Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73, Roll 11, Microcopy 2

p 56 Report on Mission Claim, to the Hon Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir: I have the honor to submit for your consideration the following report

On the 18th of February last I received instructions to investigate

the several claims of the American Coard of Commissioners of Foreign Missions

for losses sustained in Oregon in 1847 by thedra destruction of property

by Indians directly or indirectly as using as my guide the 17th section of

the Intercourse act.

On account of the rains I was unable to visit the mission station until in June last . After a careful examination of the station and the present condition of matters connected with these claims I am fully of the opinion that the Indians ought not to be held responsible for these losses as contemplated in the act above cited. for the following reasons: The indians have never destroyed any property connected with these missions except at Waiilatpu . They (the Indians) assert that in this case there never would have been any destruction of property had it not been in the spirit of retaliation. It appears that in the month of December, 1847 while the Oregon troops under Col. Gillam were on their way to the Cayuse country they commenced the destruction of Indian villages and Indian property at the Upper Descutes which was the first village they ome to after passing the Dalles of the Columbia. This was in the country owned and occupied by the Wascopams, a people sho were in no way connected with the massacre at Waiilatpu. It appears that immediately after the burning of these lodges by the troops the buildings p were burnt at Waiilatpu and not before. This statement is not made in justification of the course pursued by the Indians at the time, but to show what were the ficts in the case. Another reason which ought to have some weight why the I dians ought not at this time to be held accountable for their losses, is the fact that while the Oregon troops were stationed at "aiilatpu they were in the constant practice of taking all the horses and cattle they could find belonging to the Cayuses and using and disposing of them in various ways. The chiefs of the Cayuses

informed me that more than five hundred head of horses we e taken from them during the "war" for which they never have received the least compensation. These chiefs say further that neither they nor any of their people now living took part in the massacre or in burning the houses at Dr. Whitman's station and that they consider it unjust to hold them responsible at this day for the acts of men of their nation who were hung at Oregon City. It would seem therefore that if the above statements be true, whatever were sum is deemed proper to be paid on the mission claims should be paid by the Government of the United States.

The evidence that I have been able to procure does not warrant me in fixing with much precision upon a sum that ought to be paid the claimants mainly for the following reason: 1st a large portion of the property charged for in the account is not now in existence or cannot be found. "11 of the large items however such as mills at waitlatpu and Clear "ater and all the buildings at the latter place are now as good as before the massacre, excepting the natural decay. 2dly, All these several pieces of property I consider very much overrated in the account, and this causes me to look upon the many charges with less confidence in their justices (sic)

efore attempting to give an account of the present condition of the three mission stations in questions it may be relevant to state that p 56 although a claim is made by the American Board for property at the Dalles, the Methodist Society claim the same. So far as the claim on the government is concerned, it would seem unnecessary to mention this but in the absence of sufficient proof as to the value of this Dalles mission property (there being nothin; left but some cellars partly filled with rubbish and an earthen embankment around a field that has once been cultivated in order to get at some other testimony besides the affidavits below, I tried to ascertain the price paid by the American coard to the Methodist Society for this whole property before any part of it was de troyed. It was stated by several persons to be only five hundred dollars. I asked

H.H. Spalding if he could name the amount, he said he could not but thought it less than a thousand dollars-he could not say that any amount had actually been paid. The undersigned Nathan Olney and James F. Alsop are the only persons now living at the Dalles who were there at the time or soon after the massacre.

Copy of affidavit.

"athan Olney being duly sworn says he has no interest in the property directly or indirectly, that he arrived at the Dalles about twenty days after the massacr s of Thitman family—thathe does not think there was any necessity of the missionaries at the Dalles leaving at the time they did, that labor was very low at the time of the building of their houses, ot more than one dollar per day.

Question-"hat would you suppose was a liberal amount for the value of their barn? Answer-Three hundred dollars would amply cover every expense.

Q-"hat would you estimate the adobe house at?

A-Five hundred ollars as a liberal estimate.

Q-What do yo think the remainder of the buildings at the mission cost?

A-They may have cost seven p 57

hundr d dollars but were not worth more than half of it at the time of abandonment.

Q-"as there any crop on their cultivated ground .

A_No.

Q-Do youthink there could be any just claim on the government for the groun cultivated by the mission?

Ans-No

All their furniture of any value was taken away by them.

Signed athan Olney

James E. Alsop, being duly sworn says-question-Was (sic) you at the Dalles soon after the assacre? Answer-"ithin two months afterwards. Q "ill you please to read the testimony of Nathan Olney? What is your opinion of the

correctness of said testimony? Ans. I fully confur in said testimony.

Signed Jas E. Alsop

the Dalles, I would call your attention to the great difference between the amount paid or to be paid by the American Board and the amount (4,130) charged in the account. The p rehase was made within a few days of the time the massacre took place, therefore it is reasonable o suppose that there could be any change in the value of the property. It should also be observed that the property taken away by the claimants or their agents does not appear to be endited)Sic) in the account I can see no justice in the charge for cultivating and making an earth enbankment (for a fence) upon grounds ceded to the mission by an act of Congress.

Upon entering the ground the gro nds once occupied by the flourising mission of Dr. Whitman, the mind is deeply impressed with the melancholly stillness that prevails in this upper valley of the "alla "alla. Nowhere is heard the voice of the savage. Now nor are their cettle or horses to be seen, as they are not allowed to graze upon this portion of their immense p 58. territory. "Il is still as the murdered ones who sleep on an eminence some twenty rods to the east of the ruins. I visited the place with P.B. Whitman, a nephew of the late Pr. W. who resided here some four years and was able to described everything as it formerly was. From examination made here and at the Clear Water Station - was fully convinced as before stated that many charges in the account were much much too high. The "grist mill as it is called at Waiilatpu is a very small affair, not at all entitled to the name and would not have cost in the States three hundred dollars. I think it may have cost five hundred dollars. The sawmill charge I think is equally too h gh. In regard to the cattle charged for in the account it seems from the statements of "illiam Craig and Robert Newell that in the arly part of 1848 H.H. Spalding sold to these gentlemen all the cattle belonging to this mission and that at Clear Water and

and received a sum that was agreed upon as full for the cattle that could be found.

The sheep, or a large portion of them were driven down from the upper country by P.B. Whitman and delivered to Mr. Spalding.

A charge is made of fifteen hundred dollars for merchandise not opened, no invoices having been reserved seen, no knowledge of the cost of the goods in boston; why is fifteen hundred named? Why not say two hundred or even two thousand in absence of all knowledge of their value or cost.

The foregoing statements are made to show the great difficulty there is in getting at a correct estimate of what ought to be paid in this case. I am fully pursuaded that the American board have no knowledge of any error in making out this account. I am informed they have repeatedly written to those having this p 59 matter in charge here to guard against overcharging for anything. "hatever conclusion therefore may be arrived at as to what is just and proper to be allowed on this claim, no censure should be cast upon the American "oard of Missions.

In reporting upon the Clear "ater mission property I have to state that nothing appears to have been destroyed by the Indians at this place. These Nez Perces informed me that they would protected (sic) Mr. Spalding and family man had they remained at the station under any and all circumstances

cannot therefore see any reason why the government should be held responsible for this property not destroyed any more than for the property of Messrs "alker & Ells Mission Station in the Spokan Country.

I do not suppose I am called upon for an expression of opinion as to what obligations may rest upon the government to make good the losses set fort in these accounts. It has been said that a treaty was once made with the Mez Perce tribe by Dr. White who acted as Indian Agent in Oregon in which the Indians agreed to protect the mission establishments in their country and therefore if the mission property was lost or destroyed they would be bound to make it good. Admitting this to be true I do not see why they should be

held responsible held re ponsible for property abandoned and lft to decay, without the least effort on the part of the owners to take care of it. It may be said the miximum missionaries were compelled to leave their station in obdelence to an order issued by the then existing government of Oregon. This order I believe we issued early in 1848, not until after Messrs Spalding, "alker and Bels had left their stations. How far the general government is bound to make good, hosses p 60 sustained by the abandonment of property in consequence of an act of the Oregon government at that day is I trust no part of my duty to determine.

The serious losses have been sustained by the Mission establishments in upper Oregon there cannot be a doubt but that the indians now occupying that part of the contry should be held responsible for them would in my judgment be inflicting a wrong upon them, that the American board with its strict sense of justice could not readily consent to. I am however of the opinion that the general government should pay a just and reasonable sum and inasmuch as there is granted one square mile of land to each of these st tions which embraces all the property not destroyed I would think that twenty thousand dollars would be a reasonable amount to be paid on the whole of their accounts.

(Undated and unsigned) but precedes letter of date, April 11, 1852.)

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p. 84- Indian Superintendency, Ore on, June 25, 1853...

p. 90- ...

I beg leave to callthe attentions of the Department to the propriety of removing a band of the Clickitat Indians who have been roaming through the Willamette and Umpqua Valleys for a few years past, to their proper country north of the Columbia.

his band ix consists of about thirty warriors with their families.

Being more warlike and better armed and mounted than the Indians on the side of the river, and of predatory habits, they often with impunity appropriate the horses and other property of weak and scattered bands, and are an annoyance and terror to all, nor has the property of the white settlers always been respected by them. They have not the less show of claim to any portion of country in these valleys.

I am etc.

Joel Palmer, superintendent

Hon George W. Manypenny

Commissioner of I dian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

p. 145-- Instructions to R.R. Thompson, Ind. Agt. Office Supt. Ind. Affrs. Dayton, O.T. July 18th, 1856.

Sir: Your application for permission to make Wascopam on the Palles of the Columbia your head quarters for the time being is granted but it is expect that you will frequently visit the country along the Utilla and such other points in your district as may require the presence of an agent.

You will visit the tribes residing along the emigrant road during the transit of the emigration and spare no pains to secure the safety of our citizens now on the r way to this t rritory and especially those in the rear, for it is usually upon the crippled, weary and unfortunate who are four wanding their way late in the season, that the mischievous portion of the Indians make their attacks as they are less able to concentrate a sufficient force for the recovery of stolen property, or chastise them for their misdeeds.

The Indians along Lewis fork have never I believe been visited by an agent of the government. You will therefore make your arrangements to extend your visit to such of the Snakes, Bonacks(sic) Diggers and other tribes as reside contig ous to the emigrant road between Grande Ronde and Fort Hall. In making this tour you will carefully collect all the information relative to the condition of these Indians which will enable me to inform the Department correctly in related to them and as a directory for your action in the matter you are referred to my instructions to I.M.

Garrison late agent of June 22, 1853, a copy of which is enclosed. In these instructions the leading topics of inquiry are stated.

Information has been r ceiv d that a Mr. Elie and others are now engaged in transporting with a pack train by way of the Dalles a large amount of spiritious liquor and other goods into the Indian country, and that they have avowed their antention to carry on an extensive trade with the Indians. I desire you to watch the movements of those persons

and if they are found violating the laws you will at once remove them and destroy their liquor. The country above the Dalles for all purposes connected with the Indian Department must be regarded as an Indian country and you will strictly enforce the laws of Congress regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes. The distinct estimation of this liquor I am informed is Burn River and the parties who have started with it are well aware of the unhawfulness of such acts and have boasted that they would proceed after disposing of their merchandise to the Colorado and thus about the panalty.

During your absence in visiting the tribes mentioned you will designate some suitable person to perform the duties of special agent. You will also place in charge of some careful person the agency buildings at Utilla and direct that they be not used as trading establishments, but be retained, subject to the direction of this office.

As your explorations will be confined chiefly within the region traversed by whites no danger need be appreheded nor will more than from two to four men be needed as you may think advisable. You are authorized to purchase the requisite number of horses as being more economical than so hire them. I will endeavor, if possible, to produre a few goods for distribution among in the Indians and forward them to you by steamer.

Very Respectfully etc.

Joel Palmer, supt.

R.R. Thompson, I.A.

Palles of Columbia, O.T.

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Instructions to Special Agent Olney

Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Dayton, O.T., Sept. 28,1854 Sir: My letter of the 25th instant informed you of your appointment as special agent for the Indian tribes in Oregon.

I now transmit you such instructions as I deem important to direct you in the discharge of the duties of your office very much however is confided to your discretion and your knowledge of the country and the Indians inhabiting that region will enable you to act officially.

Therefore that part of Oregon lying east of the Cascade Mountains and south of the 44th parallel of latitude has not been connected with any particular district. Our limited knowledge of this extensive tract and the hostile character of its savage inhabitants evinced in a long succession of aggressions and the lives and property of our citizens render it necessary to station an agent among them, and it is therefore assigned you as your district.

The 44th parallel is supposed to cross Snake River at or below Fort Boise and traverses the Cascade Mountains in the vicinity of the snow Buttes, usually known as the "Three Sisters."

Agent R.R. Thompson in charge of the North Eastern district will cooperate with you in existing emergencies, but the duties of his own field will not permit him to remain longer with you.

The hostile attitude of the Indians on Snake River will in all probability require you, if it be practicable, to remain during the winter in that vicinity. You will cooperate with the military force now in that country and render every aid in your power in virtue of your office to bring the perpretrators of the late outrages to early and ? punishment. At the same time you will spare no effort to save those Indians who are known to be well affected to the whites from being involved in the retribution provoked by the nefarious deeds of the guilty.

The impunity with which these savages have for years robbed and murdered defenseless immigrants has doubtless impressed them with the opinion that we are weak or indifferent to the wrongs inflicted on our citizer and has rendered them more insolent and audacious.

They will therefore need signal and terrible proof of their mistake in this regard and this should by no means fail to be accomplished. But at the same time all unnecessary sacrifice of human life should be avoided and to this end you will use all possible effort to ascertain and discri instepet een hostile and friendly bands.

the punishment inflicted should plainly appear to be the dictate of stern justice rather than of revenge. It should not be forgotten that we are a civilized and hristian people and they savage and ignorant.

Women and children should if possible be saved, that they may at the same time be impressed with a sense of our power and our humanity. Where the innocent and the guilty are punished alike there is no stimulus to good anduct but the reverse.

The season is too far advanced to forward you any considerable amount of supplies or indian goods, more do I suppose many will be needed as your efforts during the winter will be directed to the discovery and arrest of offenders, the establishment of friendly relations and to acquiring such information respecting the country and its inhabitants as will be useful in directing your future operations. The soil, climate, face of the country, course of the streams, the numbers, location and characteristics of the verious bands and tribes, their condition, sources of subsistence and feelings toward the whiteswill be proper objects of inquiry.

It is apprehended that the cupidity of unprincipled white persons has contributed to produce the presents tate of affairs, you will be careful to inquire into the grounds of such suspicion if there be any p. 175

Reports have reached me that persons in the service of the Hudson's

Bay Company at Fort Boise have since the late massacre furnished arms and ammunition to the Indians, receiving in return money taken by them from our murdered citizens. Should you have good rea on to suspect any per} son or persons of such perfidy you will cause such to be arrested and sent for trial and punishment to the proper authorities. In connection with this subject I suggest the propriety of closing the doors of Fort Boise as as a trading post of the Hudson's Bay Company. No license has been granted them, nor do I think it proper to grant license to any in their service nor to any one connected in the remotest way with them now or heretofore; such an indulgence is in violation of law and deemed dangerous to the peace and security of our citizens. Weak minded and ignorant per ons in that service may from a mistaken idea of interest or from prejudice, influence the Indians against our citizens; evidence is not wanting that such attempts have heretofore been made.

Wrongs also in all probability have been inflicted on the indians by some of our citizens who reckless of their own safety or that of others commit acts that provoke an savage vengence. When in your power, redress these wrongs and in return exact from the Indians, for the injuries they inflict such reparation as their conduct and the circumstances may demand.

Ix contemplate entering into treaties during the ensuing season with all the tribes in Oregon for the purchase of the country and their organization in suitable districts where they may be instructed in the arts and usages of civilization and you will accordingly in your exploration have an eye to portions suitable for Indian reserves and report fully in regards to them. It may be deemed advisable to locate them in places remote from the white settlements and the great thoroughfares of immigration. Due regard however must in all cases be had in selecting reserves, to their convenience and accessibility in view of transporting their stipulated supplies p. 136

A recent visit to Klammath Lake and information derived from Indians in the vicinity of Togia (?) Lake and a stream entering it from the east induces me to consider that region as affording a desirable location for the Indians of this and Umpqua valley, in addition to the native bands. It may also afford a sufficient extent of agricultural land to warrant the gather in of the adjacent bands of the Diggers living eat of the Klamath country.

The dh vation of this region would suggest that the winter might be severe and yet the frail dwellings of the natives indicate a mild climate.

It is desirable that the greatest number of bands at all compatable with their proper government should be assembled on the same reserve that a less number of agents, farmers, mechanics, teachers etc. may be required, and thus the expense economized.

Defore any permanent management arrangements are made it is important to ascertain accurately the number of men, women and children in the respective tribes. This will demand your early care (?) and you will from time to time inform me of your progress, adding such other information as you may judge useful. No enumeration of the tribes east of the country of the Flamaths has ever beenmade and the estimates in my annual report, a copy of which is sent you, may prove very erronious.

- You will inform me at the earliest moment of the state of affairs in your district and set forth the kind and quantity of supplies needed to enable you to act efficiently and promptly.

A blank form of bond which you will cause to be filled up and signed is herewith enclosed and should there be no territorial officer authorized to administer the oath of office at hand, Agent Thompson will administer it.

You will then transmit it to judge Olney for his certificate of the sufficient of the security, with directions to have it forwarded to this office. A copy of the laws and regulations of the Indian Bureau will be sent you.

Yours etc. Joel Palmer, supt. etc. Nathan Olney, esq. Spl. Ind. Agent etc]

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p. 188 Instructions to Agent Olney, Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Dayton, O.T. April 16, 1855.

Sir: On my return from Portland I received a communication from Col.
Conneville in reply to mine interrogating him as to the probability of obtaining an escort to enable you to enter your district by way of Klamath Lake. My letter was referred to General Wool who replied that the plan of operations in the interior had not been fixed upon. Thus no information could be obtained.

It is now quiet evident to me that if we design to operate in that field this sum or we must adopt such plans as can be consumated without relying upon aid from that quarter. You will accordingly take steps to occupy your agency district by the old route direct to Fort Boise and then be governed by chrama circumstances. My former letters have indicated in part at least the object to be attained. The most important is the arrest of those miscrants who so barbar ously murdered our people last season on their way to the settlements. The hope entertained that an adequate military force would be sent into that district so as to effectually awe and punish those savages and give us security for hax the future has banished.

Your district presents to you a large field of action requiring well matured plans energy and caution, and all know of none better suited for the positions.

I am led to regard with great doubt the statements of persons who have long resiged in that country and fear that the indians have among them bad advisors persons who stir up dissension and excite their fears and prejudices.

If the Indians were left to heir own sounsel they would not be hard to manage, but goaded on by the half civilized, half civilized (sic) miscrants who infest that country, it will require the greatest sagacity and skill to conduct operations at this juncture. It is important that you guard well against taking improper persons into the

country; ten men well selected will be more efficient than double that number taken at random. A few trusted indians may be of great service but in as much as we anticipate entering into treaty with the tribes of Middle Oregon during the month of May it may not be prudent to take from their homes the most desirable persons for your trip, as such might be required in the council, but your knowledge of their fitness for the service and their influence in council will enable you to act so as to insure the attainment of the object desired.

It is very doubtful whether many emigrants will venture across the plains this season, but you will seek to give security to such as make the attempt. The 20th of May has been fixed upon for holding the treaty in Middle Oregon after which it is possible I may proceed to the Blackfeet council but as yet cannot determine.

It is a question with me whit whether in event of my attending that council, it would be better to hasten on the most direct route or diverge so as to pass through the eastern portion of your district. If the former should be adopted I will return by the head waters of 'nake River, Fort Hall, Boise, etc. and if practicablehold a general council and treat with all the interior tribes. You will be able during the season to prepare the minds of the Indians for such a carrie council and obtain much valuable information of their country, numbers and condition so as to enable us to act with more efficienty thanby attempting it so early in the season.

In this respect as in all others touching the management of indians in the Interior I desire the benefit of your suggestions

I have directed the purchase and shipment of the remaining articles estimated for by ou and upon their arrival you will use all possible dispatch in carrying into effect the object of your expedition.

Should the next steamer bring definite instructions and funds I will send a messenger so as p. 190 toadvise you of movements and advance a small amount of funds.

You will advise me from time to time of the condition in its excise arrangement in which you find matters in that district, and in the event of the arrest of the mur erers you will secure, if practicable such testimony as may lead. to their conviction. Once in our power with the evidence to convict the moral effect of a proceeding by law will I apprehend have a most salutary influence. After arrest it will require great caution and watchfulness to retain them in custody.

I perhaps need not press upon you the necessity of the utmost vigilance at all times to guard against a surprise, and to remember that you are in an enemy's country.

Full monthly reports of your proceedings will be expected.

The field of operations is one which no agent of the government for these indians has ever visited, and much important and valuable information is confidently expected from your explorations.

I may add hat we have it, in contemplation, to extinguish indian title to all the land bordering on the thoroughfares from the states to the coast, and the removal of the Indians therefrom. This hower is subject for treaty negotiations by those duly authorized and mentioned here only that you may act understandingly.

In the event of a military campaign in that region you will cooperate with that arm of the service, and by entering the district in advance will be able to communicate important (sice to those in command?

You of course will seek to keep open the communication between your head quarters and the Dalles. In effecting this object you will confer with Agent Thompson and the Officer commanding at that station so as to secure concert of action.

The number of persons to comprise your party is left to your discretion, kenth keeping p 191 in view the objects to be attained and the limitation of expense within the lowest possible amount compatable with the efficiency of the service.

On the arrival of the articles sent you will transmit to this office duplicate receipts therefor and advise me of the time you purpose (sic) starting.

The date of your bond is Dec. 11,1854. here should be one of a later date which has not yet reached this office.

Very respectfully etc. Joel Palmer

N. Olney, esq. Ind. Agt. S. Eastern District, Dalles of Col. O.T.

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Department of the Interior
Office Indian Affairs, Dec. 4th, 1855

Sir: Your letters of the 9th, 16th and 19th October together with their enclosures, all r lating to the difficulties then existing in Oregon and Washington territories among the different Indian tribes and between the Indians and whites arrived here on the 1st instant. The subject was promptly laid before the Secretary of the Interior in order that such action might be taken in conjunction with the War Department as should be deemed warranted and proper.

I have now to advise you that it is understood the military arm of the public service on the Pacific Coast will be advised by the mail which is expected to leave New York tomorrow concerning their duties in this emergency. You will instruct the agents of this Department within your superintendency by all proper means to aid in carrying out whatever measures you may deem necessary to effect peace among the several tribes of Indians and restore harmony between them and the whites. And where practicable you will confer and act in co ert with the military on that coast so as to avoid any seeming clashing of jurisdiction by which disaffecti could take heart and encouragement. But while it may be proper that the measures to be employed shall be rigorous and effective, still they should be tempered with justice and such moderation as shall be wholly free from any charge of vindictiveness. You will therefore act with the utmost care and circumspection and undue severity yet act with such promptituke)sic) energy and energy as to secure respect to your authority "iththese general directions you wil adopt such measures as in conjunction with the authority and means in the hands of the military shall seem in your judgment to be necessary to secure a permanent peace a good understanding among all of the parties participating in the difficulties of which your several communications make mention.

There is not now time to send you any funds with this communication but with the approbation of the Secretary of the Interior you are authorized to draw upo this department for any expenditure that in your opinion the existing exigency absolutely demands either for agricultural implements for the Indian reserve provisioning, coothing or othersise, as estimated in your letter of the 9th of October ultimo providing how ver that the extent of such drafts does not exceed in the aggregate the sum of \$100,000. But due notice should in every instance be promptly forwarded to this office of the date of the draft, its amount and object. And in incurring the expenditure for which such drafts may be drawn particularly care will be taken that the utmost practicable economy is practised consistent with the exigency of the case, and specific vouchers will be procured in all cases and duly forwarded with all requisite explanations to enable this depar ment and Congress to fully understand and comprehend the reasons and necessity for the expenditu You will readily conceive the importance of the observance of these instructions when you are aware that any largely increased expenditure for whatever object incurred elicits the most minute inquiry and criticism.