

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs 1848-73 Roll 8, Microcopy 2

Office Supt. Indian Affairs,

Portland Oregon, March 12, 1860

Sir:

Ya ka tow it, a Klickatat from Vancouver tells me that he last fall traded his horse to an Indian residing on the Reservation named Sal ti a quim for a small girl, that Sal ti a quim has not yet delivered to him. I feel it important to put an end to this miserable traffic of their own flesh and blood and have accordingly forbidden the trade to be consummated by the delivery of the child to Ya Ka Tow it.

As he desires to recover his horse I have permitted him and another Indian to visit Grand Ronde for that purpose and have given him this note to ~~present~~ present to you. If you find the case as I apprehend it to be and have stated above, I have no doubt you will accord with me in your views as to the impropriety of allowing the child to be transferred and carried by an Indian from the reservation. If the child is an orphan with none to care for her it would be a dictate of humanity to provide her a home ~~in~~ in a worthy white family.

Yours ^Krespectfully

Edward R. Geary

Supt. Ind. Affairs

J.S. Miller, ^Lsq.

Ind. Agent.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-72

Roll 8, Microcopy 2

p. 113 Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon, April 16, 1860

General: The acknowledgment of the receipt of your letter of the 6th April referring to certain matters complained of by Sergeant Achimbeck in charge of military property at Fort Simcoe has been delayed till now by my absence, and the press of engagements.

I intend visiting the Yakama Agency in a few days and will carefully investigate the grounds, of the complaint and advise you of my action therein.

I embrace the occasion to say that the saw mill at Fort Hoskins was on careful examination found unsuited to the water power designed to propel it, at the Selitz Agency, and that consequently the Agent declined the transfer.

Very respectfully etc.

Edward R. Geary, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Brig. Gen. W.S. Harney,

Commdy. Ore. Dept. Ft. Vancouver

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

p 112

Portland, April 4, 1842x 1860

General: Captain Augur informs me that among the military stores at Fort Hoskins there is a portable sawmill which is not likely to be required for any use connected with the post.

The Selitz Agency is in pressing need of a saw mill and I write to request that if ~~xx~~ in accordance with your views the machinery referred to may be transferred to the Indian department. It is intended to propel the mill by water power, consequently the horse power attached to the mill at the fort would not be needed. Any terms of equitable transfer will meet the concurrence of this office.

I expect to set out for Selitz tomorrow morning and will be obliged to you for a definite reply by the return of the bearer of this note. to Gen Harney..

yours etc. Geary

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-72

Roll 8, Microcopy 2

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Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 8, Microcopy 2

p. 121 Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Ogn. May 9, 1860

General:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the fifth instant informing this office that the two military positions at Forts Bellingham and Townsend have been withdrawn and that the buildings at both of those places are at the service of the Indian Department for Agencies etc.

As these places referred to are off the reservations provided by treaty for the Indians residing on the coast and Puget Sound I have thought it best not to receive or accept them for the purposes indicated, there being instructions from the Indian Office requiring agents when practicable to reside on the reservations.

I am etc.

Edward R. Geary, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Brig Gen W.S. Harney

Commd Dept of Oregon, Head qu. Ft. Vancouver

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 8, Microcopy 2

p. 131 Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland Oregon, May 29, 1860

Butte Linn co Oga. ?

Mr. James Knox of Knox ? ? and Co. Dear Sir

I wrote to you on the 23 instant informing you that I would take the hundred head of cattle on the terms on which you proposed to deliver them at the Simcoe Agency in Simcoe valley, 70 miles north of the Dalles, viz 50 yearling heifers at \$10 per head and ~~50~~ 50 two year old heifers at \$17 per head, the cattle to be appraised by me and paid for at this office on the presentation of the receipt of delivery from the agent.

I have now to ask that I will require on the same reservation in addition 50 cows and calves and 5 bulls all to be of good quality, the cows not over 4 years old, the bulls not over 3 years old.

Should you deliver these cattle at the same time and place as the others I will allow you for them at the same rates I shall pay for cattle delivered at the Warm Springs Reservation of similar kind.

You will observe in the public papers that proposals are invited to furnish cattle at the other reservations east of the mountains.

I am very anxious to have all the cattle purchased for the Indians of fair quality as I have no doubt that their circumstance will be much ameliorated by stocking the vast plains embraced in their respective reservations with herds and flocks.

Yours truly, Edward R. Geary, Supt.

Ind. Affairs.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs , 1848-73 Roll 8, Microcopy 2
p. 139

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Portland Ogn, July 5th, 1860

Sir:

...

I returned from the country of the Snake Indians on the 20th ult. They are as they have been for the last nine years , hostile and ready to .xxx seize on any opportunity afforded by the weakness or carelessness of parties passing through their country to commit rapine and murder. They have added to their recent offenses that of an attack on the expedition under Capt. Smith. They deserve and I trust will receive a signal chastisement ^{while} ~~which~~ the military is in their country. I was wholly unable to secure a conference with them.

Very respectfully , etc.

Edward R. Geary

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Gen. D. Newcomb

Indian Agent

Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, July ? 1860

Sir:

I have this day inspected and approved the cattle that Mr. J. Lamson has contracted to deliver for the use of the Indians at the Warm Springs Agency in accordance with the following schedule viz:

Schedule No. 1, Warm Springs(sic) Agency

50 yearling heifers.

50 two year old heifers.

50 cows now over 4 years old with calves.

10 bulls now over (3 or 5, faded) years old.

To be delivered to the Warm Springs Agency on or before the (20th or 30th) day of July next.

You will give Mr. Lamson a certificate stating the number of each description of cattle delivered, the time of delivery and the condition of the cattle, Should their be a few over the number you will nevertheless include them in your certificate.

On account of the risk of keeping the cattle at the agency on account of the predatory habits of the Snake Indians and the loss of good grass in that vicinity, you will I believe find it best to herd the cattle in the vicinity of Oak Grove on this side of Mutton Mountain. p 141

You will be careful to place the cattle in the care of a liable herders.

On the receipt of your certificate from Mr. Lamson I will send you the proper schedule to accompany your accounts--also blank forms of receipts which you will date sign and return to this office.

Very respectfully etc

Edward R. Geary, Supt etc.

Geo H. Abbott Esq.

Sub Ind. Agent

Warm Spring FRes.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 8, Microcopy 2

p 157 Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Ogn. Sept. 6th, 1860

Sir:

The vouchers signed by you for the money paid you at this office for the cattle delivered by you at Fort Simcoe were found to be defective. I therefore return them to you and request you to attach your name to the blank receipts of the vouchers which I have herewith enclosed. You will sign your name to each of the four and mail them to this office as soon as practicable. Those first signed you will retain and destroy.

Very Respectfully

etc. Edward R. Geary

Supt. Ind. Affairs.

Mr. James Knox son

Linn Co. Oregon

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 8, Microcopy 2

p. 169 Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon, Oct 2d, 1860

Col. George Wright, U.S.A.,

Comndy. Dept. of Oregon.

Ft. Vancouver, W.T.

Sir: I have to enclose you a copy of a communication this instant received from Agent A.P. Dennison advising me of the ???? aggressions of the Snake Indians on the Warm Springs Reservation and that an attack by a large body of these mauraunders is seriously apprehended by the Indians collected there, to be impending.

It is quite evident that no protection from these often repeated aggressions of the Snakes will form adequate but the constant ??? of a body of mounted troops. I have therefore to request that you will immediately make such a disposition of a portion of the forces under your command as will preserve the Indians and property on the Warm Springs (sic) reservation from the impending danger and that you will make early arrangements for the stationing of such a command at that point as will be a guaranty of safety to those employed in the Indian service and the Indians on said Reservation for the future.

Without such protection there appears to be no alternative but to abandon a reservation whereon constant disaster from a stealthy and mysterious foe thwarts all our efforts and subjects to destruction the property and lives of the whites and Indians who attempt to reside upon it.

I am, etc.

Edward R. Geary,

Supt. Ind. Affairs.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73, Roll 8, microcopy 2
p. 170- Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Oct. 2d, 1860

Sir:

I have this instant received your letter of the 28th ultimo advising this office of the ????? aggressions of the Snake Indians on the property of the Indians located on the Warm Spring(sic) reservation and of the apprehensions of the Indians that an attack on the reservation by a large force of these marauders is impending, also pressing the importance of having a company of mounted soldiers immediately stationed at that point for the protection of the employees of the government and the Indians thereon, together with the property.

I have just written to Col. Wright enclosing him a copy of your letter and urged the necessity of immediately interposing an adequate force for the defense of the Reservation and the early establishment of a military post to secure its safety ^{for} ~~from~~ the future from the predatory and murderous forays of the "Snakes."

I regret to inform you that a letter received this morning from Col. Wright advises me that he cannot aid the Indian Department in the manner proposed of furnishing the means of transportation to the Warm Springs Reservation, having determined to winter the train at Walla Walla, it cannot be recalled to the Dalles without much expense and inconvenience to the service.

Very respectfully etc.

Edward R. Geary, Supt. Indian Affairs

Col. A.P. Dennison,
Indian Agent,
Dalles, Oregon.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 8, Microcopy 2

p. 174- Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Ogn. Oct. 4th, 1860.

Sir: The melancholy intelligence from sources entitled to credit has just reached this office of the murder by the Digger Snakes of a party of forty-five immigrants at a point below the Salmon Falls of Salmon River. A Mr. Shouder (?) supposed to be the only survivor of the company made his escape and after subsisting for seven days on wild berries succeeded in reaching the camp of Mr. Geo. E. Cole on Willow Creek in an almost famished state on the night of the 30th ultimo.

This tragic event must have occurred soon after Major Stein's command set out on their return and is another striking evidence of the deadly and covert movements of these savage marauders and murderers.

Humanity, the obligation of the government to the citizens and the general prosperity of Oregon and Washington demand that prompt and vigorous measures be taken to inflict summary chastisement on these miscreants and for the future security of immigrants and the frontiers.

There is reason to believe that there are other parties of immigrants still on the plain and exposed to danger. I had also serious apprehension for the safety not only of the Warm Spring (Sic) reservation but also of that on Wild Horse Creek and of the settlements in that vicinity and would most respectfully and earnestly press on your consideration the importance of so ~~disposing of~~ ^s ~~disposing of~~ and dispensing the military forces of neighboring posts as to avoid, if possible, further disasters to the lives and property of our citizens and of the friendly Indians who have the solemn guaranty of treaties for their protection.

I enclose you a slip from the Advertiser of this morning relating to the massacre. I am sir, etc. Edward R. Geary, Supt. Indian Affairs to Col. George Wright, USA, commd. Dept. of Oregon, Fort Vancouver, W.T. (Enclosure) appeared to have been pasted on and then came off of original[

Orgn. Oct. 4th, 1860

Sir:

It is my painful duty to communicate to you that reliable intelligence has reached this office of the massacre of a large company of immigrants near the Salmon Falls of Sal (xed out) Snake river by the Digger Snakes. The company consisted of forty six persons, men, women and children on route for Oregon, of whom forty five are supposed to have fallen victims to savage barbarity. Mr. Shuder (?) alone escaped and after enduring the greatest privations and travelling day and night for a whole week succeeded in reaching the camp of Mr. Geo E. Cole on Willow Creek about 100 miles East of the Dalles in Middle Oregon p 177

The Command of Major Stein (2 companies of Dragoons) spent several weeks in the region where this tragedy is alleged to have occurred without finding the Indians anywhere in force or discovering evidence of their lang being numerous in that vicinity--. Supposing the immigration to have generally if not entirely passed the region of peril he returned with his command to their quarters at Fort Walla Walla . Scarcely had his return been accomplished before the occurrence of this barbarious slaughter of our citizens who after accomplishing their long pilgrimage over the plains were destined to fall by the murderous hand of the relentless savages on the confines of the country of their destination.

I may here also state that the command of Major Stein had only a few days returned to Fort Dalles from the campaign into the Snake Country in the vicinity of Harney (Malheur) Lakes before the aggressions of these mauraunders were commenced in the Warm Spring Reservation and forty horses belonging to the friendly Indians at that point driven away.

Apprehensions are now seriously entertained by Agent Dennison that an attack by a large body of these mauraunders is impending and that unless military protection be speedily afforded, the reservation will be desolated.

I have already communicated with Col. Wright commanding the Department in regard to these frontier troubles and have no doubt his expression and energy will prompt him at the earliest moment practicable to make such a disposition of his forces as will prevent further disaster and ~~furnish~~ punish these miscreants.

I am sir etc.

Edward R. Geary

Supt. Ind. Affairs

to A.B. Greenwood,
Commissioner Ind. Aff.
Washington City, D.C.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73, Roll 8, Microcopy 2
p. 176

Office Supt. Indian Affairs,

Portland Oregon, Oct. 4th, 1860.

To the Rt. Rev. A.M.A. Blanchet, bishop of Nesqualy

Sir:

In reply to your note of yesterday just received I would respectfully say that I am advised though not officially, that the Rev Mr. J. Wilbur a minister of high character in the Methodist Episcopal Church has received from Dr. Lansdale the Agent for the Indians to be located on the Yakama Reservation the appointment of superintendent of teaching in accordance with treaty provisions.

The name of Mr. Wilbur has not yet been submitted to this office for confirmation in the position to which I am informed he has been designated by the agent. But as I can officially make no distinction on account of religious tenets or connections in appointing persons to positions and as Mr. Wilbur has high intellectual, social and moral qualifications fitting him for the position of a teacher I shall most ~~responsibly~~ ?? confirm the appointment when submitted to me by the agent as it is his duty to do without delay.

There is no authority or intention on the part of this office to interfere with the religious tenets of the Indians, when happily they have any, or to debar them from the privileges and consolations to be obtained through the ministers ??? of the religion of their choice

Very respectfully, etc.

Edward R. Geary, supt. Ind. Affairs.

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Portland, Oregon, Dec. 5th, 1860

Sir:

I enclose you a letter received at this office from Capt. Alex Ankeny relating to add describing five horses which he alleged were stolen from him ~~near~~ on or about the first of October last, opposite White Bluffs on the Columbia river near the camp of an Indian named Smoke Hollow (the same known as the Dreamer on Seven Mountains) of

The Indian is represented as being notoriously bad character and having gathered about him a number of renegade and thievish Indians who are a great annoyance to settlers and parties passing to and from the northern mines. He is also said to be prominent among those who are exciting the Indians of the interior to the renewal of hostilities against the whites.

You will use your influence to have the horses of Capt. Ankeny restored and will also inquire into the character and conduct of Smoke Hollow and if you deem it necessary in order to disperse the band of thieves and desperadoes he is gathering around him you will cause him to be arrested and turned over to the military for safe keeping.

Very Respectfully etc.

Your etc. Edward R. Geary,
Supt. Indian Affairs

Geo H. Abbott esq.

Indian Sub Agent

Umatilla ⁿes.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73, Roll 18, Microcopy 2

p. 214-- Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Ogn, Dec. 12, 1860

Sir:

Herewith I have the honor to transmit the application , license and bond of Charles Pope to trade with the Yakama Nation of Indians on the Yakama Reservation for your approval or disapproval in accordance with the provisions of the act of June 30th, 1860.

No testimonials of unsuceptionable (?) characteras o fitn ss)???) to be in the Indian country accompanying this application and I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Pope. He however bears the reputation of a worthy and peaceable citizen and his social standing has been such as as to create a strong presumption in his favor. Allegations have nevertheless been made to this office in regard to the official conduct of Agent Mansdale who is the son in law of Mr. Popethat deserve (?) an early investigation and I have therefore to request that you will defer action in regard to the above named application till further advised thereon.

I am etc.

Edward R. Geary, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Hon A.B. Greenwood

Comr. Ind. Affairs,

Washington, D.C.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73, Roll 8, Microcopy 2

p 250 Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon, February 27, 1861

Sir:

With the view of securing the more efficient and beneficial administration of Indian affairs and promoting the purposes of the government regarding the Indians within this superintendency, I have to submit the enclosed draft of a proposed act of Congress designed to regulate the Indian service in Oregon and Washington Territory

Being about to retire from my present position with neither the expectation nor desire of again holding a place of official trust I do not regard ~~my~~ any preliminary explanation or apology as necessary.

The first section of the act abolishes the office of sub Indian Agent in this superintendency and replaces the six officers of this grade with seven additional full agents ~~ff~~ four from Washington Territory and three for Oregon.

The distinction between agents and sub agents is not only unnecessary and absurd but unjust. Whatever propriety for the distinction there may be elsewhere it certainly does not exist in this superintendency. The title sub agent p 251 ~~addd~~ would seem to indicate that officer as being under the control of the agent an arrangement which the interests of the service here does not admit of. The great extent of country embraced in this superintendency inhabited by 38,000 Indians requiring each sub agent to be placed in charge of a ~~distinct~~ distinct field of duty and that he like a full agent be under the immediate ~~xxxx~~ direction and control of this office.

Even with such arrangement the entire number is inadequate for the proper occupancy of the whole field and to day three agencies involving important interests and grave responsibility are of necessity in charge of so called sub agents.

Should the proposed act become a law the several Indian agents then provided for and by the acts respectively of June 5, 1850 and July 31, 1854, might be assigned to duty as follows viz:

For Washington Territory

One agent for the Indians on the Yakama reservation

" " " confederated as the Flathead nation

" " " on the Nez Perce Reservation

" " " Spokane and Coeur d'Alenes Pend D Ore lles, Colville and Okinkanes with an agency at Colville.

One agent in charge of the central agency at Niallip (??) on Puget Sound

One agent in charge of the Nisqually, Puyallup Squaxin and Skohomish reservations and also the ~~upper~~ Chehalis, Cowlitz and Vaitinamand treat with, this field to be called the Squaxin Agency.

One agent for the Indians on Warm Springs Reservation.

One for the Snake Indians. One for the Nez Perce Reservation.

One for the Grande Ronde Agency, One for the Selitz and Aleca and one for the Klamath, Modocks and adjacent bands of the Digger Indians.

p 252 ..The 6th and 7th sections provides for the removal and consolidation of other tribes not parties to any treaty and makes specific provisions for placing them upon a footing of equality with those who are beneficiaries of the government under treaty stipulations

This policy was recommended in my first annual report and subsequent observation has confirmed my first convictions as to the propriety and practicability. This justice of the provision is obvious and they commend themselves to all intelligent persons comprehending the true interests of the country and ~~desiring~~ desiring the welfare of the Indians
I am etc.

Edward R. Geary, supt Indian Affairs
to Hon ? R. Greenwood, commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City D?C?

N.B. I inadvertently omitted to call your attention in the body of the foregoing letter to the 19th section of the proposed act providing for the appointment of a commission to negotiate treaties with the Snake Indians and other tribes.

This provision for reasons given in my last annual report and especially in view of the hostile attitude of many of these tribes is highly important and necessary to the peace of the country, the safety of the immigrants and settlers on the frontiers and the early development of the mining and other resources of Oregon and Washington

Supt.

p. 263

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Portland, Oregon, April 25, 1861

Sir:

Your statement on duplicate of employes on the Umatilla reservation of March 31st has been received and is today forwarded to the Indian Bureau.

When at Walla Walla a few days ago I learned that Hemley, the Walla Walla chief had visited Major Stein, whether with or without your knowledge and permission, I did not learn, and had complained of not receiving sufficient rations for himself and band on the Umatilla Reservation. I mention this matter to you to direct your attention to the this alleged grievance feeling assured that nothing in your power will be omitted to render the reservation attractive to all the Indians.

He also complained that the Umatillas were unwilling to permit his tribe to have lands on the reservation.

You can readily enlighten him on this matter.

Very respectfully etc

Edward R. Geary,

Supt. Indian Affairs

G.C. Abbott esq.

Sub Ind. Agent