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Yakima reservation

Washington Territory, June 30, 1867.

S, r: In submitting my annual report of this agency it gives me gratification to be able to state that all the Indians who have ever been brought under the control of this agency remain friendly and have made great advances in agriculture and other civilized arts, and are now in such a condition as will render further progress comparatively easy and rapid.

There is, belonging to this reservation, about 3,400 souls; 1,000 men, 1,500 women and 900 children.

From a careful observation of the children born and the deaths ~~among the people~~ among the people I am persuaded that there is an increase over last year of about 200. The disparity existing between the men and women, in numbers, arises partly from the loss they have sustained in former wars among themselves and the whites but more from their irregular habits and idleness. The Women have been the burden bearers and have performed three fourths of the work in providing subsistence; this day of oppression of slavery is passing away and the men and women are mutually bearing the burdens that belong to them; in this we see the march of civilization.

The general sanitary condition of the Indians has been improved the last year. For a full report of this I call your attention to the annual report of the resident physician.

They have built the past year, with but little expense to the department, 20 houses and 10 barns. They raised grain for food and seed, so as to be above want except those who were just beginning, the sick, blind and very old ones that always need a little help.

From the best accounts I can get they must have raised 10,000 bushels of wheat and corn, about 2,000 bushels of oats and 1,500 bushels of peas. Potatoes they raised all they could use and

had a little surplus this spring after planting.

Their fisheries, bordering upon and not far removed from the line of the reservation afford them an abundant supply of salmon.

The mountains abound with game, deer, elk, bear and mountain sheep; their valley, the central part of the reservation abounds with prairie chicken, grouse, ducks and geese.

My report of last year showed 1,500 acres in cultivation. This year from the first of April to the last of June we kept three large ox teams ploughing new land for the Indians consisting of from seven to ten yoke of oxen in each team ploughing from one to two and a half acres per day to a team making new land broken for the Indians this year not less than 300 acres. This has been done by the Indians.

We have hired two from among those who were capable of managing the oxen and holding the plough for each team provided them with camping equipment and rations; they went to the different settlements, made their camps and prosecuted their work with a manliness that would do credit to white men. The Indians where they have been ploughing have worked in assisting in herding the oxen and doing such other work as their limited education would permit.

When the land is broken they come with their horses and the ploughs and harnesses we furnish them to plough, fence, and make fruitful fields.

The more elevated among the Indians during the winter months were engaged in cutting and hauling saw logs to the mill and obtained as the fruit of their labor forty-seven thousand eight hundred and fifteen feet of lumber.

The party thus working consecrated 25,000 feet of lumber to build two churches. One is about seven and the other five miles from the station. They are equal in size and finish

20 x 30 feet. From the cutting the trees in the woods to the building their altars there has not been more than 46 days of whitelabor; this has mostly been performed by the teacher, Rev. A.C. Fairchild, who is a practical builder.

A few of the larger boys of the school were taken and the Indians from the different settlements came in and worked until the teacher said enough.

~~Added~~ The whole cost of the two churches could not be reckoned less than \$1,500. This is a little of the outcropping of the piety of 180 who make a profession of religion among them.

The plough and the Bible, with the influence growing out of both are worth more upon an Indian reservation to secure permanent peace than a thousand soldiers with their glistening sabres and their ~~prancing~~ prancing steeds.

The reservation mills have during the year been in good working order and have done more service by one half than in any former year since their erection.

During the month of August 12 we lost two dwelling houses and one store house by fire. The loss to the department could not be less than \$3,000 or \$3,500. For a time we were embarrassed for want of room but we have made changes in filling up residences so we are now comfortable.

The ~~industrial~~ industrial schools have been progressing the past year. The instruction is not wholly confined to the children who are taught at the station, but extends to the Indians in the different settlements through the agency, instructing the men in the various kinds of work needed to obtain a livelihood and the women how to keep their houses, make garments for themselves and families, card and spin, knit and manufacture articles for their comfort.

The employes have more uniformly devoted their time to their

respective branches of business than in former years; and each has been made responsible for the success of his particular work. Their monthly reports will show an amount of work done in value from \$100 to \$200 per month by each of the mechanics and a corresponding thriftiness with the farmers, millers and other employes. Our plan is to employ the best of men so as to get good work and give the best example to the Indians; our employes are all kind, temperate, moral and most of them religious.

The stock upon the reservation is mostly horses. There are about ten thousand head of horses; these are mostly small and not suitable for teams. I purchased last fall four American stallions which will do something in changing the size and general character of their horses.

They have about twelve hundred head of neat cattle. These are in small bands all over the reservation and owned by about two hundred ~~and~~ different persons. Their stock is their wealth and with suitable pains taken in improving and increasing it they will soon become in this wealthy.

It is now seven years since I came to live with this station. At first it was extremely difficult to overcome their long established notions of wandering and to induce them to make themselves homes; but with the encouragement they have received and the help which has been furnished in ploughing their land, making them harness, ploughs, harrows and all kinds of useful tools they drop the notion of wandering and settle down to cultivate the soil. One succeeding in it induces ten more and ten will make a fixture of a hundred and the ration is increasing every year in this degree.

In ci cular dated Olympia February 1, 1867, the agents, sub agents or special agents are required in thir annual reports to furnish a map etc. I herewith transmit the map.

Since receiving the above circular I have not been able to take as complete a census of all the different tribes under my

jurisdiction as was desirable. The only time this can be done with any good degree of accuracy, without great expense to the department, is when the Indians are called to receive their annuities. It will soon be two years since they have received annuities and at the gathering there this fall I will see that it is done to my own and the satisfaction of the department.

In said circular you ask the opinion of the agents in relation to the breaking up of some reservations and consolidating on others." This, no doubt, could be done to the advantage of the Indians where they are by their location brought into connection and contact with the whites. Any and all reservations located ~~where~~ where great thoroughfares are bordering upon or passing through them will find trouble growing up between the whites and Indians.

The treaty with the Yakima nation provided there "shall be one tinner" etc. We have never had a tinner to work as tinner since the reservation was organized. The gunsmith with a light stock of tools could do the work needed in this department and a practical harnessmaker in the place of tinner would be worth three or four times as much to the Indians. It will be remembered I ~~re~~ recommended this change in a former communication to your office. I conclude permit me to say, keep good men among the Indians and let the laws be vigorously enforced against the lawless who prowl around reservations like greedy wolves or hungry dogs and peace and prosperity will attend the Indian service.

Respectively submitted

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent, Washington  
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...two teachers have been employed during the past year, Rev. A.C. Fairchild and Mrs. L.A. Wilbur. William Wright, superintendent of teaching.

Yakima Reservation  
Washington Territory  
June 30, 1867

AGENCY REPORTS  
Year - 1865 [1867]  
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It is now near seven years since I came to live with this station. At first it was extremely difficult to overcome their long established notions of wandering and to induce them to make themselves homes; but with the encouragement they have received and the help which has been furnished in ploughing their land, making them harness, ploughs, harrows and all kinds of useful tools they drop the notion of wandering and settle down to cultivate the soil. One succeeding in it induces ten more and ten will make a fixture of a hundred and the ration is increasing every year in this degree.

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Respectively submitted

/s/ James H. Wilbur

U. S. Indian Agent, Washington Territory

...two teachers have been employed during the past year, Rev. A. C. Fairchild and Mrs. L. A. Wilber,—William Wright, Superintendent of Teaching.

Yakima Agency. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, 1868-69. 3rd session, 40th session.

June 30, 1868

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report in relation to the Yakima nation of Indians.

At the conclusion of the Yakima treaty in the year 1855 Kamaikum was understood to be the authorized head chief of the nation.

Since the ratification of the treaty however, he has lived hundreds of miles from the reserve, and has never performed any service of a public character. He has been repeatedly urged to come upon the reservation and live and perform the duties of chief but has refused to do so so that until recently they have been without a leader, a man of their own choice, to represent them. An Indian by the name of Spencer was appointed chief by Superintendent Gery and performed the duties of the office for a brief period until removed by the same power that appointed him. It was expected of a chief that he would be called upon to perform many services of a public character, occupying much of his time." in the absence of a chief, much of the work that very properly belongs to him and which would be very appropriate for him to perform, has devolved upon the agent and greatly increased his labors. While the Indians were assembled at the agency last winter to receive their annuity goods, I thought it a suitable time for them to elect a chief. After some talk with them upon the subject I proposed that they nominate candidates and proceed at once to elect their officer. Prominent Indians, four in number, were nominated and voted for by ballot. Joe Stiwre having received the largest number of votes was declared duly elected. He entered upon his duties January 1, 1868. In the selection of Joe Stiwre as head chief of the Indians has made a good selection, one which means my hearty approval.

I am gratified to learn from the department at Washington that the claims of Spencer, which should have been satisfied long since

will be paid at an early date and that funds will be remitted soon for the pay of Joe Stwire. Now that a chief has been elected and his duties are being faithfully performed, I trust that funds will be placed at my disposal regularly and promptly for his payment.

While the Indians were assembled in convention, they voted for having a change made in the treaty, so that instead of a tinner, a saddle and harnessmaker might be employed. I have informed the department of their wishes and believing that such a change would be advantageous to them have recommended that it be made. It has been suggested that the tinner could repair and make harness. It would be difficult I think to find a tinner that understood harness making; and if he could be found he might not be just the man that was needed in other respects.

Besides to make it thrifty he should understand his business well. I hope the wishes of the Indians will be regarded and that such action will be taken as will bring about the desired change.

It seems to me but just and right that the \$5000 which has been appropriated annually by congress for the pay of head chief and unexpended should reach the Indians and be applied to their benefit in some way. If congress would make the change in the treaty that the Indians have asked for and together with that would make an appropriation of \$1,000 annually in view of the above deficiency for five years for the purchase of leather and material for making harness and saddles, which could be made up by the boys of the school under an instructor, teaching them a useful trade and putting into the hands of the Indians what would enable them to be thrifty in their farming interests, I know of no other way in which the money could be better invested.

The saw mill has been kept in running order and has furnished the agency and the Indians with lumber for building houses and making fences and other needed improvements. The quantity of lumber sawed

during the year ending June 30, 1868, was as follows: 1st quarter none; second quarter 11,107 feet; 3d quarter, 62,486 feet; 4th quarter 89,521 feet; total 163,114 feet.

Of this about 100,000 feet was for the Indians, who furnished the logs at the mill and took away the lumber to their homes, all without expense to the department.

The flouring mill has been kept in repair and rendered good service. The quantity of grain ground during the year ending June 30, 1868 was 1st quarter 1,807 ~~bushels~~ bushels; 2d quarter 3,604 bushels; 3d quarter 628 bushels; 4th quarter 645 bushels, making in all 6,684 bushels. During the year we have purchased and put in good running order a smut machine costing \$300. This enables us to make flour for the reservation that would compare favorably with other mills in the country. Our flouring mill is too small to accommodate for storage and other purposes and we have resolved upon putting on an addition at the side which will be done to accommodate the incoming harvest.

That the employees of this agency are industrious and faithful in the value of the labor of some of the principal mechanics for the year from their monthly reports:

Plough and wagon maker \$1,305 and 11 days at other work.

Blacksmith ~~\$1,890~~ \$1,980 and 26 days of other work.

Gunsmith, \$1,295 and 23 days of other work.

From the report of Rev. A.C. Fairchild, superintendent of teaching which accompanies this it will be seen that much may be done to elevate and instruct Indian children. The Indian schools exert a wholesome and Christian influence. I am well satisfied that by continuous and well directed efforts on the part of faithful teachers the Indian children may be educated and raised up to positions of respectability and usefulness. No pains should be spared to advance them in knowledge and virtue. The educational and farming

interests should be well sustained.

The Indians of this reservation are ~~not~~ not "fading away before the breath of the white man;" there is a small increase from year to year on this reserve.

The young men, Indians, who had received instruction in making harness while members of the industrial school, were employed for six months making and repairing harness, bridles, halters etc. The clerk of the agency cut out the work and superintended the making of it.

The articles made and repaired were as follows; 20 set of team harness, manufactured; repaired, cleaned and oiled; 19 set of team harness; made 6 riding saddles, 12 riding bridles, 10 halters; oiled 40 horse collars and bridles, saddles, harness, etc. The value of the articles manufactured and repaired was worth \$1,106.50. It will be seen by our vouchers that very much of our work is done by the Indians. I find after the years of instruction they have had and their experience in working at various kinds of business that in the general work of the reservation it can be done with two thirds of the money by them and employs them and furnishes them means to purchase stock, make improvements and prepares them in the future to take care of themselves.

During the year the Indians have built two churches; these are nearly finished; in them they worship every Sabbath; about 200 profess religion and are members of the Methodist Episcopal church; and I am pleased to say give good evidence of being new men and women in Christ Jesus.

The Indians, as a whole, belonging to this agency are increasingly industrious and consistent. Some who have lived in and bordering upon towns have become almost depraved and low in their habits and character as the white men with whom they have been associated and from whom they have received their instructions.

The past year we have furnished them with oxen, plows and one

Indian man to each team to break new land.

"iththeir teams and those furnished by us they have broke and fenced 500 acres of new land; they have built with but little expense to the department 25 houses, 30 barnes, raised about 20,000 bushels of ~~corn~~ wheat, 4,000 bushels of corn and 3,000 bushels of oats-- potatoes and vegetables in abundance .They have about 1,500 head ofneat cattle and 11,000 head of horses.the agent is giving supervision to thei stock so as to improve the breed.

The year past has been one of great economy, as will appear from a consideration that \$7,238 .75 was due us in December, 1866, from the late Superintendent Waterman, has not been paid. I have kept out of debt but have been compelled to use means in some instances slightly differing from my instructions. Any seeming indifference to instructions given in using means will find an explanation in the press of circumstances under which I have been placed by the above deficiency. I confidently look to have the above amount remitted soon.

In conclusion permit me to say after a residence of more than 20 years in this country and eight upon this reservation I am better qualified to judge of Indian character and what is needed to secure and perpetuate peace with the Indian tribes than in former years.

Give them stability and uprightness in their treaty stipulations; put me among them who respect law and who will encourage them by a wholesome example, and they will leave off their wanderings and adopt the habits of civilized whitemen, in building up monuments of comfort and wealth. Respectfully submitted. James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent.

To General T.J. McKenney, Supt of Indian affairs, Wash territory.

---No. 5

Fort Simcoe, "ashington" territory, June 30,

Sir: The following report in relation to the Yaki a Industrial school is respectfully submitted for the year ending June 30, 1868 and also for the present month.

During the present month the children have been in school as usual. Out of school hours they have been weeding, hoeing and preparing coal wood.

The school has been in session eight months and a half. Mr. N. E. Pearce has had under his instruction 23 children, 8 girls and 15 boys. These children have been taught in the common English branches and show by examination that a good degree of progress has been made.

One class of 12 wild youths many of whom could not speak a word of Chinook or English at the beginning, has been taught to read and spell readily and to pronounce quite distinctly. In all the branches taught here except arithmetic I think they acquire knowledge as rapidly and retain it as well as white children. I esteem the present class of students to be industrious and obedient and trusty. Religious instruction has been given them every day.

A meeting for prayers and religious conversations has been held every week through half the year; and 12 of the children give evidence of being Christian. There has been no sickness worthy of note among them this year but very little wrangling and but a single case of severe corporal punishment; they have been easy to manage by firmness by ~~kindness~~ kindness and by the use of ~~few words~~ few words.

They have gathered and placed under shelter: 60 bushels of carrots; 20 bushels of turnips; 2 tons of cabbage; 100 bushels of potatoes; 40 bushels of corn; 80 cords of wood fitted for stove; planted and cultivated 44 acres of garden; moved 500 loads of dirt and ~~manure~~ manure.

According to the moderate estimate made in a monthly report the boys' labor is worth, for the time they have been here, \$510 or \$720

for a year. I think it may be truly said that the school is industrial and can be made self-sustaining.

At ~~now~~ the boarding house the girls have been instructed by Mrs. N.E. Pearce in all matters of housekeeping. "They have made butter sufficient for the school, the boys bringing the milk to them. I think it is not saying too much to say that order, economy, cleanliness and a Christian example characterize the boarding-house.

Mrs. J.H. Wilbur, one of the teachers has taught the girls to card and spin, to knit and sew and to cut and make their own clothes. The following exhibit of her labor for the year includes her report for the month of June:

Pants 58 pairs at \$2 per pair \$116; stockings 29 pairs at 75 cents per pair; mittens 13 pairs at 25 cents per pair \$2.35; dresses 38 at \$2 each \$76; cloaks 7 at \$2 each \$14.60; jackets \$12 \$30; cape 1 at \$1; quilted skirts, 8 at \$2 each, \$16; under skirts \$2 at \$1 each; bed quilts 2 at \$10 each \$20; skirts 76 at 75 cents each \$57; aprons 24 at 60 cents each \$14.40 \$2 \$12; bed ticks 7 at 75 cents each \$5.25; candles 24 dozen at 25 cents per dozen \$6; soap 3 1-2 barrels \$5 per barrel \$17.50; labor performed in office and other places 29 1-2 days at \$2 per day \$50.50....total \$456.75

I certify that the above report is true. "C. Fairchild, superintendent of instruction. Submitted to J.H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent.

To General T. J. McKenney  
Superintendent of Indian Affairs  
Washington Territory

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General T. J. McKenney

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I certify that the above report is true. A. C. Fairchild,  
Superintendent of Instruction. Submitted to J. H. Wilbur, U. S. Indian Agent.

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