

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs,
Oregon City, Oct. 10, 1856

Sir: I am much ?? to have to announce to you a ~~renewal~~ renewal of hostilities among the Indians east of the Cascade Mountains and that half of the very powerful and hitherto friendly tribe of Nes Perces Indians have joined the war party. I returned on 8th inst. from a hurried trip to the Dalles. The Indians in the immediate neighborhood of the Dalles appear to be friendly disposed and many of them that have been engaged in the war ... now say that they are tired of it and will not engage in it again. Many of them are in a destitute condition and I hope that by kind and humane treatment we may prevent them from again engaging in the war. Agent R. R. Thompson informed me that 237 there some twenty lodges of the Snake ~~Indians~~ tribe of Indians within two days time of the Dalles who desire to come in and winter under the care and protection of the agent. We thought it would be well to have them come and that by treating them kindly through the winter the feeling of the tribe towards the whites might be changed for the better. They have been hostile to the whites for several years and have committed many depredations upon the over land emigrants to Oregon. I coincide with the plans proposed by Mr. Thompson and hope and believe that this course of treatment will lead to friendly intercourse with the Snake Tribes and ultimately to a favorable treaty with them. I fear that the knowledge of the fact that the Nes Perces have taken up arms against us will cause considerable disquiet and uneasiness among the Indians upon the reservation.

The Indians east of the Cascade Mountains in the immediate charge of Agent Thompson should be located upon their reservation as soon as it can be done with safety which will not be until the war in the north is closed. It will be necessary to subsist them through the winter and it is hoped the war will close in time to allow the removing of them to the

reservation early enough to put in spring crops.

Very respectfully etc.

A. Hedges,

supt. Ind. Affairs

Hon. Geo. W. Manypenny, Comm. Ind. Affairs, Washington City, D.C.

Office Supt. Indian Affairs,

Oregon City, Dec. 16, 1856

Sir:

Yours of 8th inst. is before me. The state of things existing in your agency, the destitute condition of the Indians and the entire want of provisions and funds with which to relieve them, is very unfortunate, ~~my~~ very unpleasant to you and at the same time as far as this office is concerned, unavoidable.

Immediately after my return from your place the mail steamer brought a report that Dennison was appointed agent and that his commission would come by the next states mail. I waited two steamers expecting to receive the appointment to relieve you and with him some flour. Said second steamer however brought no agents app intment but did bring orders for me to stop drawing drafts and notifying me that the policy of feeding Indians in large numbers was not contemplated by the Department, that no funds were on hand for that purpose and that it must be discontinued.

The absolute necessity of ~~fixing~~ feeding these Indians has been urged upon the commissioner by every mail since I took charge of this office; your estimate for this quarter was forwarded to Washington by the first mail in October. The fact that these Indians (Wascoos and Deschutes) must be fed or fought; the necessity for the credit of our government for the sake of humanity and for retaining the confidence of the Indians of complying with the promises of Supt. Palmer and yourself by which those Indians have been kept friendly during the late war, has been strongly urged in my letters to the commissioner. What he will do I know not. I believe that flour purchased upon the credit of the government with which to feed these Indians would be paid for but I cannot say when. I have now no money and no means of getting it except by remittance from Washington. If my estimate forwarded first mail in

October ~~meets~~ meets with favor and immediate action funds may be expected by the first mail in January if the Comm. has the funds to send. Gen. Palmer's estimate for the year ending June 30th, 1857 did not reach Washington in time to obtain its places in the ~~expansion~~ appropriations by Congress for Indian affairs in Oregon and consequently the apportionment made are meagre and totally and ... inadequate for the necessities of the service. I have just purchased ten tons of flour on the credit of the government and will forward it to you immediately to be issued in such cases as you find it indispensably necessary. It will not do to commence a regular issue of flour until we know that it can be kept up and have funds to purchase with or the approval of the heads of the Indian Department. I hope this flour will enable you to satisfy the present of your Indians until we do hear something definite from Washington, but if absolute necessity requires the purchase of beef and other supplies and you can purchase upon the credit of the government it will doubtless be safe to do so, for I cannot think the head of our Department can fail to approve of expenditures so necessary and sanctioned by every principle of honor and humanity.

Very Respectfully

A. Hedges

Supt. Ind. Affairs

R.R. Thompson, Esq.

Indian Agent,

Dalles, O.T.

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Dear Sir:

Oregon City, January 30, 1857

I have anxiously expected an answer to my communication of 16th December which accompanied a shipment of flour for your use, but although ~~several~~ rumors have reached me of extreme suffering among the Indians ~~at~~ under your charge, I have not received a word from you upon the subject or in acknowledgement (sic) of the receipt of the flour above mentioned. Let me hear from you immediately.

R.R. Thompson, esq.

Indian Agent, Dalles, O.T.

Very respectfully etc.
A. Hedges, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs,

Oregon City, Feby 5, 1857

Dear Sir:

I have to inform you that I have no funds on hand except for payment of salaries of agents and can only pay your draft of 29th Jany. in favor of Biglow for four hundred dollars which has been presented at this office upon your salary. If you desire to receive it in that way you will sign the enclosed receipt and immediately transmit ~~it~~ them to this office. I wrote you on ~~21~~ 30th Jany inquiring into the situation of Indian affairs with you. When I receive an answer and am informed of your wants I think I shall be able to furnish you what flour you may want as parties here are willing to furnish that article upon the credit of the government.

I cannot consent and do not intend to stop feeding those Indians so long as their necessities so urgently require it and food can be obtained.

I still hope that the treaty with the "ascocs will be satisfied so that we may be enabled to remove them to the Warm Springs Reservation during the spring months.

Very Respectfully

R.R. Thompson, esq.

A. Hedges, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Indian Ave

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs
Feby.

Oregon City, ~~Oct.~~ 6th (or 26th) 1857

Dear Sir:

Sub agent W.W. Raymond has been designated to relieve you. You will turn over to him all property of the Indian Department in your possession, taking proper receipt therefor. I am sorry that you have found it necessary to resign your office. I fear that you are leaving us at the very time when your influence among those Indians will be particularly needed.

Very Respectfully

A. Hedges, supt. Ind. Affairs

R.R. Thompson, Esq.

Indian Agent, Dalles, O.T.

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs, Oregon City

Feby. 26th, 1857

Dear Sir:

You are hereby directed to proceed to Dalles, O.T. and relieve Agent R.R. ~~Thomson~~ Thompson, whose post as an agent of the Indian Department of the United States will then be made vacant, he having resigned his office. Agent Thompson will be directed to turn over to you all property of the Indian Department in his possession upon your execution of ~~ix~~ a proper receipt therefor. The management of the Indians who will be committed to your charge will require the exercise of much prudence and care. The promises made them by Gen. Palmer have not been complied with for reasons which you are cognizant of, and you will be governed accordingly in your dealings with them.

As soon as possible after your arrival and assumption of the duties of the post, inform me of the situation of matters. Incur no expense that can be avoided without first having the approval of this office. Ten tons of flour was shipped to Agent Thompson a few days since, for which if it reaches the Dalles after your arrival, you can receipt directly to this office.

Very respectfully

A. Hedges,

supt. Ind. Affairs

W.W. Raymond, esq.

Sub. Indian Agent,

Oregon City

[Raymond was then agent at Grand Ronde Reservation]

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs,

Sir:

Oregon City, March 30, 1857

Yours bearing date at Portland on 27th inst and enclosing your official bond and oath qualifying you as an agent of the United States for Indians in Oregon is received. The district assigned you is that at present in charge of sub agent W.W. Raymond and previously of Agent R.R. Thompson, comprising the whole of Oregon Territory east of the Cascade Mountains and including within its limits the Cayuses, Umatillas, Walla Wallas, Wascoes, Des Chutes, Sho-Sho-ney, Ban-ack and Snake Tribes of Indians.

Your attention will for the present be particularly directed to the Wasco's and the DeShutes bands of Walla-Wallas, the principal part of whom have remained friendly during the late war and have been temporarily located in the immediate vicinity of the Dalles and under the especial notice of Agent Thompson who is intimately acquainted with their wants and peculiarities and will doubtless with pleasure inform you concerning them. These Indians were treated with by Late Supt. Palmer on 25th June, 1855 but

I am not informed as yet that ~~the treaty has~~ the treaty has been ratified. I hope however that it has been and that I may soon receive instructions and funds to enable us to act under it. I am informed that many of these Indians desire to ~~remove~~ remove to the reservation provided for in that treaty and to cultivate gardens and make other improvements thereon by their own labors. I ~~xxx~~ approve of this and desire to encourage them in so doing, to furnish seeds, agricultural implements, a few tools and whatever else may be necessary to aid them in their labors; but until we are informed of the ratification of the treaty and the consequent permanent withdrawal of that reservation from white settlement I do not think it advisable to make extensive or permanent improvements thereon and prefer to limit our operations

to such as are necessary to en-p. 328 courage the Indians to labor for their own subsistence, to secure their confidence and to prevent hostile collisions with the white settlers and combination with hostile tribes.

You will proceed to the Dalles and call upon Agent W.W. Raymond who will be instructed to turn ~~over~~ over to you all property of the Indian Department in his possession for which you will issue proper duplicate receipts. You will doubtless receive among that property a copy of the laws, regulations etc. of the Indian department with which you are expected to make yourself familiarly acquainted and to be guided and governed there - by in all your acts and expenditures, so far as is consistent with existing circumstances.

The utmost care is necessary that your vouchers state fully and explicitly the ~~objects~~ precise nature of the expenditures and that your expenditures be confined to objects and amounts legitimate and authorized. In your intercourse with the Indians it is eminently desirable that you exercise that sound discretion which will establish the confidence of the Indians in yourself and in the government you represent and .. to the maintenance of that peace and tranquility which is so necessary to the prosperity of ~~the country~~ our territory and to the successful prosecution of the humane plans of our government for the civilization of the Indians. You will keep this office constantly advised of the wants of the service in your district and of all matters connected with Indian affairs.

Very respectfully

Ami P. Dennison, esq.

A. Hedges, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Indian agent, now at Portland, O.T.

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Office Superintendent Indian Affairs

Salem, Oregon, July 6, 785

Sir:

I have concluded to dispense with the special Indian Agency at Dog River and have directed Agent John Cain to assume charge of the few Indians located there and place them under the care of Local Agent Townsend at the White Salmon.

You will therefore inform Mr. Jenkins that his services will be dispensed with. You will secure from him any public property which may be in his possession and receipt to him for the same.

You will also settle with him and give him ~~an~~ duplicate certified account for the amount due him, being careful to state the commencement and termination of his service and rate of compensation with such other facts as may be important to a full understanding of his claim.

Respectfully etc.

J.W. Nesmith

Supt. Ind. Affairs O. and W.T.

To Ami Dennison, esq.

Indian Agent,

Dalles, O.T.

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

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Salem, Oregon, July 15, 1857

Dear Genl:

Your favor of the 2nd inst. reached me on the 13th in relation to the demand for the surrender of the murders of Mattice and Polon I still entertain the same opinions that I did when I saw you and think that no ~~opportunity~~ opportunity should be allowed to pass without impressing upon the minds of the Indians that the surrender of ~~these~~ these persons is the only terms upon which they can expect a permanent peace with the government .

I do not apprehend that this course, if adopted, will tend to complicate or increase our difficulties with the Indians. The murders, four or six in number , are regarded by the majority of their own tribes as outlaws and desperadoes whose outrageous conduct in the precipitation of the murders has brought war and its consontant (?) evils upon the remainder of the tribe.

The Indians in this and Washington Territory have always been taught in their intercourse with ~~the~~ both the Hudson's Bay Company and the United States government that all murderers must be surrendered for frial and impartial trial. The Hudson Bay Company in their intercourse with them so fully impressed this upon their minds that there was never an instance of the murder of their people in which the prepertrators were not ~~punished~~ surrendered.

The same policy was pursued by our government in ~~September~~ 1849 and 1850 with the Puget Sound Indians for the murder of Wallace and the Cayuse for the murder of Dr. Whitman and family at Walla Walla. In both instances the murderers were given up, fairly tried and hanged and their tribes expressed satisfaction at the result. In the case of the surrender of the murderers of Wallace the tribes to which they belonged were

induced to give them up by means of a large reward offered by the Indian Department.

The Cayuses surrendered the murderers of Whitman upon the demand of Gen. Lane, then governor and supt. of Indian affairs. I have no doubt but that I could obtain the murderers of Matice and Bolen by the offer of a large rewards to the Indians but deem it inexpedient to do so and would rather see them feel that the government has the power and the will to compel them to comply with its just and reasonable demands. Judging from the past history and the present condition of these Indians I have no hesitancy in giving it as my opinion that the murders should be promptly demanded and the Indians fully impressed with the idea that their surrender is the only terms upon which they can expect a permanent and lasting peace with the government.

As to the time when the demand should be made you as the genl. in command with the full knowledge of your reasons should be the best judge yet I do not believe that anything is to be gained by procrastination.

On the 2nd of June last I gave Agent R. H. Lansdale orders to proceed to the Dalles and Walla Walla to the Flathead country on urgent business connected with the Indian Department. In my instructions I directed him to call on Col. Wright for an escort in the event that he deemed it necessary for his protection. I also wrote Col. Wright informing him of the duty upon which Mr. Lansdale had been ordered and requested that he would furnish a small escort if it should be necessary for his safety. Under date of June 22nd I received from Col. Wright a communication in reply for which I am indebted from which the following is an extract: "I have received your communication of the 2nd inst. Mr. Lansdale the agent has left for the upper country. I was not able to furnish him with an escort as I have no mounted troops at my disposal. Since my return from the Dalles I received a communication from Mr. Lansdale and in speaking of his request for an escort he says:

"Col. Wright refuses an escort of five mounted men asked for by me from Walla Walla post to crossing of Snake river, reason, a standing order not to grant escorts unless upon orders received from Head Quarters Pacific Dept. U.S.A."

You will observe from the above ~~extract~~ that Col. Wright gave Mr. Lansdale a different reason from the one given me for the refusal of the escort, and he ~~was~~ compelled to employ at a heavy outlay, citizens for his protection in making the trip. If the reason given Mr. Lansdale is the true one and such an order as he refers to exists, I ~~xxx~~ would respectfully request its modification so as to place some discretion on the commander of posts in relation to furnishing escorts to the Indian department without submitting ~~xxx~~ them to the great ~~xxx~~ delay incidental to communication with Head Quarters. Ordinarily it is seldom that an escort is necessary but circumstances do occasionally arise when it would be highly ~~important~~ expedient to have one for the safety of the superintendent or agent traveling to remote points when there is known to be danger from small lurking bands of hostile Indians. Danger is sometimes to be apprehended from the ... in remitting largesums of money to agent on the return and which the interests of the government should be protected by ordinary precautions.

"In the event general, of your desiring ~~xxx~~ it expedient to modify the rules referred to so as to allow escort to be furnished to the officers of this department in cases of necessity I guarantee that the privilege will not be abused nor escorts ever asked for except in cases of absolute necessity.

Allow me again to call your attention to the necessity of reinforcing the post at the mouth of the Umpqua River with at least one additional company. I regard it as the most important post in the territory and the only point at which successful opposition ~~can~~ can be interposed to prevent the late hostile Indians on the coast reservations from

executing their constant threats of returning south along the coast to their old homes.

With a sincere desire to cooperate with you on the restoration and maintenance of peace

I am etc.

J.W. Nesmith

Supt. Ind. Affairs, O and W T

To Brig. Gen. Clarke
Commanding Dept. Pacific
San Francisco, Calif.

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem, Oregon, August 11, 1857

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 25th ultimo enclosing a copy of special orders No. 95 in relation to the reinforcement of Fort Umpqua, also a copy of your letter of instructions to Maj. Garnett, USA of July 28th. The Indians are all quiet at present with the exception of a few renegades in the Umpqua Valley who refused to go to the reservation.

They are committing some depredations in that region in the way of killing stock and robbing homes.

I have dispatched an agent to the Umpqua for the purpose of endeavoring to bring them to the reservation.

There are also a few Indians in the south eastern portion of this territory belonging to the Chita (?) and other remnant tribes on the coast near the California line who are ~~ix~~ ,000 in connection with the California Indians, causing some trouble. I shall take immediate steps to procure their removal to the Selitz reservation.

I am sir very respectfully

etc. J.W. Nesmith

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Genl. Clarke U.S.A.

Comdy Dept. Pacific

San Francisco, Calif.

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Office Superintendent Ind. Affrs.

Salem, Oregon, Sept. 11, 1857

Sir:

Referring to your letter of August 15th and my reply thereto of August 24th, I have to say that I have since communicated with Special Agent Robie who disclaims ever having granted Mr. Gerr (? very indistinct) any authority to act as agent, enclosed is a copy of Mr. Robie's letter which will explain to you his view of the matter.

Mr. Dennison, who is a full Indian Agent at the Dalles granted Mr. Bonner permission to trade in the Yakima country, but omitted to forward the paper to this office since my letter of August 24th the papers have been received by me and forwarded to the commissioner of Indian Affairs for his action.

I have approved of the action of Agent Dennison and directed him to give Mr. ~~B. B.~~ Brown the proper permit to continue to trade in the Indian country. Mr. Brown in his application for license has complied with all the requirements of the laws and regulations and has given the proper bonds which make him and his associates responsible for any violation of the intercourse laws without proof of such violation I have no power to deprive him of his license. So far as his violation of your ~~police~~ police regulations is concerned I apprehend that I have no right to interfere in a matter which is entirely ~~in~~ within your control. Mr. Robie is still authorized to exercise the function of special agent for the Indians in the Yakima country.

Very respectfully etc.

J. W. Nesmith

Supt. Ind. Affairs O and W.T.

Major R. S. Garnett, USA

9th Infantry comdy.

Fort Simcoe

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Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem, Oregon, September 11, 1857

Sir: Enclosed I have the honor to forward to you the reports of Agent M.T. Simmons in charge of Puget Sound District Washington Territory and T.J. Hanna, head agent at Port Townsend in relation to the murder of Col. J. Ebey at his residence on Whidby's Island.

The Indians who perpetrated this outrage are from the British possessions to the northward of Puget Sound. They are a fierce, warlike and athletic race superior in every respect to any Indians on the Pacific Coast. These Indians have large canoes some of which will carry one hundred men and in which they proceed to sea with perfect safety.

For several years they have been in the habit of visiting the settlements on the Sound sometime for the purpose of trade and at other times to commit depredations on our people. The manner canoes (sic) possessed by these Indians affords them the most rapid facilities for communication with all portions of our settlements on the Sound. They are well supplied ~~with~~ with ~~guns~~ arms and a munition procured from the British traders of the north and possess the power to inflict great injury upon the scattered and defenceless settlements within their reach.

In order to afford protection to our people they should be one or two small armed steamers stationed at or near the straits of Fucca to intercept the bands of foreign marauders who are constantly making warlike incursions into the sound/

If some such protection is not afforded by the government there is danger of the entire settlement being broken up.

Very respectfully your

Obdt. servant

J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Ind.

Affairs O and W.T.

Hon J.W. ~~Bainx~~ Denver

Commissioner Ind. Affairs, Washington, D.C.

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p. 396 Office Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, Ore. Sept. 11, 1857

Sir: I have the honor to ~~transmit~~ transmit herewith the application, recommendation, bond ~~and~~ invoices and license of ^{Bonner} Green etc. who have applied for license to trade with the Clackitats and Yakama Indians all of which are submitted for your approval. Respectfully etc.

J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Indian Affairs

Hon J.W. Denver, Commissioner Ind.

O and W.T.

Affairs, Wash .D.C.

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem, Oregon, Sept. 11, 1857

Sir: Acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 1st instant enclosing the papers in relation to the appointment of E.S. ^{Bonner} Green for license to trade in the Yakima country, I have to say that your action in the premises are approved of by me. The paper will be forwarded to the commissioner of Indian Affairs by next mail for his action, in the meantime Mr. Bonner will be allowed to prosecute his trade under a permit from you for that purpose. In relation to the difficulty between Mr. Bonner and Major Garnett ~~and~~ we have no disposition to interfere

If the Major has invaded the right of Mr. Bonner the latter has his remedy in the courts.

I enclose for your con. a letter for Maj. Garnett on the subject which you are at liberty to read and will please forward to the major by first opportunity.

Very respectfully

J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Ind.

Affairs O and W.T.

P. Dennison, Ind. Agt. Dalle, O.T.