

Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe, Wash. Ter. April 17, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, Commissioner

In reply to circular E No. 29 dated Jan'y 1, 1879 referring to the medical supplies purchased of O.H. Jedium of New York I have to say that said supplies have not yet reached us.

We have not as yet learned anything of their whereabouts. The hospital is very near out of many of the most needed supplies and there is an absolute necessity for the goods in question.

etc.

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Wash. D.C. Sept. 18, 1878, Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner
Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that in the fall of 1868 W.H. Shateman(?) supt. of Indian affairs for Washington Territory gave me drafts on the assistant treasurer San Francisco Cal. for seven thousand two hundred and thirty-six dollars to pay employes for the support of shops and schools, repair of buildings, mills, support of hospital for beneficial objects and incidental expenses for Yakima agency. When said drafts were presented they were protested and returned to me. They have never been paid and the agency has had need of the money and after waiting ten years and calling attention of the Department to the subject from year to year I am anxious to know what is to be done with said unpaid claim.

I am etc.

Office ~~St. Louis~~ Yakima Indian Agency

Pt. Simcoe, W. . January 31st, 1878

Hon B.A. Hayt, commissioner

I have the honor to request the privilege of purchasing twelve plows for the use of Indians of the Agency .

Increased work in the blacksmith shop, repairing wagons and plows and doing the work required at the mills with the shoeing of horses and mules belonging to the Department and Indians and the inconveniences of making a good plow and polishing it for use here with the increased demand for plows prompts me to make the above request. The plows will be purchased (if permitted) in open market at the lowest market price and paid for out of the contingent fund received from miscellaneous receipts.

I am etc.

Office Yakima Ind. Agency

Ft. Simcoe, W.T. April 17, 1879

Captain John Smith, U.S.I. d. Agent Oregon.

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that in a council of one hundred of our Indians on this day, they requested me to write their minds in reference to your retaining High-Ne and his family at your agency: They insist that the keeping him and his people there is to make increasing trouble with the ~~bands~~ Indians of your agency.

I am persuaded that as he ~~had~~ had his choice at Vancouver and chose this agency, and came here with an expectation of having the privilege of going to your agency and getting his family and returning here, it would have been decidedly better for him and for you had he been permitted to have returned according to the promise p 192

made him when he was sent back from Vancouver and now after the trouble you have had with him and his party, I am persuaded you can never make matters easy with them at your agency. Such is the universal expression given at the council.

I am sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. April 18, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor herewith to forward an account and complaint of Antonio Eteim, a Negro man who has been among the Indians on the coast since 1849, living a good portion of the time with them and I think from time to time ~~adding~~ having an Indian woman living with him. I have no comments to make on the paper sent. I told him I would send it to you and when I got a reply he should have your answer.

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Fort Simcoe W.T. April 25, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that our grist mill has not capacity to do the work required for the agency. Our Sncet(?) machine is worn out and we must have a new one. The mill building is not large enough to furnish the needed room. I ask permission to put an addition and to purchase in open market a sett (sic) of burrs about 3 1-2 feet in diameter and a Smut machine with bolting, the burrs used at present could be placed in another part of the mill and the new one put in the place where the old one now stands and the elevators, bolt, and all the machinery for the flouring would be readily adjusted p 195 to the proposed arrangement and a belt modification of running from a pulley on the main shaft to a pulley where the old burrs are sett, which burrs would grind our coarse grain and would make up the expense.

The whole cost would not exceed one thousand dollars and could be paid (with your consent) out of the money now on hand rec'd from various sources and taken up as miscellaneous funds.

This improvement needs to be made immediately so we may be ready for the incoming harvest.

Please answer me by telegram that I may proceed immediately in making the improvement and purchase.

I am sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. April 30, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report for April, 1879. My time has been spent among the Indians instructing them in grubbing, plowing, seeding, fencing and ditching their land. There has been more thrift manifested by the Indians of the agency in farming this spring than I have witnessed in their past history. Many that have never done anything in cultivating the soil have taken hold in good earnest to open farms and are settling down to steady work.

The Indians brought to us from Camp Harney--Putes and sometimes called Snake Indians who were on the war path last year have done themselves --in engaging in work. They had never beenand they moved slow in the beginning and with personal supervision they have done well and are remarkably ..with ... in the field. I have been ...a portion of my working day during the months they have ~~plowed~~ grubbed out about 40 acres during the ~~xxxx~~ month this permitting ..worth four dollars per acre..they have also assisted in plowing and seeding.

The general work of the agency has been prosperous. The schools, shops and mills respectively have done well. I call to your attention the report of the Supt. of teaching, the opening of a day school ~~several~~ seven miles from this station and getting in some 60 or more children at that point is very encouraging. Everything is quiet with the Indians on and around the agency.

I am sir. etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. May 14, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to request authority to purchase in open market the following goods

Six two horse wagons not to exceed one hundred and twenty dollars each , 3 1-2 inch spindle; twenty plows not to exceed twenty dollars, 1,000 lbs tanned leather to cost thirty five dollars per hundred; 4 dozen chopping axes handled at \$16.50 per doz. 200 lbs rope \$16.50 per hundred; two hundred burlap sacks; twenty five dollars per hundred; three tons of nails at \$3.75 per hundred; 2,000 lbs of iron not to exceed four dollars per hundred lbs. 50 bls. flour at six.50 per bl. There is an imperative necessity for having the above mentioned articles immediately--the addition of Indians to the agency makes a demand for the wagons, leather, plows, axes, nails , sacks etc. etc. There is now on hand funds at this agency beneficial and miscellaneous to more than pay the above amount. Please authorize the purchase by telegram so I can purchase before the close of the fiscal year.

I am sir etc. etc.

Ft. Sincove W.T. May 17, 1879

Mr. Sayers Esq.

Sir:

Your letter relating to horses promised by the Indians (as you say) came to the office when I was at Portland. I know nothing about the engagement made by the Indians at this time of their examination and in your letter you do not tell me what amount they were to pay or the number of horses promised and I am not prepared to say anything to the Indians about the pay until I know definitely what the charge is, and what the promise was by them.

All arrangements made for their council in such cases should be made with the agent and then there would be no trouble

Yours truly

etc.

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Lakima Ind. Agency Ft. Sincove Wash. Ter. May 26, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, sir:

In response to circular No. 29 and dated Jan 1, 1878 rec'd at this office Jan 21, 1879 I beg to say that the supplies purchased of O.H. Jadwin have been received and attention is hereby called to the enclosed statement of the Agency Physician as to the condition of said supplies.

respectfully etc.

Ft. Sincove W.T. May 26th , 1870

Joseph Bowser

Sir

Thomas McKey, my butcher informed me this morning that when I was absent at Portland through a mistake he killed a three year old steer branded with an anchor on the right thy (sic) He belived said steer belonged to the Department until he hadkilled him when he examined the brand and found it as above. He says the steer was a small three year old. When I can see you I will settle with you.

Yours truly etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

St. Simcoe W.T. May 29, 1879

Merriss Knapp, Russell & Co.

Gentlemen:

Your letter of May 24th relating to the Harvester is rec'd. I put two men immediately to set up the machine. There are from 8 to 15 of the castings lacking not having the book we cannot give the no. we lack, but if you will take the time to examine the ~~machines~~ Nos. on the like machine and then examine the Nos I have you that we have on hand, you can tell exactly what we lack.

I am anxious to get the machine in good running order before the grain is ripe. Last year we lost more in the waiting for what was lacking and the wasting of the grain by reason of its being to ripe before we began to cut than the cost of the machine.

Please take the time to examine the No's as above spoken of and send by express to the Dalles. Do this if the time taken is changed to me at two prices.

Yours truly, James H. Wilbur etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. May 30th, 1879

Messrs Hawly Dodd & Co. Gentlemen

Your letter of May 23d stating you had finally failed to procure a 30 inch under runner mill and that you send a 30 inch Northdyke Marmion Mill which ~~could not~~ cannot be beat is received. I took extra pains as you know to go with you to see and knew Waymen's Mill of the same size and learned through you and the Miller, Seer, that , that said Waymen's mill would grind 72 bushels the hour and make good flour. Now if you can guarantee this Nordyke Marmion mill will do as much work and as well as the ones I purchased and paid for, I will receive it; otherwise I shall insist on the mill purchased. I shall wait to hear from you before receiving the mill sent.

Yours truly etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. June 2d, 1879

Hon. E.A. Hayt, commissioner.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report for the month of May, 1879.

The wild bands of Indians added to this agency increase my work and responsibility and yet I am pleased to say they are doing better in work than I had expected in the outset. The season has been remarkable so far and our crops have never looked better. The Indians many of them at this time have gone to their fisheries and will remain until the haying and harvesting begins--no trouble with the Indians of this agency.

etc.

Typed by:

Click Relander 3/3/53

Wilbur Letters.

Repository: Agency, Toppenish

p. 224 , 1879-80 volume

Subject: Sarah Winnemucca

Office Yakima Indian Agent, Fort Simcoe, W.T.

June 5, 1879.

to: Hon E.H. Hoyt (?) (commissioner)

Sir:

I have the honor to call your attention to a letter from this office dated Feb. 6, 1879 announcing the arrival of the Piute and Bannock Indians and request permission to keep Sarah Winnemucca , an educated woman, as interpreter and if I could open a school for said Indians I could use her in the double capacity of interpreter and teacher and to pay her at the rate of \$500 per annum. The school has been opened(see report of superintendent of teaching) and Sarah is employed. I again request she may be approved as teacher and paid for from the fund apportioned for the support of the schools from the 10 day of Feb. 1879 . If not approved as teacher let her be approved as interpreter and inform me what fund I shall use in paying her. An answer is requested, immediately that I may pay at the end of the quarter.

I am, your obedient servant.

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. June 5th, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, sir:

I have the honor to call your attention to a letter from this office dated Feb. 6th, 1879 announcing the arrival of the Piute and Bannock Ind. and requesting permission to keep Sarah Winnemucky and educated Indian woman as interpreter and if I could open a school for said Indians I could use her in the double capacity of interpreter and teacher and to pay her at the rate of five hundred dollars per annum.

The school has been opened (see report of Sept. of teaching) and Sarah is so employed. I again request she may be approved as teacher and paid from the fund appropriated for the support of schools from this 10 day of Feb. 1879. If not p 225 approved as teacher, let her be approved as interpreter and inform me what fund I shall use in paying her.

An answer is requested and requested immediately that I may pay at the end of the quarter.

I am sir, your etc.

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Offic Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe W.T. June 5th, 1879, Hon. E.A. Hayt, commissioner, Sir:

I have the honor to request the approval of an open market purchase of flour of six tons not to cost more than six and a half dollars per bbl. An answer by telegram is requested as we are now near out and the Piutes and Bannock Indians require rations with our schools daily. I am sir, etc.

P.S. The sixty barrels would cost three hundred and ninety dollars.

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. June 11th 1879

H. Dustin, Esq. Sir:

Your letter of May 1st ~~sd~~ relating to the keeping of High-ni and party and requesting information how his miller is to get his pay is rec'd.

Lst-the Indians were not coming to this agency by my order. Had it been so, I would have given them a paper to be kept with their horses!

I think the government will pay yet I am not in funds nor am I authorized to settle s id bill. I ~~am~~ expect to be at Goldendale in a few days and will see you in relation to this matter.

Yours truly, etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe W.T. June 30th, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to submit my report for the month of June. The work of the agency in mills, shops, farms and schools has been quite as prosperous as in the past. An addition has been made to the grist mill. A new run of stones and Smutthe has been purchased and are now at the mill and will soon be adjusted. The Indians have manifested unusual zeal and industry in cutting and hauling saw logs to the steam saw mill.

The Piute Indians added to this agency last winter are working well. We are now in the very busy time of haying and harvesting. Our hay crop indeed our grain was never better nor at p. 235 abundant at this season(sic) The fore part of the month I was very sick for a week but when able to ride started for the Dalles and Portland, Oregon to make purchases for the agency.

I am pleased to say that the Indians of the agency are well disposed toward each other and toward the whites. The rumors of Indian wars has been lost sight of in the prospect of having rail roads through the country.

I am sir, your obedient servant

July 9th, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to call your attention to a letter written to you on the 6th of March and your reply dated March 17th, 1879. You say the matter in regard to the employment of Sarah Winnemucca (sic) as interpreter and teacher will form the subject of an ~~another~~ communication, "that other communication has not been rec'd." She was employed on the 10 day of Feb at a Salary of Five hundred dollars per annum out of what fund is she to be paid? She has done a noble work in the school room, out at the school, instructing the Piute women and girls how to cut and make garments for the children of the Piute school and themselves and doing me essential service as interpreter.

Please approve her appointment or rather her employment at said salary and instruct me out of what fund I shall pay. I want the instruction. So she may be properly reported with my quarterly papers now being made up.

I am sir, etc.

July 15th, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, Sir:

I have the honor to report that Highney, an Indian chief that had been held as a prisoner by Gen. Howard at Vancouver, W.T. had the choice while a prisoner to return to Warm Springs agency or come with his people here. He chose this agency and in moving his horses and people incurred the expenses (sic) as seen in the enclosed bill. Shall I pay said bills, if so, out of what fund.

Yours very truly, James H. Wilbur.

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Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, sir:

I have the honor to send you a copy of ferry charges to Highney Indian Chief in moving ~~600~~ Warm from Warm Springs agency to this agency. Crossing the Columbia river, crossing 388 horses at 25 cents

\$97.00

60 packs with horses

18.00

30 men and women 30 cents

9.00

total

\$124.000

Highney paid

\$8.75

Due Jeff Miller

\$115.25

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. July 21, 1879 Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that I have received from Agent Reinhart of the Malheur agency some copies of correspondence between his office and yours relating to the return of Sagent (?) and his band to that agency and requesting me to examine said papers and ..to your office .

The expense of moving said Indians to this agency was about \$50,000 dollars. They have been put to work here and have done well are contented and happy and if kept steadily at work will soon become self supporting. It would be in my judgment at this time none is better to move the remainder of the band now there or these that might here after be put there, to this agency and break up that agency rather than send them back. I think from all I know of these they have made more improvement du00ngd sinse (sic) they came here than in all the years previously spent in instructing and taking care of them. I think it would be a childish course then that, to return them. I will report more fully in my annual report .

I am sir etc .

Capt. John Smith, U.S. Ind. Agent, Warm Springs, Sir:

A letter dated July 14th sent to H. Dustin, Esq. relating to Hihany's leaving the Warm Spring agency by reason of a "council held by Wilbur and his Indians," is rec'd. What you state in said letter is not true. Hihany was taken to Vancouver and held a prisoner by General Howard and by General Howard brought to this agency without my knowledge or consent and turned over to me to keep. He has so far as I know, up to this time complied with the conditions of the treaty here and is not, as you say "Liable to arrest as are many and request the people over here to treat him as such if he does not behave."

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Such a communication to those who are all the time complaining of the Indians tends to mark trouble between the whites and Indians.

You say "Wilbur's Indians brought word to Mihany and that was the reason why he left." Wilbur and Wilbur's council held Indians held no council in the case.

Yours truly etc.

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July 28, '79

Mack, An Indian boy whose father is at Vancouver, W.T. has permission to go to Vancouver in company with J.J. Lewis, interpreter, to ~~visit~~ visit his father and will be subject to the orders of General Howard in reference to his return to this agency

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.