

Refer in reply to the following

✓ 10
Oregon

(7977-20 FMS.)

Department of the Interior, *Sup*

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON,

May 27, 1881.

James H. Hilbur.

U. S. Indian Agent.

Care of Farmer in Charge

Malheur Agency. Oregon

Sir:

I am informed by Special U. S. Indian Agent, Arden R. Smith who has recently returned to this city from the Malheur Agency, that you started in a letter to him you would reach that Agency about the 1st. proximo with about 30 wagons and at once

Wiltur-2

proceed to remove the stores and supplies there to the LaKa ma Agency.

Immediately upon your arrival at Malheur Agency I think it desirable that you receipt to Mr. Rinehart the present Farmer in Charge for all government property on the Agency and assume full control thereof, thus preventing any divided responsibility in the matter.

Special Agent Smith reports that the amount of subsistence and other stores on hand will

Wiltur-3

largely exceed the carrying capacity of the number of wagons you propose to take to the Malheur Agency and you will report to me as soon as you are familiar with quantity, condition, &c., of the government property there, the plans you propose to adopt for removal of the same to the Yakama Agency, with such recommendations as you may consider for the best interests of the service relative to sale of property, which it may be impracticable to

Wilbur-4

transfer to your Agency.

Special Agent Smith reports some 160 head of fine cattle and about 35 head of excellent hogs on the reservation. The cattle should be driven to Lakama, and you will inform me whether you desire to retain the services of two of the present Walker's employees Messrs Thompson and McDonald to assist in that service or in any other connected with transportation of the property to Lakama Agency.

Wilbur-5

Mr. Smith suggests that the hogs be sold, do you concur with him?

Regarding the buildings at the Malheur Agency which Special Agent Smith reports as of considerable value, it is the desire of this Office to find some responsible person to take charge of them until their final disposition is determined upon; one who will reside on the spot without pecuniary compensation but with privilege of cultiva-

Hilbur-6

tion of a reasonable amount of land for his own benefit. Special Agent Smith suggests that Absalom Hedges the present Agency Carpenter would be an excellent man for the purpose, and is of the opinion that he would be willing to accept the duty on the terms above expressed. Please give me your views on the subject.

In regard to the buildings at Camp Harney I desire you will ascertain if they can be taken care of on some plan

Hilbur-7

as suggested for buildings at
Malheur Agency, or failing
that, for a reasonable pecuni-
ary compensation. Special
Agent Smith suggests Postmas-
ter Johnson at Camp Harney,
as a suitable person who would
undertake the care of the build-
ings on the latter arrangement.

You will inform me of your
views on this matter and also
report in detail the number
and condition of the buildings
at both Malheur Agency and
Camp Harney.

Hilbur-8

Advise this Office promptly
of the date of your receipt
to Farmer in Charge Rinehart
for the public property now
under his control, when his
services as an employe of
this Bureau will cease.

Respectfully,

H. Price

Commissioner.

H. H. A.

May 27 81
Comd^g W. Price
Directing Agent to
take charge of public
property at Malheur
and giving various
instructions &c