

message of the President of the United States 35th Congress, 1st Session,
Senate, Ex- Document No. 11, Vol 1, 1857-58, Part I
p 634..

Office of Indian Agency, Vancouver, Washington Territory, July 15, 1857

I herewith transmit you my annual report for my district for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1857. It is with feelings of gratification that I have it in my power to report peace and quiet throughout the district.

The country comprising this district that I have charge of embraces all the country in Washington Territory bordering on the Columbia river from its mouth to the vicinity of the Dalles, having charge of all the Indians whose habitations are on or near the Columbia River.

The greater portion of the Indians of this district are under charge of Local Agent A. Ownsend at White Salmon reservation. The Indians number about eight hundred, made up of the Vancouver Indians and Cascade Indians and the remainder mostly Klikatats that were scattered along the river and roaming over the country at large.

...Some eight hundred (Indians) at White Salmon reservation; opposite the Dalles in this territory (635) under the charge of Local Agent John T. Noble, one thousand Indians, and in the Simcoe valley one thousand five hundred and fifteen Indians, ...

....I think, beyond some clothing and a small amount of supplies no further expense of moment need be incurred by the Indian department. This statement, however, is based on the fact that there are no further Indian hostilities; should it be otherwise, and the Indians be not prevented from fishing, hunting, and obtaining roots and berries and their usual means of subsistence, by being driven from their fishing grounds, root and berry fields, then the question presents itself, shall the Indian department feed and protect the friendly Indians who have ~~not~~ and will continue to maintain good faith towards the whites or not? I give it as my opinion that public policy should dictate that should, under such circumstances, be done; it would inspire faith in the government and agents, on the part of the Indians...

...there is an implied obligation resting on government, to say the least to keep these Indians from suffering. Their country has been taken from them without a treaty being made with them, or remuneration given them for it in this district. They patiently submit to the directions and requirements of government agents. Their claims to consideration and fair treatment are strong. It strikes me it places them in the attitude of fit objects of government protection if necessity should arise that would demand it...

J Cain, Indian Agent, Columbia River District

Hon. J. W. Nesmith, superintendent of Indian Affairs.

P 636

No. 143 White Salmon Reservation, June 30, 1857

Sir: I was appointed local agent in charge of Indians at White Salmon reservation, September 1, 1856. Indians consisted of the Vancouver and Lewis river tribes of Klikatats and the Cascade Indians who had remained friendly during the war, numbering three hundred and forty persons, also, a branch of the Klikatat tribe, who were among the hostiles and with whom Colonel Wright effected a peace treaty and induced to leave the hostile ranks; these, with a few additions from Simcoe and the Yakima increased the number to about eight hundred persons.

The reservation lies in the Klikatat country between the Klikatat and White Salmon rivers, a distance of fifteen miles along the Columbia river and extending back to the La Camas prairie about twenty miles, lying in and on the east slope of the Cascade mountains.

The country is well adapted for Indian use--containing within itself an abundance of wild roots, berries, game and salmon--while it is poorly adapted for agricultural purposes; is very mountainous, while a short distance back from the Columbia owing to elevation, frosty nights prevail most of the summer. There is a small amount of tillable land on the Columbia, where the agency building is erected and at the mouth of the Klikatat river where a band of the Indians are living; here fair crops can be raised, though the dry climate renders irrigation necessary.

Headquarters of the reservation are situated four miles above the mouth of White Salmon river, on the Columbia, being the only place always accessible to steamboats and on land claimed by E.J. Joslynn, who was driven from his farm by the hostile Indians and whose buildings and property ~~were~~ they destroyed. Here I proceeded to erect a house suitable for storing purposes, and as a dwelling for employes of the department (there being none other within many miles in the Territory* employing R.L. White as carpenter at \$4 per day and four Indians to assist him at \$30 a month. The house is composed of hewn logs; its dimensions twenty by thirty feet on the first story and twenty four by thirty-four on the second, fifteen feet high, and finished inside with lumber. Here the Indian trails from the interior all concentrate, there being one from Simcoe and the Yakima valley that can be travelled in one and a half day. Situation for Indians of this Territory very central, being twenty miles from the great La Camas prairie, at which place all the Washington Territory Indians from Vancouver over to the Spokane river annually congregate in the summer season for the purpose of collecting camas, their great staple root and for racing and trading horses. I found the Indians, particularly those from Vancouver and Cascades, owing to their previous close confinement in consequence of the war, in a state of almost complete destitution; many families who were comparatively in affluent circumstances before the war having spent their lives in close proximity to the whites, owning many horses which were allowed (P.637) to range unmolested, by working out, by cultivating small patches of land for themselves, and by hunting and fishing occasionally, they were able to procure a very comfortable livelihood. At the commencement of the war it became necessary on account of the fears of the whites and to prevent intercourse between those who professed friendship and the hostile forces, to keep them closely confined on the reserve at Vancouver; during which time a large number of their horses and other property that was left at their old habitations were stolen or destroyed.

With the remnants they were then removed to this reservation. Winter was approaching and I saw and reported to you the fact that they could not but be almost entirely dependent on the department for their subsistence until spring, and to a degree still larger for Indians who have been raised among whites, and who have acquired many of the habits and wants of civilized life; cannot be expected to readily assume those of the savage and be contented with the hard scanty fare of their progenitors; nor, I apprehended, is this a species of progression that would meet the views of the government. About eight hundred persons were subsisted during the winter on the reservation. As spring advanced, their supplies were curtailed as much as possible furnishing enough to keep them from want, but not sufficient to encourage them to idleness. In consequence those to whom it came most natural, soon as the season allowed, took to the mountains and valleys in search of roots and game, while many others applied for permission and assistance to farm, which request was complied with, after being submitted for your approval. About one hundred persons, mostly heads of families, were supplied with tools, seed, and as far as practicable with assistance of teams etc., in ploughing. Some thirty to forty acres of land were got in, mostly in potatoes and peas, the latter of which having been sowed too late I regret to say have suffered much from drought. Of potatoes there will be a fair crop, but in some localities they, too, have suffered. They also have been offered every inducement and facility for laying up large stores of salmon, both dried and salted, and roots for their winter subsistence.

They are busily engaged, and in the event of a continuance of peace I am encouraged to believe that the coming winter they will be comfortable without assistance from the department.

The Klikatat tribe, numbering about four hundred fighting men, are known as the best hunters and boldest warriors among all the surrounding tribes; though few in number, their superiority in point of courage and

skill in the use of the rifle, is universally acknowledged by all the Indians; hence several attempts have been made by the leaders of the war party, during the past winter and spring, to induce them to leave the reservation and rejoin them, but without the slightest success. Unless intimidated by superior numbers I believe they cannot be influenced in the slightest degree prejudicial to the interest of the government.

Respectfully A. Townsend, local agent

Captain J. Cain

Indian Agent, Columbia River District

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Office Special Indian Agent

Dalles, July 31, 1857

...I received the appointment of special agent for the Indian department, Washington Territory, from Governor and Superintendent Isaac I. Stevens on the 1st of March, 1856, from which time I was on special duty up to the 1st of March, 1857, when I was placed in charge of the Yakima district.

This district embraces that part of Washington Territory lying on the north side of the Columbia river between the 46th and 48th parallels of north latitude, and between the Columbia river and Cascade mountains on the east and west respectively--the Columbia forming the eastern and southern boundaries.

The Indians residing within this district are the Yakimas. They occupy the country drained by the river of that name, which rises in the extreme northwestern portion of the district, runs a southeasterly course and empties into the Columbia about twenty miles above Fort Walla Walla .

They are divided into two principal bands, namely: The Upper and Lower Yakimas. Each of these bands is made up of a number of small bands or villages, each band or village acknowledging the authority of one or more chiefs of principal men; but intermarriages, a common language and

common interests unite them as a whole. They were formerly a wealthy and prosperous tribe, some of them possessing large herds of horses and cattle but they have become very much impoverished during the war, and in fact have lost nearly everything or have given it away in hiring Indians who were friendly disposed to join in hostilities.

The Upper Yakimas occupy the country upon the Wenass and main branch of the Yakima above the forks; the lower upon the Yakima and its tributaries below the forks and along the Columbia from the mouth of the Yakima to a point three miles below the Dalles.

Over the Upper Yakimas there were formerly two chiefs, Sheyas and Ouhi, and over the Lower Kamiakin and his brothers, Skloo and Shawawai; all of these Kamiakin possessed the greatest influence, but at present none of them can, by any means, be considered friendly; consequently that portion of the tribe who are friendly disposed do not acknowledge their ~~at~~ 2000 authority. Each band of friendly Indians has its own chief, and no particular man is recognized by the difference bands as head chief.

Their condition ~~has~~...has made it ~~impracticable~~ impracticable to visit all...but I have taken some pains to get reliable information in reference to those living on the Yakima as to their number, character, etc.

There are a number of bands occupying the valleys of the ^Wachess (p 639) and Simcoe rivers and along the main ^Yakima who have been declared friendly by the military authorities.

The following table gives the names of the chiefs, the location of their respective bands, also the number of adult persons in each band:

Names	Location	No	
Swon-tie	Fort Simcoe	75	
Su-pu-lia	Yakima River	60	
Shoo-shus-skin	Naches Valley	80	
So-hup-pee	-----	50	
Skam_mow-a	Simcoe Valley	100	
Cut-throt	-----	75	total 400

These people were partly supplied with provisions during the past winter and spring, and will require some assistance from the department during the coming autumn and winter. They manifest a strong desire to remain on friendly terms.

There are also nine hundred and twenty-three friendly Indians located at the Dalles. They are divided into three principal bands namely; the Wish-hams, Click_a_hut and Skien bands.

The following table gives the names of the chiefs and principal men, and the proportion of men, women and children in their respective bands

Names of chiefs and Principal men	males over 12	females over 12	children 5 to 12	total	Names of band to which belong	Remarks
Col-wash	20	26	14	60	Wish ham	headchief
Son_e_wah	51	59	29	139	do	principal man
Hy_a_sam	7	4	2	13	Click a_hut	chief
Mo_nan_nock	38	52	41	131	Skien	head chief
Elet-Palmer	35	31	25	91	do	Principal man
Foo-e-ah-wat_tee	18	28	11	67	do	do
We_shut-nip-its	26	24	18	68	do	do
Se_ah-cat	15	11	5	31	do	do
Looney	33	34	16	83	do	do
Wis-con_vey	35	20	12	67	do	do
Gov-e_nor	31	38	21	92	do	do
Tarkill	32	38	21	91	do	do
total	341	361	221	923		

The Wish_hams, as will be seen in the above table, have two chiefs, Colwash and Sonewah; of these Colwash ~~possessed~~ possessed the greatest influence and is recognized as the head chief of the band. They were (P.640)

formerly a large band but their numbers were greatly reddd diminished by the smallpox in the year 1854.

Of the Click a_hut band, as is shown above, there are but thirteen; these are the remains of a large band which like the Wish hams were depopulated by the smallpox in the same year.

Of the Skien band, Mon_nan-nock is the head chie. He and one hundred and thirty of his people, together with the Wish-hams and Click-a_hut bands are highly deserving the favorable consideration of government for the steadfastness with which they held their position during the war as friends of the whites, notwithstanding the persecutions of the balance of the tribe, from whom they suffered many wrongs, such as the stealing

of their horses, destroying of their property, and continuously threatening to attack and burn their villages and take them prisoners, if they did not forsake the whites and join in hostilities.

The remainder of Mon-nan-nock's band is divided into eight different villages, each village having a chief or principal man as is seen in the above table. They were all actively engaged in the war from the commencement of hostilities up to the autumn of 1856 when they surrendered to the military forces, were disarmed and turned over to the officers of the Indian department as friendly Indians.

From their deportment since they have been under my charge, I am led to the belief that they are reliable friends of the whites.

These three bands, (Wish-hams, Click a-hut, and Skien) claim that portion of the district lying along the Columbia river from the mouth of the Yakima down to a point three miles below the Dalles.

They were partly subsisted by the government during the past winter and spring until such time as they could gather roots and subsist themselves which was about the first of May.

...and should the fall run of salmon fail, of which there are some fears, they will be almost destitute, and, if government aid is not extended to them they cannot escape starvation.

....portions of their country are rather inviting to settlers, and is destined ere long to be settled or thronged with miners; hence the necessity of permanently locating the Indians on a reservation at an early day.

...in my opinion there will be required thirty-eight thousand (\$38,000) for the maintenance of friendly relations and to supply the actual necessities of the Indians in the Yakima district during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1858; and should it be deemed proper to establish an agency and farm on the Simcoe reservation as provided for in the treaty of 1855) which I would again most earnestly recommend) an additional

*twenty-thousand (\$20,000) would be required.

Most respectfully etc.

A.H. Robie

Special Indian Agent, Dalles, W.T.

J.W. Nesmith Esq

Superintendent Indian Affairs, Oregon and W.T.

P. 641

No. 145

Walla Walla Valley W.T. July 21, 1857

Sir...

I have in my charge the friendly Cayuses, that live in Washington Territory and the Nez Perces tribe. The Nez Perces country is bounded west by the Palouse river, which lies north of Snake river, and the Tucannon, which lies south of Snake river; on the north by the range of mountains between Clear Water and the Coeur d'Alene; east by the Bitter Root mountains; on the south they are bounded near the line dividing the two territories.....

Wm. Craig

Indian Sub-Agent W.T.

Col. J.W. Nesmith

Superintendent Indian Affairs.

P. 659-663, report of A.P. Dennison, U.S. Indian Agent, northeast district, Oregon Territory to J.W. Nesmith

Outlines tribes within the district, "the Dog River or Cascade Indians, Wascos, Tyichs, Des Chutes, John Days, Utillas, Walla Wallas, Cayuse, Nez Perces, Flatheads, Mountain Snakes, Bannacks and Diggers; the last three named are generally known as the Snake Indians, and are parts of that large tribe....."

Message and Documents Ex. Doc. 2, 35th Congress, 1858, Vol 1
 pps. 615-617, A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent, Eastern District Oregon,
 lists tribes and bands and leaders, with census

p.618-621-Letter from John Owen, special Indian Agent, Flathead Nation,
 W.T. from Stenger's House, Colville Valley, July 11, 1858, ~~lists~~
 recounts "isolation" and unsettled conditions , preliminary to Steptoe's
 crossing of the ~~River~~ Snake and his defeat

p. 98, Fight with Indians near the Pelouse River, p.629 Camp at the Four
 Lakes, Spokane Plains, Sept. 5, 1858

(This section of messages, if read completely, some 30 pps., gives
 idea that Colville area was isolated and regarded as dangerous territory,
 and Indian guides from S. Mcoe would not go into that area, gives feeling
 of "separateness", but that is only a feeling.)