

Yakima Indian agency. Commissioner of Indian affairs, 1874

Fort Simcoe, W.T. Sept. 2, 1874

Sir:

In accordance with the requirements of your office, I forward the following as my report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1874.

The Indians during the year have been at peace among themselves and the whites. Rigid measures have been taken to prevent them from using intoxicating liquors and to bring parties to punishment who have been guilty of selling liquor to them. I am pleased to report the number of Indians disposed to drink and the amount drunk as constantly lessening. This is true in regard to gambling. This practice, which formerly was almost universal with them is passing away. They are becoming more stable in their habits of industry and agricultural pursuits. This will appear in looking at the number of Indians employed during the year, the amount of work done by them and the money paid for their work.

During the year we have employed seventy-eight Indians. They cut and hauled to the steam-mill 288,836 feet of lumber, rolling in the logs, bending the screws, the cut-off saw, carrying off the lumber cutting up the slabs, sticking up the lumber, taking away the saw dust and doing all necessary work around the mill, except three white men, the sawyer, engineer and one man outside to instruct and assist in the general work. The lumber made for the department is worth \$20 per thousand, making \$5,776.72. They also got into the water saw mill 142,973 feet of saw logs. These were sawed by an Indian man who has been instructed in the work, with the general oversight of the miller. These logs made 142,973 feet of lumber worth \$20 per thousand making \$2,859.46. This latter work was all done by Indians without any expense to the agency for teams or subsistence. They have all this lumber for fencing, building homes barns and general improvements. These mills have not run more than five months during the fiscal year.

The Indians have burned 1,088 bushels of charcoal worth \$15 per hundred , making \$163.20; split 2,000 fence posts; cut and hauled 200 cords of wood for the agency worth \$750; hauled 100,000 feet of lumber for fencing at the lower part of the reservation, thirty-five miles from the steam-mill, and at the reservation farm and station ten miles from said mill, hauling worth \$10 per thousand , making \$1,000 making four miles of post and board fence worth \$100 per mile, \$400; hauling 75 tons of hay from said farm to the station six miles, hauling worth \$3 per ton; \$225; cutting and putting up 230 tons of hay at the lower part of the reservation worth \$5 per ton, \$1150. Add to the above work the building of bridges, making and repairing roads, taking care of government stock, plowing, sowing, harvesting, thrashing the grain, hauling the freight needed for the service, gives some idea of the work done by the Indians.

It has been and still is my policy to have the Indians do all the work of the Department they can and to dispose with white labor except as it is needed to give instruction and thrift to the general work. This gives them means and education to better their condition in years to come. I have paid them the past year for work done \$6,755.

We are instructing a class of young men (who have been taught in our schools) as mechanics in the different departments of business so as to raise up men among them that can do all kinds of work needed upon the agency. We have practiced harness-makers, carpenters blacksmiths, plow and wagon makers and millers. These men will, in a short time be able to go alone and manage the different departments of business.

The Indians are opening new farms and depending upon the cultivated land for subsistence as never before. They have fenced for grazing and farming purposes at least 10,000 acres of land. Their crops

this year are short by reason of the drought and crickets.

Enough however has been raised to subsist the natives and some to spare.

The millers' reports show 7,971 bushels of wheat ground for the Indians the past year which give 318,840 pounds of flour. I am persuaded not half of the wheat raised was ground which would show something over 16,000 bushels raised; taking their corn, oats, and other grain, I think 20,000 bushels were raised worth \$15,000.

The mills of the agency are in good running order and meeting the demands upon them fully.

The schools have been kept about ten months during the year. The boys, out of school hours, are taught to work in the gardens, on the farms and in the shops. The girls are instructed in housekeeping sewing, knitting, cutting and making clothes for themselves and the children of the schools.

The houses belonging to the Indians are improved in breed. One is now worth what two were formerly. They have about 13,000 of all ages, their average value \$15, making \$185,000. They have 1,200 head of cattle worth \$15,000.

The Indians have been aided in building five houses by the carpenters, worth at least \$3,200. Two of these houses are neatly finished, well painted and fairly furnished. The lumber to build them has been furnished by the Indians with but little help from the Department. Every house so built inspires others with a desire to go and do likewise. They have purchased five new wagons and paid for them out of their earnings; cost \$615. They are beginning to make good fences with posts and boards. They now have, I think 100,000 feet of lumber made this season, that will be worked into permanent improvements upon the agency.

The steam-mill is all and even more than I expected when I started to build it. It is capable of making one thousand feet of lumber per

hour and is stocked and run with little exception, with Indian men.

When I made my last annual report the steam-mill was not finished. We have since covered in the mill, put in a log-turner, cut-off saw, constructed rollers for carrying off lumber and slabs, built a reservoir, dug a ditch and laid two thousand feet of iron pipe, taking water to the mill house and mill giving us an abundance of water for use and protecting us against fire. Our water works are so constructed that at a moment's warning we can throw water over the top of the mill. The mill house, mill and improvements are worth \$10,000 or \$3,000 more than at my last annual report.

The department stock is in good condition. We have added by purchase and increase (not counting the calves of this season) between four and five hundred head.

We are careful not to recommend persons to be appointed as employes who are of doubtful character in morals or business, selecting tried men and women who will give a wholesome example to the Indians and who will be thrifty workers in all the interests of the agency.

The Indians, during the past winter, suffered much with measles and whooping cough. I think about one hundred died. Those that were careful to follow the advice of the physician and agent got along quite well as could have been expected. Those following their doctors died, generally.

Please see accompanying report of physician. I call the attention of the department to the scanty provision made for the purchase of medicine. With more than two thousand depending upon the resident physician for medicine \$200 will not furnish the needed supplies. I ask there may be added \$150 per year to meet the necessity.

The religious interests among the Indians of this agency is among the most pleasing and promising features for future peace and permanent prosperity.

With good subsistence, with cattle, horses and the comforts of civilized life, the government needs no soldiers to help keep quiet. These improvements and comforts with proper instruction, and wholesome examples, will keep them the white man's friend as long as the sun and moon endure.

I am sir, your obedient servant.

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent, Washington territory.

To Hon E.P. Smith, commissioner of Indian affairs.

Yakima Indian Agency. (Report of the commissioner of Indian affairs 1875

Fort Simcoe, W.T. September 6, 1875.

Sir: In submitting my annual report, it gives me pleasure to state that all the Indians who have been brought under control of this agency remain friendly and have made great advancement in agriculture and other civilized arts.

There is with them a growing desire to make farms to build houses and barns, to own wagons, team-horses and harness and to have all the late improvements in farming--plows, harrows, mowing-machines, reapers, and thrashing-machines--that are in use among the whites. The multiplication of these home fixtures greatly increase their attachment to their homes and does wonders in breaking up their long-established habits of wandering.

I am fully persuaded that under the present Christian policy with good employes, fair land to cultivate and reasonable appropriation of money to help them until they can be instructed to help themselves, the Indians of this agency, and I believe all agencies, may in a few years be made self supporting.

It is not the work of a day but requires patient and constant perseverance, instructing, correcting and reproving. This needs to be done everywhere; from house to house, from camp to camp, on the mountains at their fisheries on the week day and on the Sabbath. They are grown up children and must be personally educated to work. This can only be done by men and women who are willing to stoop down and lift up the fallen and contribute in every possible way to industry and purity.

Farming

At the agency and school farms we have raised 2,000 bushels of wheat and oats worth \$1,250; cut and put up 400 tons of hay worth \$2,265; manufactured 4,000 fence posts at \$5 per thousand, \$200; grubbing and ditching at said farms worth \$225. We have plowed 1,000 new land for the Indians worth \$300; cut and hauled 626,594 board

feet of ~~lumber~~ saw logs for the mills worth \$4 per thousand; manufactured 626,594 feet of lumber worth \$20 per thousand, making \$12,531.88; ~~manufactured~~ manufactured 37,000 shingles worth \$5 per thousand making \$185; made ten miles of post and board fence; the lumber to make said fence was hauled from ten to thirty-five miles; the lumber hauling and making said fence is worth \$3 per rod, making \$10,800. With a portion of said fencing we have inclosed near 2,000 acres of natural meadow land.

The grist mill has undergone a thorough repair. A new flume of 100 feet has been made and the inside of the mill renovated. The improvement, counting labor and material is worth \$1,000. The mill is in better condition to do good work than ever before. Additional fixtures and repairs ~~and other~~ have been made at the steam saw-mill and mill house putting in a shingle machine and other improvements worth \$800.

The agency buildings have been painted by an Indian man under my supervision whose work was worth \$200. We have built seven houses for the Indians; average value \$400.

The cattle belonging to the Department and Indians numbering near 3,000 have done well and are a source of wealth to both. The Indians of the agency have about 15,000 horses. As it was with their fathers, so it is with the sons--a large band of horses makes a big Indian. Their horses are worth \$195,000.

The Indians have caught salmon at their several fisheries worth at least \$5,000 and have caught and sold furs worth \$1,200.

We have fifteen apprentices in our mills and shops learning the different trades who promise well for the future. Under the superintendent, F. Kettridge, H.L. Powell and Mrs. Headley, teachers and Mrs. Kettridge as matron, the schools have done well and promise great usefulness to these people in their elevation and salvation.

There has been no abatement of the religious interest during the year but an improvement in their church edifices and fifty

To Hon. E. S. Parker
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

YAKIMA AGENCY
Treaty
1870-71

PPS 484 Report, Sec. of Interior, 1870-71

Lieutenant James M. Smith, U. S. Army, Agent.

At the time this treaty was made 14 confederate tribes and bands were united under the name of Yakima nation. The reservation assigned to them is the largest of any in the Territory. The agency buildings are those formerly constituting Fort Simcoe and were turned over by the military to the Indian Department in good order.

By the provisions of the treaty this agency is entitled to a larger and more varied force of employees than any other, and the annual appropriation for beneficial objects is proportionately large.

The annual reports of my predecessor (who never saw the late agent, J. H. Wilbur, until this summer, and who never visited the reservation in the two and a half years of his administration) are lavish in praises of Wilbur's "unparalleled success in the work committed to his hands."

I visited the Yakima reservation in July. I found it in excellent condition. The crops were quite large for the area cultivated (which was in excess of the previous year). I held council with the Indians, they speaking through one Thomas Pearne, a native preacher of Protestant faith. They declared themselves contented and prosperous, satisfied with what had been done for their welfare and glad that the Washington government had given them a man who treated all with fairness, making no discrimination between Protestant and Catholics.

More than three-fourths of these Indians are professedly Catholics, and adhere with peculiar devotion that that sect.

There are two meeting houses on the reservation. At present religious services are held in these on alternate Sabbaths, conducted by native Protestant preachers. I would respectfully recommend that one be set apart for the use of the Catholics, the other for the Protestants.

The annual appropriations provide for the employment of two teachers at a salary of \$1,000 each. These places could be given to a Catholic and a Protestant clergyman, who would, in all that related to schools, be under the direction of the superintendent of teaching. This would be an act of justice to the majority of Indians. The late agent, J. H. Wilbur, not only forbade Catholic priests to come upon the reservation threatening them with arrest and confinement, but adopted stringent measures to prevent the Indians from attending worship in the mission chapel of that sect just beyond the boundaries.

This restraint of their religious liberty was always the occasion of great discontent among the Indians and a direct violation of one of the most cherished ideas of the American people.

Lieutenant Smith has labored under many embarrassments caused by the underhanded actions of the late agent and his employees and has discharged his various duties with an efficiency and prudence that entitle him to the commendation of his superiors.

Among the confederated tribes embraced in this treaty is the Palouze. These Indians live remote from the reservation, are a wild, lawless race and have no knowledge of this treaty in which they are included. A party of the United States surveyors is at work in their country and their lands will soon be thrown open to settlers and may be included in the grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

On the first of July, I sent two employees under the Yakima treaty to the Palouze river, furnished them an interpreter and instructed them to remain there three months and to endeavor to influence the tribe to remove voluntarily to the reservation. These employees are still engaged in that duty but as there is no mail communication I have been informed of their success.

Samuel Ross

Brevet Colonel U. S. Army, Supt.

To Commission of Indian Affairs .

Report of Felix R. Brunot
Pages 118-120.

AGENCY REPORTS

Year 1871

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Typed-June Lindberg

I left the Warm Springs agency on the morning of the 26th (July) and arriving at Dalles City on the following evening found it necessary to remain there a day or two to rest the horses and repair the wagons.

Starting on the morning of the 28th I arrived at Simcoe or Yakima agency, 65 miles north of the Dalles on the Yakima reservation in Washington territory, Saturday evening, July 29.

The Yakima reservation is in extent about fifty by sixty miles. It was set apart by the treaty in 1855 which was ratified in 1859. The agency was established eleven years ago at which time the Yakimas and Kliketats were entirely wild and considered the braves, warriors and best hunters west of the Rocky Mountains. The number belonging to the reservation is estimated at 3,500. The number who make it their home is about 2,000, most of whom have made more or less progress in cultivating soil. A large portion of them dress and live like white people. They have about one hundred and sixty houses and about one hundred small barns or stables. They have cut their own logs, hauled them to the mill and erected their own houses. Their fences have also been made by themselves of materials which they have gathered and hauled; some few of them are good board fences. They have made fence about 4,000 acres of land and over 3,000 acres plowed. The agent aids them in breaking the land and starting their farms, after which they require but little more than verbal instruction and advice. Those who till the soil are mostly in comfortable circumstances, some of them quite well off. The number of horses is estimated at ten or twelve thousand and cattle 1,400 head.

About two hundred of the Indians are professing Christians belonging to the Methodist Church. They have taken Christian names and dress and live as comfortable in their houses as frontier whites. They have two churches erected by themselves to suit different neighborhoods and Sunday services are held in them alternately. There are a few Catholics and there is a Catholic mission near the reservation. Some of the young men were taught to make harness while in the school; and an Indian apprentice in the smith shop, it is thought, will be able to take entire charge next year. There are two native preachers, members of the Oregon Methodist conference, who have been educated in the reservation school and who now preach to their race.

The school has been under the direction of Rev. J. H. Wilbur, at first as teacher and subsequently as agent for about ten years and has been very successful. It has been conducted as a boarding school, the boys being taught to labor and the girls, while being instructed in the elementary English branches, to sew and do housework. The insufficient appropriation for the school, although eked out by the labor of the pupils has necessarily limited the number who could be received and greatly lessened its usefulness.

At the period of my visit the school had not been in operation for some time but the arrangements were all made for starting early in August. The appropriation for the support of this school should certainly be increased.

On Sunday we went to the church and found it filled with decently dressed Indian men, women and children, many of whom had come in wagons and on horseback. After the usual service of singing, reading and scriptures, praying and preaching by Rev. Wilbur and the two Indian preachers, the meeting was thrown open to all and all were invited to speak. About thirty men and women gave their religious experience and their difficulties. The meeting continued for three hours and was deeply solemn and interesting. After its adjournment the Sunday school was opened; the teachers being mostly Indians and some of the white employees. I am assured by the white residents that the character and daily life of these Christian Indians accord in the most striking manner with their profession. Rev. Mr. Wilbur states that the cases of failure among those admitted to the church or on probation are not more frequent than among the white congregations of which he has been pastor.

The results upon this reservation which I have briefly attempted to describe are due to the ability and Christian zeal of Mr. Wilbur and the policy he has pursued, the latter being identical with the wishes of the President and that recommended in the first report of the board of Indian commissioners. He is a Christian man himself, employs none but Christian married men who reside with their families at the agency and whose example enforces the precepts taught. He manages the Indians in "a kindly and benevolent spirit yet with firmness and without fear".

The buildings of the agency are the best I have seen. They were erected by the War Department some fourteen or fifteen years ago when the Yakimas and Klikitats required to be kept in subjection by the military. The post was known as Fort Simcoe and was after the making of the treaty turned over to the Department of the Interior. The buildings are generally in good order but some repairs are needed to keep them so. It is most earnestly recommended that the appropriation for the school should be increased. The tillable land should be surveyed and a patent given to each family that is cultivating or can be induced to cultivate a farm. The title should be inalienable for at least two or three generations.

The Indians belonging to the treaty, who are not yet on the reservation should be brought to it and every effort made to induce them to cultivate the soil.

Leaving Fort Simcoe on the 3d, we arrived at Dalles on the 4th and in the evening recrossed the Columbia River to meet Colwash and his band. These Indians belong to the Yakima reservation and are a portion of those who have refused to adopt the habits of the whites except many of their vices. They were living at their fishery, ten miles distant on the Columbia, and had come to meet me in response to a message from Agent Wilson. I could only give them advice and urge them the necessity of settling on their reservation.

I mention an incident here which indicates an unexpected trait in the character of these Indians.

Leaving the Indians at the top of the bank at dusk and coming down to the edge of the water, we found a wagon load of small groceries and other goods scattered along the shore. The owner, a trader from the interior, leaving them there, crossed the river with us. On being asked if the Indians would not steal them, he replied; "No, Sire, if all the white men were on one side and all the Indians on the other, I would always leave my goods on the Indian's side."

Mr. Wilbur informed me that although the Indians were constantly coming and going he did not use locks at the agency and he had never lost anything.

The second record of the council held on the Yakima reservation is herewith submitted (See appendix)

A report in regard to the Indians with the minutes of the council was transmitted to the Secretary of the Interior under date of 15th November to which you are respectfully referred. (See report etc. Appendix P.)

I returned to Portland after the Umatilla council with the intention of proceeding at once to Grande Ronde reservation in Western Oregon and thence to Oregon; but the receipt of letters and statements in regard to alleged abuses in Washington territory led me to change my plans and go to Olympia. After my arrival and on consultation with General T.J. McKenney, the superintendent, it was thought best to employ a small steamer as the only mode by which the agencies of Puget Sound could be visited in a reasonably short time. Pending this arrangement, I visited Victoria. On the 26th of August I left Seattle on the little steamer, Black Diamond, Captain Hill, and accompanied by Gen. McKenney, we arrived on the evening of the same day at the Tulalip reservation.

Looking over the work of the past year we see marked improvements in every department. The mills, shops, farming, stock, schools and churches are in the advance of what they were a year ago. Every bushel of grain raised, every farm opened, every house built, every wagon bought, every harness manufactured, every child instructed in the schools and every service in their sanctuaries, tends to lead the wild away from their wildness to adopt habits of civilized life.

General T. J. McKenny
Superintendent of Indian Affairs
Washington Territory

AGENCY REPORTS
Year - 1871
File-Click R. E. Landers
Typed-June Lindberg

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report which owing to the short time since I resumed my duties as agent, will not be as full as might be desired.

I entered the Indian service first as Superintendent of teaching, in the fall of 1860 and as Indian Agent in 1864. From the first I have had but one idea in respect to the true import of the service. I have known the common sentiment of the country regarding the Indian race as doomed to extermination; that it expects no high results from the appliances of the Indian bureau, in the way of ameliorating either the moral or material condition of the race. So deeply seated and universal is this feeling that it is useless to try to make anything of an Indian more than an ignorant savage; that all direct and positive endeavor to instruct and benefit him is scouted as a vain and foolish attempt; and out of this feeling grows a tacit justification in the minds of Indian officers not only, but in the mind of the country generally of that loose and inefficient, not to say, dishonest way of conducting the Indian service which has brought it into great disrepute. The argument is, if the Indian will be savage in spite of the most faithful and honest appliances of the means appropriated for his benefit, then it were as well to divert these means to the political and personal advantage of those to whom they are intrusted. This argument has given rise to practices in the administration of the affairs of the department that have entitled it too often to the opprobrium of a political machine and the appropriations by which it is manipulated to that of a corruption fund.

I have always taken direct and practical issue with this popular heresy. I believe, and always have believed, in the manhood of the Indian and in the possibility of elevating him to a high state of civilization. The fact that the government service has so generally failed in his improvement is no mystery to me. Looking at the question from a Christian standpoint, I cannot see how the result could have been different from what we see it; nor do I find the failure chargeable to anything inherent in Indian character. True, he is ignorant, treacherous and cruel by nature; he is destitute of moral character; he is poor in every respect. He needs everything that enters into the comforts of civilization but his first great want is character. Failing to give him character all material gifts but hasten his degradation and render his future destruction more positive and complete. I repeat, the first great want of the Indian is character. As a Christian teacher I have believed in the possibility of giving him this first indispensable condition of civilization. I have known I could inspire virtue in the Indian only by the plain, open unequivocal manifestation of virtue on my own part in all my intercourse with him.

I entered the service in the first place as a Christian teacher and have since endeavored to administer the affairs of the agency on Christian principles. I would as soon put wolves among sheep and rattlesnakes among children as immoral men upon the Indian agency. Reformation of moral character has been the great point at which I have aimed. When I contrast the condition of the Indians of this agency with what they were eleven years ago when I first came among them, I find the result of my labors a perfect justification of my theory, in respect to the possibility of giving to the Indian race the comforts and respectability of civilized life. From the time I took charge as agent in 1864 to the day of my suspension, and turning over to Lieutenant J. M. Smith, September 1869, all branches of business on the reservation were marked with progress and the work of moral reform, though slow, was gradual and certain. From that time to my resuming duties, January 1, 1871, every interest, material and moral, was waning.

Employees were paid for services long before reaching the reservation and with the influence they exerted in dancing, swearing, drinking and card playing, the interests of the reservation were rapidly declining.

The cattle belonging to the Indians when I left the agency numbered 1,600. The natural increase would have been about 600. When I returned there were not more than 350 old and young. These cattle were worth \$25 per head; add 600 to 1,600 and you have 2,200 at \$25 per head, making \$55,000; deduct the price of those found, \$8,750 and you have \$46,250 loss in latter; or say nothing of the increase and take 1,600 head at the price above and you have \$40,000, deduct the price of those found when I resumed my duties as agent, \$8,750 and it makes the loss in cattle \$31,250. This is a fair index of how other things were managed under the administration of my predecessor for sixteen months.

Had the Indians been protected against dishonest traders from without and a species of robbery within, they might today stand up and compare property with white settlements of the same number and show equal wealth.

Some of the Indians that were doing well when I left the agency under the military administration left their farms and the reservation and did not return until last spring. There was a universal dissatisfaction with the better class of Indians under the administration of Lieutenant J. M. Smith.

I am pleased to say that the Indians profession religion numbering about 300 at the time I left maintained their piety amid their persecution with but little loss.

SCHOOLS -- When I left the reservation I turned over to my successor \$1,200 school fund. The annual appropriation was \$3,200, making \$4,400. On resuming my duties I found no school, only on paper. The boarding house which had been used for the convenience of the school was changed so as to make it impossible to gather the children. The funds appropriated for schools had been used in other ways. There was no lumber to fit up any other boarding house and no food to subsist the children or funds to cloth them, so I was obliged to defer the opening of the school until we could cut and haul logs and make lumber, sow seed and reap a harvest. Our school

Our school room and boarding house are being put in order and in a few weeks we expect to open a school upon an enlarged plan.

On entering my duties as agent I found a destitution of wood for the station but little stock of any kind for the shops and business of all kinds at a near standstill. As soon as I became acquainted with the employees and the general condition of things on the reserve I determined to make changes and in less than one week I relieved six of the employees I found when I came. We were destitute of seed to sow and the Indians were destitute of seed and food.

Money furnished. With money furnished by the Superintendent we purchased seed for the Indians and for the agency farms, thereby inducing many of the Indians to return that were away and are now industrious and have reaped a harvest sufficient to meet their coming wants.

Breaking lands. We have broke about 100 acres of new land for the Indians this season, worth \$300.

School Farm. During the summer we have put the school farm in good condition, dug a drain of more than half a mile and grubbed out about 15 acres of very excellent land at a cost of \$250.

Wheat raised. At the department farm we raised 800 bushels of wheat worth \$1.25, \$1,000.

Oats - We harvested and thrashed 500 bushels of oats worth 75 cents, \$375.

Corn - One hundred bushels of corn worth \$1.00, \$100.

Hay cut and hauled - Seventy tons of hay have been cut and hauled worth \$10 per ton, \$700.

Straw stacked - Sixty tons of straw have been stacked worth \$3.00 per ton, \$180.

Coal burned and hauled. We have burned since January 1871, 1,200 bushels of charcoal worth 25 cents per bushel, \$300.

Potatoes and vegetables - These are not harvested but we have raised enough for the uses of the agency.

Repairs of agency buildings- During the season we have repaired the dwelling houses of the employees, the school and boarding house at an expense of at least \$500; we have built one house for an Indian, labor worth \$100.

Mills - The reservation mills are in good running order. I have given them this season a general overhauling. We have put in a new wheel at the sawmill and made other repairs at a cost of about \$250.

Harness Shop - Some of the boys that have been in school in years past have been instructed in harness making so that now they are capable of cutting and making team harness for the agency teams and for the Indians. During the first and second quarters these Indians made twenty-eight sets of team harness which have been issued to the Indians. All the repairs of the harnesses for the agency teams and the Indians are done by the Indian boys.

Wagons - I have been obliged to purchase three new lumber wagons as our old ones were not sufficient to do the work of the agency. The destitution of timber to build wagons and the great amount of repairing there is to do on the Indian wagons make it inexpedient to put up new work here as the wagon timber would have to be transported 165 miles.

Catholic mission - There has been within a few years a Catholic mission established a little over the line of the reservation. They succeeded in drawing off a few of the Indians and instructing them that marriages solemnized, baptism administered, and religious instruction given by the agent is invalid and should be so regarded. It seems to be the object of those in charge of said mission to keep the Indians, so far as they can, in a feverish and dissatisfied state. This teaching is doing the Indian an injury and tends directly to keep them from settling upon the reserve, to make and keep up a difficulty between the Indians and the white settlers around the reservation. Petitions, numerously signed by the settlers around said mission have been sent to me complaining of the Indians and urging me to put a stop to their congregating at that place. I think there is not more than one in ten belonging to this reservation that sympathize with them, though Colonel Ross, in his knowing report of last year said "three-fourths of all the Indians were Catholics". There is more danger of difficulty between the whites and Indians from this quarter than all others put together.

Indian labor-It will be seen by our monthly reports that very much of the work of the agency is done by the Indians. My object is to bring as many of them into the service as we need to accomplish the business of the agency, with as few white men to instruct and assist in the work as is allowable. This gives them the knowledge they need, makes them industrious and furnishes means for their subsistence and general improvement. In conclusion, I have to say, give the Indians the amount of means appropriated by the government from year to year, give them agents and employees whose examples are worthy of imitation, instruct them that it is honorable to work and to pray and you start them upon an upward grade to civilization and to become sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, living without rebuke and in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

All of this is respectfully submitted. James H. Wilbur, U. S. Indian Agent, Washington Territory (Gen. T. J. McKenny, Supt of Indian Affairs, Washington Territory)

To T. J. McKenny, Esq.
Superintendent Indian Affairs
Olympia, Washington Territory

Agency Reports
Year - 1872
File-Click Relander
Typed-J. Lindberg

August 15, 1872

Sir:

The termination of another fiscal year brings me to the duty of another annual report.

In recalling the history of the year just closed, I find abundant room for congratulation in the memory of the health, peace, material prosperity and the moral progress of the Indians under my jurisdiction.

The Indians that have been induced to accept the industries of civilization and have improved plantations for agriculture in their own right and interest are all doing well. They have comfortable tenements in which are found many of the comforts and some of the luxuries of civilization. They have horses and cattle which enable them to provide against want; they have growing crops of wheat, corn and vegetables adequate to the use of their families and in some instances they produce considerable for the market.

The Indians that are most thrifty are those who profess to have been converted and are members of the church. These are very constant in attending upon the regular means of grace as instituted by the Methodist Episcopal church. Usually their churches are crowded with sincere and earnest worshippers who are led in their devotions by the agent or one of the native preachers.

The experience of twelve years in this service has confirmed me more and more in the faith with which I entered upon the work, viz: That Christian truth brought to bear practically upon the character of a savage people is the only means by which such a people can be reclaimed; that the bestowment of material gifts in the absence of that renovation of character that comes only through bible truth accompanied by the influence of the Divine Spirit is an evil and not a blessing. Such bestowments never satisfy them and always tend to corrupt and demoralize them; they engender laziness and form a kind of gambling stock that is fruitful of no good. The first condition of improvement in the outside manner of life with my people is the improvement of the heart; here is the place to begin the work of reform among the Indians. If I fail to give moral character to an Indian I can give him nothing that will do him real and permanent good. If I can succeed in giving him moral character, so that he is no more a liar, a thief, a drunkard, a profane person, a polygamist, or a gambler, but a man of integrity, industry, sobriety and purity, then he no longer needs the gifts of the government or the charities of anybody. He then becomes a man like other good men and can take care of himself. This conclusion throws me back upon the work of moral reform as my only hope of success.

Schools - This work needs begin with the younger children, gathering them into the industrial schools of the reservation where they can be taught lessons of cleanliness, good behavior in the school, in the family, on the playground and everywhere. Here they are taught to speak and read the English language. Here they obtain information and useful knowledge which they bear to their fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and become so many teachers to their people. It is a matter inspiring stronger hope and making broader the platform of usefulness among the Indians that the government has appropriated \$1,000 to the school fund over former years. This will enable us to enlarge our work in the department. Our school for the past year has averaged something over forty children who have been boarded, clothed and have made commendable improvement both in books and work.

The farming interest among the Indians is steadily increasing.

The gambling propensity is diminishing. During the year, I have taken rigid measures to break up this practice among them and have been to quite an extent successful. They are giving up their plurality of wives and adopting Christian marriage more universally through the nation. The reservation mills are in good running order. Great inconvenience is suffered in having to haul the logs to the sawmill so far -- from three to six miles. A steam sawmill at another point on the reservation but little further from the station costing not more than \$4,000 would pay for itself in two seasons. I respectfully request that we be permitted to build such a mill from the funds saved from the repair of mills, and from a beneficial objects, arising from grazing cattle upon the reservation.

It will be seen by reference to my cash accounts that between two and three thousand dollars have been received for grazing stock the past year. In addition to the above amount, the Indians have received for herding cattle over \$1,000. If allowed improvements to build said mill it will enable us to build houses, fence farms and make other improvements as can never be done with the old mill.

The Indians would be pleased greatly and profited by the above arrangement without any additional appropriation from government. The houses built and farms opened and improved provides comfort and subsistence for them and takes them up from the condition of paupers and makes them self-supporting, releasing to the government an undoubted guarantee of future peace. When they have comfortable houses and fruitful fields with cattle and horses, wagons, plows and harness with household goods they have much to sacrifice if they go to war. These permanent fixtures do more to secure peace with a nation of Indians than regiments of soldiers.

It will be seen by the report of the miller and sawyer that during the year near 100,000 feet of lumber have been sawed for the Indians. These logs were cut and hauled by them without any expense to the department. The lumber made was worth \$2,000. This lumber has been used in improving their farms, building houses, barns, and a portion has been by them sold to the white settlers around the reservation. My policy is, and has been, to use little white labor as possible, and supply its place with Indian labor. I have two-fold object in this: First, it gives employment and pay to those who are most needy; and secondly, it holds the young men of the nation who have set out to be something above wild savages, to habits of industry and useful labor which is indispensable to the moral well being of all men of all races.

I remember the fact that the treaty with the Yakima Indians will in a few years expire when it will be expected of them that they will be capable of taking care of themselves. I hold the same thought in mind in the direction given to the mechanical labor. We are educating young men in our shops to make harness, build houses, work in the mills and on the farms so as to make them capable of every department of business of taking care of themselves. We have already young men that are capable of building houses, making boots, shoes, making harness, doing good work in the blacksmith shop and are good helpers about the mills.

If the remaining installments of money that will be due this nation under the treaty could be invested in cattle, a herd could in short time accumulate upon the reservation that would yield an annual revenue greater by far than all that is paid them by the government. The grasses are spontaneous and very abundant, producing the finest beef on the coast. Cattle generally live and remain fat through the winter by grazing; so the cost of raising a cow or a steer three years old in the range is not so much as to feed the domestic fowls about our doors. These need to be fed while the cattle feed themselves. The investment of the remaining appropriation due them in cattle, with judicious management on the part of the officers in charge, could not fail to make the whole nation financially independent in a few years. L

I have consulted the head-men of the nation and they are agreed that the annuities as now given by the government due them very little good while an investment in cattle would do them and their children good in all time to come.

Suppose \$3,000 were invested in young cows at \$30 per head this would buy 100 head; these with their increase in two years would be worth \$6,000 in four years they would be worth \$12,000 and in six years \$24,000. In the light of this calculation it is easy to see that all the annuity money that will be due them for the remaining time of the treaty could be made to accumulate into vast proportions making them capable of taking care of themselves; while under the present system of payment the poverty of the Indians is not relieved to any perceptible extent and no provision is made against future want. In view of the fine facilities for stock raising that the Indians have and in view of the profitable employment this investment would give them I consider it of great importance that this change be made in the use of the money appropriated for beneficial objects and that it be done immediately. I earnestly recommend that their land be surveyed.

In conclusion I call attention to the department to the money that was due this agency from the late Superintendent W. H. Waterman (deceased) who owed this agency, December 31, 1866, \$7,250 and professed to pay said amount in drafts, which were protested when presented to the assistant treasurer at San Francisco, California. A particular account of said transaction was given the department by me in my "account-current" and statement therewith for the month of July, 1867.

Upon taking charge of the post I was instructed to purchase such crops growing on this reservation, together with such other property as I might judge of use to the Indian service and to pay for such purpose out of the current appropriations in my hands. I accordingly bought some field crops and a small band of cattle amounting to some six thousand dollars, and although such an expenditure drew heavily upon the funds on hand, I am convinced it could not have been expended more advantageously for the Indian service.

Before removing to this agency I had provided teams and seeds to commence raising crops in this valley, convinced as I was that here in the reservation provided for in the Yakima treaty the farming operations of the district would be carried on. The new s of the ratification of the treaty confirmed my views and justified my proceedings. The consequence is, that out of current appropriations, about one hundred and sixty acres of plowed land, most of it fenced against horses and oxen are already secured to the Indians. Nearly one hundred acres are in crop and I hope by an economical care of the usual proportion of funds in my district to sow at least two hundred acres of wheat the coming fall.

The present crop of oats, barley, peas, turnips and other vegetables is pretty good, though the crickets, the pest of this valley have preyed upon some of the vegetables.

Besides the work done on the reservation, many small fields and patches of ground were plowed and put in crops for Indians at White Salmon, on the Klickitat River, at Cammash Lake and on Columbia River previous to it's being known that the treaty was ratified. Some fifty acres were put in and turned over to those for whom the fields were made and which will inure to their benefit.

The Yakima reservation is a large and valuable district for the Indians and contains within its limits as many advantages as can be found in all the upper country. All portions, except the high parts of the Cascades are covered with the richest grasses; the water is abundant and of the best quality, timber is on the hills and follows the water courses down into the valleys. There are thousands of acres of the best and richest tillable lands on the margin of the waters and there can be no doubt that all the main crops of grain can be raised in ample abundance for all who may be placed on the reservation.

The turning over of the military post was a valuable acquisition to the Indian department. Eight large officers quarters, some of them of elegant structure, three large barracks for men; one large hospital, two large warehouses; one large corral and stable, besides many lesser buildings were thus acquired.

The buildings at this post cost the government some \$60,000 and at least calculation, will save an expenditure of \$30,000 in executing the treaty, as the houses can be conveniently used for shops schools and hospital as well as for the agent and employes.

One hundred thousand dollars are now actually due the Indians who are included in the Yakima Treaty according to its positive enactments. Besides that large sum, many other thousands will be required at once for the execution of the treaty now become a supreme law of the land.

As required by a provision of the treaty, I have held a consultation with the chiefs of most of the tribes and bands interested in the annuities as their wishes touching the expenditure of the money, the beneficial objects to which the annuities now due should be devoted.

So suspicious are they that they are to be at once removed from all their old grazing and camping and fishing grounds, that I was not able to get an answer from these assembled. I need not conceal from you the great reluctance the Indians feel and express to removing at once to the reservation. They are aware of the evils connected with gathering large bands of Indians upon a reservation as illustrated in the Grande

Ronde reservation. Notwithstanding their opposition to being removed at once, I do not apprehend any difficulty in removing them here, when the stipulations of the treaty and the settlements of the whites demand it.

I have made the Indians aware of the ratification of the treaty and have pointed out to them, very plainly the advantages it will bring them, also their relations to the white settlers and how they must respect the property and persons of the whites,. Should settlers be at all prudent in their intercourse and transactions with the Indians, no serious difficulty will arise.

The slowness of settlement of this part of the upper country will favor much a gradual and easy yielding of the original occupants of the country to the outside pressure of a strong and bold civilized people.

The Indians interested in the Yakima treaty know that it is now ratified and made strong; they are well aware also that a large amount of money, to them an indefinite sum, is due them for their lands sold. They are naturally desirous to have all that is coming to them and it is only by paying them what the treaty provides that they can be induced to move upon the reservation.

It is to be hoped that Congress during its first session succeeding the ratification of the treaty will not fail to meet out a long-delayed justice to so large a number of needy and dependent people, for it is but justice to the Indian that he should be paid what the government contracted to pay, after years having elapsed since the contract was made, in full view of all the obligations growing out of that contract. I took grounds against the ratification of the Yakima Treaty because of the opposition of many of the Indian to its execution, but I must confess the treaty is as favorable as anyone could expect to make at anytime hereafter.

The reservation is the largest and best they could get, the pay, per acre for the land is all its worth and all the other benefits, such as schools, hospitals, shops, mills etc., are as advantageous as could be expected.

After years of delay, the treaty has been ratified; the lands outside of the reservation are being occupied by settlers. Under such circumstances to further delay the payments already and long since due, would be glaring and gross injustice.

I am, sir, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant

R.H. Lansdale
Indian agent. W.T.

To Edward R. Geary Esq.
Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon

*You said you did not have
this first letter -
typing. - Excuse
clear some of the arguments -
(such as Mr. Whiting)
J. H. Kimball*