice on each Sabbath and is tolerably well attended by both ~~s~~ sexes.

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I cannot here omit ~~one~~ to remark that I have noticed a good desire by many who have not devoted themselves heretofore to farming to do so, if only their request for help as regards implements, etc. could be responded to. As a general fact I have observed that those pertaining to the Methodist church are well supplied with such material and I may say, well ~~do~~ do in most respects; whereas those adhering to the Catholic faith have little or nothing.

This state of affairs suggests the conclusion that sectarian prejudices predominated and influenced the distribution of supplies, intended for all alike, and to the detriment of such as chose to differ with the agent in religious doctrines and observances.

Since I commenced my duties here I have made no distinction; the sick and needy have been my first care; and while seeking them out complaints of unequal treatment in previous years have been made to me by the Indians. They plainly affirm that the Methodists could get all they asked for, while to the Catholics most everything was denied.

Furthermore by comparing the highly favorable reports from this agency in previous year, copies of which are on file in this office ~~now regarding the wealth of the Yakima Indians on the reserve with the result of my inquiries instituted on this subject, the conclusion forces itself to mind that these reports were grossly exaggerated far from the true state of affairs and must have been so colored with a view to create certain favorable impressions personally.~~ For instance, from reliable sources I learn that the Indians never possessed over about 800 head of cattle (and that number even is considered as overestimated by some persons) instead of ~~1,600~~ 1,600 as reported last.

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The number of arms in the possession of the Indians living on the reservation does not exceed 100 guns and about 40 or 50 pistols, principally issued to them in former times by army officers on behalf of the government. These have been very much used and undergone considerable repairs. Bows and arrows are entirely out of use with them.

Respectfully submitting the foregoing, I remain, colonel, your obedient servant.

James M. Smith, first lieutenant, U.S. army Indian agent.  
(Col. Samuel Ross, U.S.A. Superintendent of Indian affairs, Olympia, Washington territory.)-



Colonel Samuel Ross  
Superintendent of Indian Affairs  
Olympia, Washington

AGENCY REPORTS  
Year - 1870-71  
File-Click Relander  
Typed-June Lindberg

Yakima Agency, Fort Simcoe  
August 31, 1870

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James M. Smith, First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Indian Agent.

(Col. Samuel Ross, U.S.A. Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Olympia, Washington Territory.)



✓ Yakima reservation

Report of the commissioner of Indian affairs, 1871.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report which owing to the short time since I resumed my duties as agent, will not be as full as might be desired.

I entered the Indian service first as superintendent of teaching, in the fall of 1860 and as Indian agent in 1864. From the first I have had but one idea in respect to the true import of the service. I have known the common sentiment of the country regard the Indian race as doomed to extermination; that it expects no high results from the appliances of the Indian bureau, in the way of ameliorating either the moral or material condition of the race. So deeply and so seated and universal is this feeling that it is useless to try to make anything of an Indian more than an ignorant savage; that all direct and positive endeavor to instruct and benefit him is scouted as a vain and foolish attempt; and out of this feeling grows a tacit justification in the minds of Indian officers not only but in the mind of the country generally of that loose and inefficient not to say dishonest way of conducting the Indian service which has brought it into great disrepute. The argument is, if the Indian will be savage in spite of the most faithful and honest appliances of the means appropriated for his benefit, then it were as well to divert these means to the political and personal advantage of those to whom they are intrusted. This argument has given rise to practices in the administration of the affairs of the department that have entitled it too often to the deep opprobrium of a political machine and the appropriations by which it is manipulated to that of a corruption fund.

I have always taken direct and practical issue with this popular heresy. I believe, and always have believed, in the manhood of the Indian and in the possibility of elevating him to a high state of civilization. The fact that the government service has so generally failed in his improvement is no mystery to me. Looking at the question from a Christian

~~From~~ standpoint I cannot see how the result could have been different from what we see it; nor do I find the failure chargeable to anything inherent in Indian character. True, he is ignorant, treacherous and cruel by nature; he is destitute of moral character; he is poor in every respect. He needs everything that enters into the comforts of civilization but his first great want is character. Failing to give him character all material gifts but hasten his degradation and render his future destruction more positive and complete. I repeat, the first great want of the Indian is character. As a Christian teacher I have believed in the possibility of giving him this first indispensable condition of civilization. I have known I could inspire virtue in the Indian only by the plain, open unequivocal manifestation of virtue on my own part in all my intercourse with him.

I entered the service in the first place as a Christian teacher and have since endeavored to administer the affairs of the agency on Christian principles. I would as soon put wolves among sheep or rattlesnakes among children as immoral men upon an Indian agency. Reformation of moral character has been the great point at which I have aimed. When I contrast the condition of the Indians of this agency with what they were eleven years ago when I first came among them, I find the result of my labors a perfect justification of my theory, in respect to the possibility of giving to the Indian race the comforts and respectability of civilized life. From the time I took charge as agent in 1864 to the day of my suspension, and turning over to Lieutenant J.M. Smith, September 1869, all branches of business on the reservation were marked with progress and the work of moral reform, though slow, was gradual and certain. From that time to my resuming duties, January 1, 1871, every interest, material and moral, was waning.

Employees were paid for services long before reaching the reservation and with the influence they exerted in dancing, swearing, drinking and



card playing the interests of the reservation were rapidly declining.

The cattle belonging to the Indians when I left the agency numbered 1,600. The natural increase would have been about 600. When I returned there were not more than 350 old and young. These cattle were worth \$25 per head; add 600 to 1,600 and you have 2,200 at \$25 per head making \$55,000; deduct the price of those found, \$8,750 and you have \$46,250 loss in latter; or say nothing of the increase and take 1,600 head at the price above and you have \$40,000, deduct the price of those found when I resumed my duties as agent, \$8,750 and it makes the loss in cattle \$31,250. This is a fair index of how other things were managed under the administration of my predecessor for sixteen months.

Had the Indians been protected against dishonest traders from without and a species of robbery within they might today stand up and compare property with white settlements of the same number and show equal wealth.

Some of the Indians that were doing well when I left the agency under the military administration left their farms and the reservation and did not return until last spring. There was a universal dissatisfaction with the better class of Indians under the administration of Lieutenant J.M. Smith.

I am pleased to say that the Indians profession religion numbering about 300 at the time I left maintained their piety amid their persecution with but little loss.

Schools--When I left the reservation I turned over to my successor \$1,200 school fund. The annual appropriation was \$3,200, making

\$4,400. On resuming my duties I found no school, only on paper. The boarding house which had been used for the convenience of the school was changed so as to make it impossible to gather the children. The funds appropriated for schools had been used in other ways. There was no lumber to fit up any other boarding house and no food to sustain the children or funds to do the them, so I was obliged to defer the opening of



the school until we could cut and haul logs and make lumber, sow seed and reap a harvest. Our school room and boarding house are being put in order and in a few weeks we expect to open a school upon an enlarged plan.

On entering upon my duties as agent I found a destitution of wood for the station but little stock of any kind for the shops and business of all kinds at a near stand-still. As soon as I became acquainted with the employes and the general condition of things on the reserve I determined to make changes and in less than one week I relieved six of the employes I found when I came. "e were destitute of seed to sow and the Indians were destitute of seed and food.

Money furnished--With money furnished by the superintendent we purchased seed for the Indians and for the agency farms, thereby inducing many of the Indians to return that were away and are now industrious and have reaped a harvest sufficient to meet their coming wants.

Breaking lands--e have broke out 100 acres of land and new land for the Indians this season, worth \$300.

School farm--During the summer we have put the school farm in good condition, dug a drain of more than half a mile and grubbed out about 15 acres of very excellent land at a cost of \$250.

Wheat raised--At the department farm we raised 800 bushels of wheat worth \$1.25, \$1,000.

Oats--We harvested and thrashed 500 bushels of oats worth 75 cents, \$375.

Corn--One hundred bushels of corn worth \$1, \$100.

Hay cut and hauled--Seventy tons of hay have been cut and hauled worth \$10 per ton \$700.

Straw stacked--Sixty tons of straw have been stacked worth \$3 per Ton, \$180.

Coal burned and hauled--e have burned since January, 1871, 1,200



The reservation mills are in good running order. Great inconvenience is suffered in having to haul the logs to the sawmill so far ~~from~~ far--from three to six miles. A steam sawmill at another point on the reservation but little further from the station costing not more than \$4,000 would pay for itself in two seasons. I respectfully request that we be permitted to build such a mill from the funds saved from the repair of mills, and from "beneficial objects," arising from grazing cattle upon the reservation.

~~The~~ It will be seen by reference to my cash accounts that between two and three thousand dollars have been received for grazing stock ~~and~~ ~~over~~ the past year. In addition to the above amount, the Indians have received for herding cattle over \$1,000. If allowed improvements ~~as can never be done~~ to build said mill it will enable us to build houses, fence farms and make other improvements as can never be done with the old mill.

The Indians would be pleased greatly and profited by the above arrangement without any additional appropriation from government. The houses built and farms opened and improved provides comfort and subsistence for them and takes them up from the condition of paupers and makes them self-supporting, releasing to the government an undoubted guarantee of future peace. When they have comfortable houses and fruitful fields with cattle and horses wagons, plows and harness with household goods they have much to sacrifice if they go to war. These permanent fixtures do more to secure peace with a nation of Indians than regiments of soldiers.

It will be seen by the report of the miller and sawyer that during the year near 100,000 feet of lumber have been sawed for the Indians. These logs were cut and hauled by them without any expense to the department. The lumber made was worth \$2,000. This lumber has been used in improving their ~~home~~ farms, building houses,

bushels of charcoal worth 25 cents per bushel, \$300.

Potatoes and vegetables--These are not harvested but we have raised enough for the uses of the agency.

#### repairs

Repairs of agency buildings--During the season we have repaired the dwelling houses of the employes, the school and boarding house at an expense at least of \$500; we have built one house for an Indian, labor worth \$100.

Mills--The reservation mills are in good running order. I have given them this season a general overhauling. We have put in a new wheel at the saw-mill and made other repairs at a cost of about \$250.

Harness shop--Some of the boys that have been in school in years past have been instructed in harness making so that now they are capable of cutting and making team harness for the agency teams and for the Indians. During the first and second quarters these Indian boys made twenty-eight sets of team harness which have been issued to the Indians. All the repairs of the harnesses for the agency teams and the Indians are done by the Indian boys.

Wagons--I have been obliged to purchase three new lumber wagons as our old ones were not sufficient to do the work of the agency. The destitution of timber to build wagons and the great amount of repairing there is to do on the Indian wagons makes it inexpedient to put up new work here as the wagon timber would have to be transported 165 miles.

Catholic mission--There has been within a few years a Catholic mission established a little over the line of the reservation. They succeeded in drawing off a few of the Indians and instructing them that marriages solemnized, baptism administered and religious instruction given by the agent is invalid and should be so regarded. It seems to be the object of those in charge of said mission to keep the Indians, so far as they can, in a feverish and dissatisfied state. This teaching is



doing the Indian ~~and~~ an injury and tends directly to keep them from settling upon the reserve, to make and keep up a difficulty between the Indians and the white settlers around the reservation. Petitions, numerous signed by the settlers around said mission have been sent to me complaining of the Indians and urging me to put a stop to their congregating at that place. I think there is not more than one in 10 belonging to this reservation that sympathizes with them, though Colonel Ross, in his knowing report of last year said "Three-fourths of all the Indians were Catholics." There is more danger of difficulty between the whites and Indians from this quarter than all others put together.

Indian labor-It will be seen by our monthly reports that very much of the work of the agency is done by the Indians. My object is to bring as many of them into the service as we need to accomplish the business of the agency, with as few white men to instruct and assist in the work as is allowable. This gives them the knowledge they need, makes them industrious and furnishes means for their subsistence and general improvement. In conclusion, I have to say, give the Indians the amount of means appropriated by the government from year to year, give them agents and employes whose examples are worthy of imitation, instruct them that it is honorable to work and to pray and you start them upon an upward grade to civilization and to become sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, living without rebuke in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

All of which is respectfully submitted. James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent, Washington territory. (General T.J. McKenny, superintendent of Indian affairs, Washington territory.)