

After making the above arrangements I returned to my residence where I arrived on the 121st inst. On my arrival at the Dalles I reported my proceedings in regard to the friendly Indians found in the Cayuse country their names numbers etc. to Agent Thompson.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. servant

Signed Nathan Olney, Indian Agent.

Gen. Joel Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Dayton, Oregon.

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the fort I asked his permission to speak to the Indians which was granted with the proviso that I was not to say anything to the prejudice of the company. I would not consent to this but finally was told to speak if I desired. I then informed the Indians that W. Panbrun was not authorized to dictate to them who should be their chiefs and that they should pay no ~~attention~~ manner of heed to anything he had said. Upon my return to the agency I immediately addressed him a note, a copy of which marked "A" is herewith enclosed.

It may seem that I have been needlessly explicit in this matter but I deem it of the first importance that the influence of this foreign company with the Indians within the territory be broken up, that the Indians may fully realize that they are under the influence of American and not British control.

The Indians in this vicinity appear to be very jealous of the encroachments of the whites, owing no doubt to the inflammatory rumors in circulation amongst them in the early part of the season to the effect that the American Government ~~intended~~ intended taking possession of their country without their consent. I am satisfied the rumors obtained circulation through some French who were then desirous, and have since settled in the valley of Walla Walla. Some four of these settlers have been complained of by the Indians and have received notice to disperse operations until the Indians are satisfied. ✓

Allow me to bring to your notice a subject of considerable importance with the hope ~~to~~ that the proper steps may be taken to remedy the evil in question.

It is presumed the government is fully aware that there are annually large emigrations of her citizens from the ~~Un~~ Atlantic State to Oregon by way of the plains and if not already advised it is high time the facts were known that there is not to be found upon the whole route from the Missouri River to the Pacific Coast a more

disastardly set of murderers and robbers than infest the country between Fort Hall and Boise, commonly known as diggers, who never allow a favorably opportunity to pass to commit violence and theft; it is estimated that from thirty to forty of our citizens have been butchered by these savages within the last three years; the cause of humanity as well as as the interest of the Indians demand that the state of things should not longer exist. I would suggest the propriety of establishing a military post in that region. But in the event of its being deemed inadvisable then that a company of Ord Dragoons be detailed to protect that portion of the roads already referred to from the middle of June to November. During which time there would be an abundance of grass to subsist all the animals necessary to that service.

I find it very difficult to hold intercourse with the Indians for want of an interpreter and am unable to procure one for the compensation allowed by laws. The sum of five hundred dollars per annual is insufficient to remunerate a person who would be capable of performing the duties of that office. I am informed that the services of ~~WaddBe~~ Mr. Perrik Whitman may be had for seven hundred and fifty dollars and I know of no other better qualified and cheerfully recommend his appointment if the above salary can be allowed.

Mr. Whitman understands and speaks their different languages, to wit the Nez Perces, Walla Walla and Chinook or Jargon which would enable me to get along with the greater portion of the tribes within this district.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent.

Uvilla Oct 21st. , 1853

A.D. Pembran (Sic) [Pambrun cq]

In charge of the Hon. Hudson's Bay Co.

Post, Walla Walla: Sir:

I am informed that it is the policy and has long been the practice of the company that when vacancies occur in the chieftainship of the several tribes within the preview of their posts, to nominate and press the claims of individuals commanding the most wealth and possessing the greatest influence in favor of their interests.

This practice has so long obtained that it has become to be looked upon as a settled usage with the Indians. They not doubt will call upon you to assist as usual to consult and get your advice as to who should be their chiefs. I now refer particularly to the two tribes in this vicinity, the Cayuses and Nez Perces who are without head chiefs.

From consideration of policy, this office has deemed it best that for the present, under existing circumstances, the Indians manage their own political affairs.

This note is therefore to inform you that while it is our desire to maintain the most friendly feelings and intercourse with all who may be lawfully within the Indian country, yet any interference in the political affairs of the Indians within this district by any person or persons whatsoever will be ~~dis~~countenanced and meet the disapproval of this department of the American government.

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I would refer for your consideration to the 13th section of an Act of Congress approved June 30th, 1834 which reads as follows, to wit:

And be it further enacted that if any citizen or other person residing within the United States, or the territory thereof shall ^{send} ~~make~~ any talk, speech, ^{message} ~~newspaper~~ or letters to any Indian nation, tribe chief or individual with an intent to produce a contravention or an infraction of any treaty or other laws of the United States, or to disturb the peace and ~~tranquillity~~ tranquillity of the United States, he shall forfeit and pay the sum of two thousand dollars.

Very respectfully

N. R. Thompson, Indian Agent.

Notwithstanding this allowance of so large a discretion to meet the case in its most alarming phase, it is still hoped that the cause is not really so bad as the ~~present~~ representations forwarded by you would seem to indicate. If therefore it shall turn out that those representations are not realized by the facts when ascertained you will be governed by a judicious regard of the real wants and exigencies of the service as far as practicable curtail the expenditures herein authorized.

Very Respectfully etc.

Signed Geo. W. Manypenny,
Commissioner

Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs
Dayton, Oregon Territory.

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perfectly willing to make the attempt if instructed by you to do so.

Very respectfully, your obt. svt.

Nathan Olney

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Salmon River O.T. Dec. 25, 1854

Mr. H. Olney Esq.:

Dear Sir Believing it to be of importance to you to know the feelings and condition of the Snake and Bannack Indians with regard to the recent murders committed by the Diggers near Fort Boise. We avail ourselves of the H.H.B.C. express to give you what information we have been able to collect. The murder was committed by the We-nas Indians a small tribe who reside in the mountains near Fort Boise and who speak the Snake language but who have for time out of mind been disavowed by these tribes as worthless vagabonds. The Snake express great indignation at the conduct of the Wenas and we are convinced that when you come up in the spring you will find them not only friendly but ready to assist you in the apprehension of the murderers. The Bannocks are perfectly friendly towards the whites. They as well as the Snakes are much troubled about the stoppage of the trade of ammunition as they live entirely by hunting.

It is a great pity (sic) you did not come up this winter because if there was an agent here now much good might be done and there is but little doubt that many if not all the murderers would be apprehended or killed between this and spring without the intervention of troops.

Reports have been circulated by Nez Perces and other Indians from below to the effect that it is the intention of the white chiefs to kill off all the Bannocks and Snakes next season and although all the white men in the country have contradicted it, we yet find that it has its influence and if a large body of troops should be sent up in the spring many of the Indians will doubtless take to the mountains and refuse to meet you at Fort Dalles. If... you would come up, ahead of the troops with a small party, men acquainted with the Indians if you can get them., you will be able without trouble to see and have a talk with the

principal men of the two tribes.

There is no danger now to be apprehended so you need not fear to come up with a small party

In haste, respectfully

Your obt. servant

Neil McArthur

L. B. Maillet

John Grant

C. F. Irvine

nothing short of the purchase of the Indian title to the land in Middle Oregon can secure peace. I confidently expect that Congress will at the present session enact a law authorizing and providing for the purchase of those lands.

Persuasive measure alone are left us by which to control the Indians and preserve peace and without the means to conciliate them with presents etc we can accomplish little among those as haughty tribes But as they have nothing to gain and everything to lose by hostilities, reasoning with them clearly and forcibly on the consequences may enable us to maintain order.

..

yours etc.

Joel Palmer,

Supt. Indian Affairs

R.R. Thompson, esq. Indian Agent, Uvilla O.T.

File Microcopies of Records in the National Archives: No. 5 Roll 26

Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs 1853-1874

Records relating to Treaties, Dec. 7, 1854-June 9, 1863

...The bound volume may be cited by page number, as follows: National Archives, Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, Treaty Proceedings, 1854-1855, p. 50 . The loose papers may be cited by a brief description: National Archives, Records of the Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs, articles of agreement with the Nez Perces, April 10, 1861...

Nez Perces Reservation , new boundary.

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Office, Superintendent of Indian Affairs
Olympia, Wash. Ter. June 29, 1863

General B. Alvord, Commanding , Fort Vancouver, Wash Ter.

General: Yours of the 15th instant was duly received. In answer to the inquiry therein made I submit that the latter part of the second article of the treaty contemplates the permission to occupy up to the new boundaries. I have respectfully to ask that you will issue such orders to the officer in command at Fort Lapwai as will secure the enforcement of the provisions of the intercourse act within the boundaries of the new reservation. As to anything further it is not now my province to ask, inasmuch as I have turned over all matters pertaining to the Nez Perce Agency to Governor Wallace who is ex officio superintendent of Indian affairs for the new Territory of Idaho.

Respectfully yours

C.H. Hale

Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Washington Territory

P.S. The copy of the treaty published in the Daily Oregonian is correct with the exception of three verbal mistakes, which are unimportant.