

Districts

Mr.

As for the buildings, they should be constructed of hewn timber 8 by 10 inches square the expense of dwelling house and out houses necessary would cost about three thousand dollars to gether with barns and shelter suffishient for an agency as for saw mills I would recommend whip saws instead of horse mills for I think that horse mills would not be a plisble and there is a risk to run of brakage and no repairable means in that country But for grist mills horse mill might be aceptal [sic]

Yours moyst truly

A. J. Bolon.

Colville, Central and Middle Districts Roll 20

Sir:

Olympia, March 18th, 1854

Your favor of the 15th inst advising me of my appointment as special agent under the superintendant of Indian affairs of this territory for the district comprehended between the Bitter root and Cascade mountains is read and in reply will say if in your estimation I possess the requisite qualifications for that post, I have no objection to accepting the appointment.

I am sir,

Your obt servt.

A.J. Bolon

I.I. Stevens, gov. of W.T.
and supt. of Indian Affairs.

A.J. Bolon's annual Indian Report for 1854

Central District. Report of A.J. Bolon, special agent, middle district. To his Excellency Isaac I. Stevens, governor and supt. Indian affairs Washington Territory. Sir:

I have the honor herewith to submit my report as special agent for the Indian District ~~comprised~~ comprised between the Cascade and Bitter Root mountains in this Territory. My appointment having been ~~confirmed~~ conferred in May I was unable to ~~reach~~ reach the District and enter upon my duties before the month of June, a season too late for advantageous action as the Indians are then already scattered and the report is therefore far less complete than I hope to render the next.

Your letter and additional instructions dated from San Francisco directed me to proceed first to the Nez Perce country and visit that tribe, but in my way thither I ascertained that the journey would prove fruitless as a grand council which was held among them last spring had adjourned and they had for the most part gone after buffalo. I therefore directed my attention in the first place to the Yakamas as of next importance from their occupancy the country traversed by the military and important trail from Walla Walla to Puget Sound. Of the five influential chiefs of this tribe I succeeded in seeing but three, Shawawai, Sklome and Te-i-yas. Owhai, the brother of the last was in the buffalo country and Kamai-ya-kan the most important of all was not to be found.

The first named I met at the Lakamass prairie where a portion of his band were getting roots. I explained my business to him and requested him to number his people generally. This however he said was impossible as they were scattered over the whole country. The attempt to ascertain their numbers was idle for he could make no estimate but he promised if I would return in the fall or winter to call them in

together with their stock, that I might see for myself. On parting with him I offered some small presents. His people gladly accepted them but Shawawai himself declined, saying that he had been told there was an agent coming into their country and was advised not to take any presents from him as it would create a lien on their lands. The idea^{inference} is a very natural ~~inference~~ of the Indians from what they have seen in Oregon where small presents were distributed on the negotiation of treaties which were afterwards repudiated while the lands remain in possession of the settlers. In regard to the occupation of his territory by the whites he declined stating his findings till he should consult his brothers. When I met him subsequently he said that he had seen them and was willing that the Americans should come in provided a bargain was first made for the country and he knew exactly what was to be sold and what he was to receive for it. He was perfectly willing that the cattle and horses of the whites should graze with his. He had recently procured a brand and was making his own stock.

Showawai was formerly an attendant at the mission and professed Christianity but he has since abandoned it. He is apparently friendly to the whites.

On leaving him I visited the Catholic mission on the Atahnam in hopes of finding Kamaiyakan but was informed he was in the mountains. The valley was deserted except by one of the priests and two Frenchmen belonging to the mission.

I was told by the priest that Sklome was at the general council of the Nez ~~Percies~~ Percies, that they had asked Kamaiyakan to go but he had sent Sklome in his place. Mr. D'Herborney could not tell me the object of the council. From the mission I went to the fishery on the Nahchess river hoping to obtain a guide to the Nez Perce country. I there met the old chief, Te-i-yas, one of the two principal men of the upper Yakamas. The other Owhai was still about.

Te-i-yas informed me that a number of his people were on the Wenass & accordingly I went there accompanied by him. At my request he assembled the Indians in the neighborhood amounting to about ~~200~~ 220 men. I addressed them on the objects of my visit desiring them to come together _ let me know their views in the morning through their chief. The council was held during the night and was marked with great order _ decorum. The next day they again assembled and Te-i-yas replied in substance as follows. He said they had talked much during the night and he was fatigued but that he was never tired of doing good. That he had yesterday been for the first time addressed by a a whiteman on matters of great importance. He was pleased that the Great Father of the whites had seen fit to send a man into his country to assist in protecting his people from the great evil, the mad spirit of the strong water called Rum. They had once been a strong people, a great nation; their country was as thick with men as I saw it with birds, but the King George men (The Hudson's Bay Company) came in ~~with~~ and with them brought rum. His people soon became fond of it and would give away anything they had for it and from it came all sorts of sickness and disease; many went mad & killed themselves or their wives and children and hundreds thus perished from rum. He had then determined to stop it and had told his people that if any ~~one~~ one should bring the strong water into his country he should forfeit his horses and cattle and become a slave. There were three men who thought he dared not do this and accordingly went to Walla Walla and ~~brought~~ bought rum and brought it there and defied him to keep his word. He took their horses and gave them to others and made slaves of them and they were slaves yet. Since then his people had neither been troubled with rum or disease and he was determined while he lived to keep it out of his country but he could not live long for his head had been white for many winters. He then said he could agree with us in anything

relative to the government of his people, but he could not altogether as to the settlement of the country by the whites. The Indians must suffer by it for the whites would bring rum with them. He hoped I would tell the Great Father if his people wanted a part of their country that he should send good men who might come to a perfect understanding about their lands before the white men took it for the latter might want some of the fields and villages & that would make trouble. He hoped also the Great Father would not let bad men come into their country, for some of the young men had said they would abuse their women & he was certain that would lead to trouble & bloodshed. They were friends to the American people and wished to be treated as such. He added that many of his people would not like the course he had taken in agreeing that the whites might settle in their lands, but he was chief of his people and should act as such. He was unable to give me the number of his tribe, but promised to do so in the winter if I came back.

I inquired the purpose of the council in the Nez Perce country. He said that it was a council of war; that they had sent for Kamaiyakan who was chief counsellor of all the Indians between the Cascade Mountains and the Pend Oreille Lake. He had not gone but had sent Sklome whom they were looking for any day and on his return he could tell me the particulars of the council.

I gave Te-i-yas a commission as head chief of the Upper Yakamas and to Shu-shoos-ken, a man selected at his request, one as a sub chief and they agreed to abide by them. Te-i-yas like Shawawai declined receiving any presents but permitted his family to accept a few provisions & small articles.

The next day Sklome arrived and after a long consultation with Te-i-yas came to me and said that he had many questions to ask and some thing to tell me. The first thing was about their lands. They had

warned that the object of the whites was to obtain possession of them without payment and that they should accept no presents. For his own part he was desirous that the Americans should settle among them. They wanted blacksmiths, mechanics & mills & to cultivate the soil. They had plenty of horses & cattle, but no tools & if they bought any they soon became out of repair & they could not mend them. They also wanted schools and he requested me when I returned to bring him a spelling book as he was determined to read & write. Sklome declared that suspicions had been instilled by the priests at the mission and that all the Indians on the river agreed in saying that they had sent Kamaiyakan, who is entirely under their influence, to the mountains and advised him to remain there till I had passed through as there would only be a great deal of talk and no good would come from it. That their influence has been exerted to prevent a settlement of the country and to prejudice the Indians against us, I am perfectly satisfied & as I am also that the priests use their power to compel these people to serve them in matters of every day business. I have heard complaints of this everywhere.

I then asked Sklome respecting the Nez Perce council. He also said it was a war council. That the Nez Percés had sent for his brother, Kamayakan who possessed a great authority ~~with~~ over them. That Kamaiyakan knew of their determination and that his going would do no good but wished him (Sklome) to go as the best talker, that he had done so and taken cattle to feast them. By Sklome's report there was a very large assemblage at the council ~~in~~ including representatives of several others tribes besides the Nez Percés, and that when they broke up they were divided; the Lower Nez Percés & the others being for peace, but the Upper Nez Percés bent upon making war upon the emigration the coming season. He added that they were gone to the buffalo country to lay up meat for two years supply & that they would

still have powder & ball enough to kill all who should cross the plains. The ~~camp~~ cause of the excitement he associated with the punishment by the whites of the Whitman murderers. Sklome's statement is of course to be taken with all allowances for Indian exaggeration and his wish to acquire more for his friendly offices, but that some such movement has taken place I am satisfied as on my way to Olympia I met the Nez Perce Chief Lloyd who confirmed Sklome's account and said that he, Sklome and Garry had opposed the war with all their influence though ineffectually but he thought that since the Snakes had broken out they would rather fight them than the whites.

Upon hearing Sklome's account I asked him to ~~provide~~ provide me a guide to the Nez Perce country, but he assured me it was useless to go there. I would not find a single chief or man of note. All were gone after buffalo but the old and poor. He said the same was the case with the Indians of the whole country east of the Columbia. They had heard that the buffalo had crossed the mountains into the Flathead Valley and in consequence went in search of them. He urged me to remain there "till winter" or return at that season when I would find the Indians all collected in the valleys. I learned from him that a route exists from the Salmon Falls of the Snake to the Yakima much shorter than any pursued by the whites & without hills. He offered to ~~show~~ show it on condition that he should be paid for the trouble if it proved as he represented. Concluding that a journey eastward at this season would be fruitless I proceeded to the Columbia but met with no Indians on the northern bank till reaching the "Iss ham valley" at the Great Falls above the Dalles. This tribe, once greatly numerous and troublesome, now reduced to about 270 all told having lost 257 with small pox during the past year. At the White Salmon between the Dalles & Cascades the band is reduced to 21. I subsequently went to the Klikitat ground at Chequoo or (Chessnook)

but found the Indians all absent and thence returned to the mission where I found your letter of April 23d.

You will perceive from the above account the impossibility of effecting anything during the summer season. The Indians all leave for the mountains after planting their potatoes or as soon as the snow will permit, that is about May. At that time they dig their roots. A portion of them return to the rivers to take the spring salmon. While others remain till the berry season. When this is over or about the middle of September they take up their deposits of roots and return to the valley for the fall fishing. On the first snow the hunters go again into the mountains for deer, elk and other game which are found only on the western sides of the Cascade Range. In November the buffalo hunters return. These have either started the fall before and been absent a year or in the early spring. It is therefore between November and May only that the bands ~~xxxxxx~~ can be assembled for purposes of council or treaty. This statement applies not only to the ~~Yak~~ Yakamas but also to the other tribes of the middle district who are to be found collected in the valleys only in winter.

As regards the sale of their lands & the settlement of their country, I can speak with confidence. They will consent to dispose of the greater part of them but the purchases must be made in advance and the reserves laid off distinctly. These Indians are a proud and spirited race, very different from those of the coast and ready to resist injustices or opposition. It will be of the greatest importance that any treaties made with them be not rejected or their arrangements left unfulfilled. Much difficulty is to be apprehended from the sources alluded to by Te-i-yas and I am fully satisfied that any interference with their women will lead to bloodshed and that the introduction of ardent spirits will produce the most disastrous results. The latter should be guarded against by vigorous

provisions. On the other hand they are capable of great improvement and seem sincerely desirous of learning the arts of the whites, particularly agriculture, blacksmithing and carpentry. At present they raise a little corn and some melons and pumpkins but chiefly potatoes and peas. Of the former I think they must have 15,000 bushels this year. Wheat they formerly raised but have discontinued to do so as they have no mills and they say the women are tired of pounding it. As proof of their imitative disposition I will only mention that Sha-wa-wai has purchased a patent churn and makes his own butter. My opinion of their country is an agricultural one, is much ~~better~~ better than that usually ... the amount of good land being ~~greater~~ greater than I before supposed, but it is subject to the great drawback of want of timber and through the upper portion of heavy snows.

On the subject of reservations to which my instructions direct particular attention I ~~would~~ would suggest that there should be in amount one section to each of the five tribes or bands of the Yakamas, which would be most ~~advantageously~~ advantageously divided into quarter sections in different localities for the convenience of the several villages. The use in common with the whites of the salmon fisheries should also be secured to them and ground enough in the ~~vicinity~~ vicinity to dry their fish. Upon the lower Columbia and the small streams the Indians have been ~~virtually~~ virtually excluded from some of their principal fishing stations or compelled to carry their salmon to a distance for curing. Pursuant to your request I also made particular inquiry on the subject of grazing their cattle and horses in common with those of settlers. They all say that they will be content ~~either~~ either to confine theirs to their own reserves or to let them graze together, but that in the first case they will require more land. Strict regulations

but that in the first case they will require more land; Strict regulations respecting brands should ~~be~~ in every event be enacted by law. The cattle belonging to the Indians are Spanish, American and mixed and are not very wild. I shall on this subject be better prepar d to speak when I shall have ~~exam~~ ascertained the numbers owned by them.

I would suggest that in the event of treaties being made with them the annuities should be expressly stipulated to be paid in clothing, blankets and farming or other tools. If they are paid in money the temptation both on the part of the Indians and whites to engage in the liquor trade will be much increased. As reference has been made in ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ mentioning the talk with Te-i-yas ~~xxxxxxxx~~ and the Hudson's Bay Company, it is proper to explain that they have since discontinued selling spirits, but they continue to sell ammunition and fire arms in large quantities at Walla Walla, Boise, Fort Colville, Fort Hall and in fact all their posts. There seems to be some hardship in altogether depriving the Indians of ammunition & since the use of fire arms has superseded that of their own weapons; but as a matter of safety to the whites the supply should be very limited & should be cut off entirely among the hostile tribes. Especially it ~~might~~ out not to be left in the hands of foreigners.

I have not as yet permanently located the agency , being desirous first to observe the winter climate and ascertain when the Indians will most consistently and willingly congregate at that region. Should the middle distrikt be divided as I infer from the action of the government , I think that the mouth of the Wenatchea or Nahaless will probably be the best for the country between the Cascades & the Columbia River

I have as yet given papers to but four head chiefs and five sub-chiefs in my district. They are as follows:

Spokan Garry, head chief of the Spokans.

Te-i-yas, one of the head chiefs of the Yakamas.

Kolwas and Sonnewas, head chiefs of the Wishams.

Sho shos kan, sub chief of the Yakamas.

Slak-kish, ~~Yak~~ Yet-tap-pum, Skammot, Wat-tamsh, sub chiefs of the Wishams.

I have also appointed two interpreters, Spokan Garry for the Indians east of the Columbia river and Mamoot a Yakima for them on the west side.

Of the total number of Indians in the middle district, from causes already assigned, I can only speak from general observation. I do not think they will fall short of 7,000. It is a fact, singular so far as I am aware, that the Yakamas are rapidly on the increase. I saw even as many as ten children in some of the lodges and the tribe will undoubtedly regain its old strength should no damage [?] again intervene.

Annexed is a statement of the expenses of the agency for the ensuing year.

I have the honor to be,

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

A.J. Bolon,

Special Indian agent, middle district,
Wash. Terr.

Olympia Wash. Territory Sept. 30, 1854.

(Stoquille - only name time noted perhaps intended
for stockwhitley of one of the Deschutes bands
"ashtn. Duptey. Colville. Roll No. 20 the old men told me he went
to that Region a time during
Portland, O.T., Feb. 11, 1856 war

Governor Stevens: Sir I arrived here last night. I left all things
quiet in the upper country. The Oregon volunteers are ~~xxxxxx~~ awaiting
for the new companies to arrive before taking the field, supplies are
very scarce, even with them.

The Nesperces are all friendly and have faithfully carried out their
promises to you in reference to the hostile Indians.

I have gained the information that you desire in reference to the
camp of the Hostile Indians and am happy to lay it before you.
Camaican [sic] has his camp at the Priest Rapids together with the
Walla Wallas and a part of the Kittasias and Deshutes tribes amounting
to some five hundred warriors. The Cayuses and a part of the ~~last~~ (?)
whom under Stoquille are encamped on a branch of the Peloose river
coming in on the Snake side about fifteen miles from its mouth. Some
two hundred strong. ~~Palouse~~ The pelouses are encamped on the
Peloose river at their old encampment. The Chummissums are encamped on
the Columbia opposite the mouth of Snake river. The Klickitis is
there a portion of the Spokanes will be on the next fight and the
Thompson River Indians are said to be joined with Camaican. I think
in the next fight they may be able to ...some ... hundred weapons in
all. Join that I think will.

I am going to stop here and assist in ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ raising the force
that you ... on the river. I will have a talk with Ma^Tavish in
regards to transportation on the upper river and I will let you know what
he .. is by the first of ... Fond ? and McCassing are coming ..
effort to you for more ... there is nothing that they can do...please
say to me what you want done as soon as you can get word to me.
This comprise ?? on supplies ? from me I suppose and can do nothing
but suggest I am going to ... the compound ? if they can be had in

Chummissums -
whose village was at
confluence of Yakima with Columbia

this country ... of anything but a desire to see a Washington force in the field. You want several fr ight agents on the river to see that the supplies go through with dispense. They will have to be put through in a boat as the Oregon volunteers will be in the field soon and ... the enemy ahead of as I will remain here until I here from you ~~xxxxxxx~~ unless the force should be organized sooner.

Higgins and ... have not succeeded so far in ... complaint, so far but they probably will be able to get men tax by filling them up from Oregon. It will be difficult to get horses to mount men. I will let you know soon what can be done.

I send you a list of the money that I must have to you an trust my ... in the Indian country as I know need as... of with...
... to go on. I have not given bonds..I ...requested Capt. Cain to get my bond... and for follow.

Yours

B. F. Shaw

(Writing a very bad scrawl. "ould take hours to piece out, word by word and some words are not readable because of scrawl.)

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Harney Depot

Colville Valley, W.T. July 15, 1859

Sir:

I have the honor to report for your information that under instructions from Department Head Quarters I occupied this country with a battalion of U.S. Troops the 20th ultimo.

On my march from Snake river to this depot many Palouse Indians, all the Spokanes and Pend d'Oriettes and some Coeur d'Alenes called on me at various points and expressed the earnest friendship for the white man.

Since my arrival here I have been visited by many other Indians and now I proceed to give you a hasty sketch of these different tribes.

PALOUSE INDIANS- I have seen but one band of this ~~band~~ tribe. This band resides on Snake river near the mouth of Palouse. They have been unusually successful this season in collecting roots and berries and in catching salmon. They will get along very comfortably during the winter months. I have not yet been able to ascertain how many warriors this tribe can bring into the field but they were so thoroughly subdued last year that I anticipate no serious trouble with them in future.

SPOKANE INDIANS- The country occupied by this tribe embraces the land watered by the Spokane river and its tributaries from the Coeur d'Alene Mountains to the Columbia river. The tribe can muster 150 warriors. They live on game, fish roots and berries. A number of Indians belonging to this tribe cultivate the soil and have a few cattle. With assistance from the Department they could be easily induced to raise all the game and vegetables required for their subsistence. They are very desirous of having missionaries sent among them to teach their children to read and write and also how to work.

I trust they will be encouraged by the Department to better their condition for they are well behaved and well affected towards the whites as any Indians I have ever seen.

COLVILLE INDIANS- This tribe occupies the country watered by Mill Creek on the east side of Columbia river and by the Colville River, coming in from the west. They can muster about 115 warriors, have quite a number of farms under cultivation, are well clad, had an abundance of provisions, many comfortable huts and some cattle. Most of their horses were lost however during the past very severe winter. ~~They~~ The very ~~best~~ best salmon fishery on the coast is at Kettle Falls on the Columbia and belongs to these Indians. Previous to my arrival they were very insolent, insubordinate and had been committing many depredations on the settlers & miners but since then they have been ... fully friendly. As long as troops remain here no trouble need be apprehended. Farming implements and seed should also be purchased of these Indians as many are willing to labor.

LAKE INDIANS- This tribe resides on Columbia river about the parallel of 49 degrees. They number some 58 warriors, have always been well disposed and have but a single bad Indian in the tribe. When the boundary between the United States and British Columbia shall be ascertained I think these Indians will be found to be north of that line. They however come to Colville during the fishing season and claim to be an offshoot of the Colvilles with whom they have a constant intercourse.

Sans Poils- This tribe resides during the summer at the mouth of the Spokane river where they have a fishery and during the winter the whole tribe collects at the mouth of San Poil creek on the Columbia river. They can bring more than 100 warriors into the field and have invariably claimed to be very friendly toward the whites.

Okinakans Indians- This tribe is divided into two bands, one band

resides on Columbia river. The other near the forks of the Okinakane river. The two bands can bring nearly 200 warriors into the field. I have had very little intercourse with ~~them~~ these Indians and can not therefore give you much information concerning them. They are however very friendly, although they were very hostile last year.

Upper & Lower Pend d'Oreilles--I know nothing of the ~~upper~~ Upper Pend d'Oreilles but the Lake Pend d'Oreilles are well affected, industrious and comfortable. They raise wheat and potatoes and are generally improving. The Pend d'Oreilles are the most numerous tribe near the depot but they have always been friendly, sober and industrious.

Kootinai--Thus far I have had no intercourse with this tribe. For conclusion I will remark that ~~if~~ if I can ~~sex~~ succeed in keeping intoxicating liquors and evil disposed whites from being introduced among ~~them~~ these Indians, there will be no difficulty in keeping them well affected and improving their condition. You can rest assured of one thing that I will do everything in my power to elevate them in the scale of civilization and I will most certainly do all I can to prevent the introduction of intoxicating liquors into any portion of the country occupied by these different tribes.

Mr. George Monteur has been doing duty with me as interpreter since the 1st of June last. I consider him as being competent, reliable and faithful. He has a very great influence over the Spokanes. George Monteur was appointed interpreter by Supt. Nesmith and directed to ~~report~~ report to me. I have expended from my private funds some twenty dollars for pipes, tobacco and matches as presents to Indians. Can I not be furnished with a few blankets, some tobacco, pipes and matches to be given from time to time to the chiefs and headmen of the various tribes who may visit me. I am etc. Pinkney Lugenbeel, bvt. maj. Capt. 9th infy. comd depot. acting Indian agent. to E.R. Geary esq. supt. of Ind. Affairs, ~~Rex~~ Portland, Ore.

Wash'tn Suptcy . Colville. Roll 20.

Vancouver, Feb. 7, 1855

Isaac I. Stevens. Governor of W.T. and Super. Intendent of Ind. Aff.[sic]

Sir:

In making up your party for the Black foot council if you want any men when you arrive at Vancouver you can get quite a number of good men at this place whoses names I will give you.

John McCammon, Thomas Raynolds, Sterin (?) Hull, H.C. Morse, A.C. Short, Wm. Henderson, John M. Bolon, Wm. Simpson, James Poour(?) besides many others that I could name.

Sir there is some of those men that I went this summer if the plans are carried in to execution that ~~that~~ was talked of between you and myself when I was at Olympia . The men that Mr. Doty had with him I would not like to risk more than one or two of them for I don't no them and I want men that I no and can depend upon.

Yours truly, A.J. Bolon, Sub agent Central District Washington Territory.

WashtOn Suptcy. Colville. Roll 20.

Vancouver, Feb. 7, 1855

Superintendent Ind. Aff.

Sir:

I have been waiting the arrival of Mr. Doty and your orders since the first of January last to proceed to the Indian country in the discharge of my official duty all though the fund in my hands are small yet my duty must be performed. The amount now in my hands is but 86. 8 1/2-eighty six dollars eight and one half cents which is entirely insufficient to defray the expence of the quarter

I expected to receive some money by Mr. Doty but Mr. [sic] informed by Mr. Doty that you had not sent any money buy him to me.

I am sir very respectfully obedient

A. J. Bolon

Sub Agent

Central District, Washington Territory.

Washton. Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Vancouver, Feb. 15, 1855

Govinir [sic] Stevens

Sir:

I take this opportunity to inform you that having received orders from you relative to those anamils which I have you sea? the past year in the Indian servis that I gave them in charge of Mr. Manes the quarter master's herdsman at Vancouver, the number of 7 horses and 4 mules.

The pack saddles and the riding saddles pack cours (?) and blankets, Mr. Doty takes with him

I remain your most obidient

A.J. Bolon

Sub agent Central District Washington Territory.