

United States Indian Service,

Malheur Agency,

February 12th, 1881.

Rev. James. F. Wilbur
U.S. Indian Agent
Yakama Agency. Wash. D.C.
Sir.

To Special U.S. Indian Agent
directed to make a report on the Malheur
Agency, and awaiting further orders, I have
been advised from Washington of the discon-
tinuance of the said Agency, and the proposed
transfer of such of its movable property as may
be selected by yourself, with a view to its
removal to the Yakama Agency at the earliest
date at which the condition of the roads
may render the transfer possible.

Mr. Riechelt, Farmer in Charge has
been instructed to consult with me generally,
and to put himself in communication with
yourself, which he informs me he has done
during my recent delay at Malheur City.

a delay enforced by storms and impracticable travel. Mr Rinehart has forwarded to you a copy of his Property Return for H^d Qr. 1880, about the same I assume as that which I forwarded with my report in November last, and which probably you saw in Washington.

Mr Rinehart has also been instructed, "in order to avoid delay," to prepare a list of all movable property at this Agency, "in duplicate, as soon and as complete as possible," which will be effected early next week.

In order that the wishes of the Department may be carried out, as quickly as possible, permit me to suggest that I visit Yakama with two copies of a return of all the movable property at this Agency for your consideration. I offer this in order that with my knowledge of the property of every kind, you may be the better able to select such as you may desire and need without demanding from you the

United States Indian Service,

..... Agency,

....., 188 .

Handwriting practice lines consisting of multiple sets of three horizontal blue lines (top, middle, and bottom lines) for letter formation.

Smith 3

great fatigue of a probable journey to Malheur
I shall be prepared to inform
you reliably of the condition of the property
and supplies, good, repairable and worthless,
and also possibly to aid your judgment by
suggestions of what may be and what might
not be worth transportation.

If you will consider this propo-
sition and the work that may be done by
this method of preparation in advance, I
think you will concur with me, that a saving
at least of six weeks to two months can be
effected in the time of finally winding up the
affairs of the Malheur Agency.

I regard the proposition as
desirable for another important reason. The
Department directs Mr. Richeart to furnish
at the earliest date practicable, a list of
such Government property as may still
remain at this Agency, after you have
taken such as you wish, when instruc-
tions will be furnished by the Department
how to dispose of it.

United States Indian Service,

Agency,

, 188 .

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This cannot be done until you have made your selection, but by your consideration of the list which I propose to submit to you, Mr Rinehart will be enabled to make a distinct and intelligent separation of the property, and to prepare a correct return of that not taken by you much earlier than he would otherwise be able to do. He could thus forward it to the Department, and promptly receive its instructions as to a final disposition, which of course will either be by private sale or auction after due public notice. This final process, you will understand consumes time which may be profitably occupied in advance.

I have written this date to the Department, suggesting my visit to Yakama on this business, and if it be entirely agreeable to yourself, I would suggest that a few lines from you to the Commissioner endorsing such action would certainly result in approval.

United States Indian Service,

Agency,

, 188 .

Smith 5

In brief, I believe that the proposition embraces an economy of time and money. It can scarcely be hoped that the roads can be favorably travelled before the middle of June and the final disposition of the property in all forms can not be effected for two months afterwards, ~~unless the~~ preparatory work is done in advance, as by this plan it can be.

You will confer a favor by answering this at your early convenience intimating if you please the best mode of reaching the Yakama Agency and the least expensive to the Government.

I have heard such "golden" opinions expressed of you by all sorts of people since I have had the honor to be an officer of the Department, that I most heartily desire to make your acquaintance and I hope secure your friendship. At the same time, I wish to observe the workings of your system as applied to the advancement of the Indian, so admirably, at the Yakama

United States Indian Service,

Agency,

, 188 .

Smith 6

Agency.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedient Servant
Arden R. Smith
Special Indian Agent

United States Indian Service,

Agency,

188 .

Feb 12/81
Special Apph
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