

"ilbur to Hon H. Price, commissioner, May 1, 1882

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feet deep, over four miles long and capable of carrying sufficient water  
to irrigate many thousands of acres of land that only needed this to become  
the most valuable on the reserve.

"It is so constructed that it not only affords an abundance of  
water to irrigate all the land the Piutes will be likely to cultivate  
but many thousands of acres seeded besides.

Cutting the ditch, clearing 50 acres, breaking 80 more, seeded  
..When it is remembered that the cost of clearing and breaking the ground  
at its very lowest estimate is seven dollars and fifty cents, cost  
of regular employes but one hundred and ninety five dollars..

## Wapato project

The first ditch to supply water to land around wapato on west and north, too from Yakima river 20 miles distant shortly below gap and was known as the Indian ditch. The first \$17,000 spent on its construction obtained by the Indians from their sale of their fishery at Wenatchee Winatchapam, running parallel to Indian ditch are laterals A B and C of ditch to be constructed by the govt and known as the Wapato Project

Piutes-Bannocks

Unfiled -Agency Yakima

Department of the Interior, Washington, Aug 31, 1881 (Office of  
Indian Affairs

Letter 15211 /81

J.H. Wilbur, Indian agent, Yakima Agency, Wash Territory:

Sir: I am in receipt of your letter dated the 16th inst, referring  
to your former one of June 30 last and to office reply thereto  
dated the 2nd inst and in view of the facts set forth in your  
last letter, authority is granted to substitute combined mower  
and reaper for certain other articles which you were, under date  
of November 30th, 1880, authorized to purchase for the Piute and  
(p.2 Wilbur) Bannock Indians. Payment to be made from funds  
now to your credit.

Very respectfully

H. Price , commissioner.

(Pugh)

## Monthly Report

Yakima, May 2, 1881 (Fort Simcoe)

Piutes-Land.  
Cattle

Hon H. Price

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report of operations at this agency for the month of April.

...I also called a council of the Yakimas and made arrangements for the cession of a portion of the Reservation for use of the Piute, but as the season was too far advanced to break and fence ground this spring for a crop, I selected for the Piutes this spring a piece of ground already fenced. The Piutes cheerfully took hold, and we soon had from 25 to 30 acres planted to potatoes, peas, corn etc. which they were given to understand belonged to them, besides ~~several~~ which several had put in small gardens on their own account

802

As soon as practicable after the early crops were in the fences placed in good condition and it was possible to turn to something else, I put a large force of men gathering up all the I D cattle for the purpose of counting them.

The loss during the winter I was satisfied had been great and I also learned that the Indians believing the herd "all belonged to the Indians" had been killing quite extensively

Accordingly several parties were organized and the whole range swept and the cattle gathered at the agency where arrangements had been made to count them. They were to pass through three narrow passages at each of which was stationed two men thoroughly familiar with the brand and in this way I am satisfied a correct count was

Piutes

Miscellaneous Letter Records Book

Expenditures

Dec. 1879-Feb. 1881

Washington P

W. 702

Authority 564 '80

Department of the Interior

Office of Indian Affairs, Washington, April 19, 1880

J.H. Wilbur, Indian Agent, Yakama Agency, Wash Terry.

Sir:

Referring to so much of your letter dated the 20th ultimo, as relates to supplying the Piute and Bannock Indians located at your agency with implements, wood, subsistence, etc., you are informed that the Hon. Secretary of the Interior has granted authority for you to expend a sum not to exceed \$3,000 in the purchase, in open market, of such supplies, implements, books, clothing etc. as will, in your judgment, be of the greatest advantage to them.

Funds for the purpose will be placed to your credit at once.

Very respectfully

R.E. Trowbridge

Commissioner

Pugh.

long perpetuated

Contrary to ~~stories that have been perpetuated since old days,~~  
 Bancroft, <sup>by</sup> ~~the~~ actual record, ~~appears to have~~ made strong efforts to  
 provide annuities. He complained to C.H. Hale, superintendent of  
 Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T. on Nov 1, 1862, "~~There are numbers~~  
~~of our distant bands not yet in, but will be in today.~~" The numbers now  
 in far ~~exceeds~~ exceeds that of the previous distribution, so that the  
 last invoices of goods would not afford one blanket to a family."

He also complained of the lack of seed to sow seventy acres of  
 plowed land to wheat

The superintendent of farming complained that ~~and~~ the Indians were  
 destitute ~~and that only some small plows and one set of harness had been~~  
~~distributed.~~

"All the farming implements that have been distributed ~~among the~~  
~~Indians~~ for the past five years and a half even at exchange rate  
 would not amount to as much as the salary of one employee for  
 one year. ~~Heretofore~~ men employed to superintend the farming after  
 seeing the state of things have been ashamed to look an ~~Ind~~ Indian  
 in the face and mention farming, for it would bring up questions  
 that he could not easily answer."

And he too (F.C. Moore) informed the superintendent that he had  
 gone without pay for over two years, and that vouchers were worth only  
 thirty cents on the dollar.

Bancroft ~~also~~ submitted evidence to <sup>show</sup> ~~show~~ that ~~annuity~~ goods were  
 damaged and worthless for distribution, or had not been ~~not~~ received.  
 One shipment of 37 ~~for~~ pair pants, 22 coats and other goods were  
 water soaked and completely rotten.

Eight pair of blue blankets, 17 three point ~~good~~ red blankets  
 were rat eaten and worthless for distribution and several bales and  
 boxes were never received.

Bancroft's estimates for the quarter ending December 31st, 1862,

plump, strong and healthy and no one has complained of insufficient food. They have not had houses--1st because + p 184 had no certain knowledge that they were to remain here till it was too late to build 2nd that I had no lumber and 3rd because they refused to live in houses when offered them, preferring their old custom of living in tents--There is probably a grain of truth in ~~0000~~ Mr. Chapman's statement of their want of clothing; and yet it is more than probably that they would be fairly supplied were it not for their ~~inveterate~~ inveterate habit which + have been unable wholly to suppress of gambling.

All have been treated alike, yet there is no complaint from Oitz and his band, either, on account of food, clothing or shelter.

But it is in his relations of conversations with myself that Mr. Chapman exhibits the full power of his fancy. When he says that "the agent to some extent admits" that horses have been stolen from the Piutes by the Yakimas and sold to the whites, he speaks in reference to something that + never heard before. In no single instance has complaint been made to me by Piutes, of depredations of Yakamas, that has not been immediately investigated and justice done to the offenders. Several cases have occurred p 185

of complaints from Piutes that their horses were missing which horses were afterwards found with brands belonging to Yakamas, but they were evidently strays and were cheerfully given up when the owners were found. ~~One~~ but one or perhaps two occasions have Piutes complained that their horses had been stolen by Yakamas. While it may be that a few of the wilder and more worthless of the Yakamas regard the Piutes with aversion, it is not true as regards the greater and more reputable portion of the nation. As an illustration of their feelings + may mention that unknown to myself or any of my employees, horses, cattle, provisions, clothing etc. were distributed among the Piutes as Christmas presents by the Yakamas, both the last Christmas and the one

preceding amounting to the value of several hundreds of dollars on each occasion. When I informed the council of the Yakamas, that the Department desired to locate the Piutes permanently here, they cheerfully agreed to cede them some of the best land on the Reservation, and expressed their readiness to contribute labor etc. to settle them in their new homes.

Mr. Chapman's/ further reference to conversations p 186 with me is equally erroneous. It may be possible for I cannot undertake to remember everything that was said in a conversation lasting an entire evening, it may be that I said that if Leggins' story was true it was a wrong and outrage on the part of the military authorities to bring him here. I still think so. I may also have said that at first I did not favor their location here--that personally I should be glad to be relieved of the responsibility of their charge and I may have said that their subsistence had cost , in flour and beef belonging to the Yakamas, not much less than \$20,000, and I did say that since Sarah Winnemucca had excited their hopes of a return to their old country, their feeling was such that should Mr. Chapman tell them he had come to escort them back , it would require a military force to keep them. All these I am ready to repeat, except the last. That has been tried in direct violation of Mr. Chapman's positive promise and found erroneous.

The construction which Mr. Chapman evidently seeks to put on my conversation with him is entirely false.

When Mr. Chapman exhibited his instructions p 187 to me I did not doubt but he came with authority from the Hon Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and supposed my own advices had miscarried or been delayed. While fully aware of the effect his communication would have on the Piutes, I had no means of preventing his making known the object of his mission, unless I should arrest and confine him. I might remove him from the reservation, but from its borders he could send word to the Indians. I therefore determined to appeal to his honor. I explained to

him my position--told him the desires of the Piutes excited by Sarah Winnemucca and the trouble I had with her people at that time, and asked him to defer communicating to them the object of his visit till I could hear from the Department. In the meantime I assured him I would afford him every facility in my power of learning the condition etc. of the Piutes. He declared that he fully understood and appreciated the difficulties of my position, and assured me he would not inform the Piutes of his object, till I could receive a reply to my dispatch. How his promise was kept, the Department has been informed p 188

It is a matter for wonder to me that the Military authorities who fought these people all summer, took them prisoners and escorted them to this Reservation, should have ~~xxx~~ so little knowledge of who were actually engaged in hostilities. Inclosed with copy of the report of Mr. Chapman is a list of "good Indians;" indorsed by the military authorities, which contains the name of some of the most bloodthirsty creatures that were engaged in massacre --Leggins, only claims eighteen lodges of his people as peaceable, and says Gen. Howard gave him permission for only six to return to Maheur, yet the list has 40 names, some of which I know to have been among the most treacherous and cruel of the hostiles. Paddy Caps mentioned as one of the "good Indians" was the ~~100~~ leader of the band who committed the greatest atrocities, and his name is so execrated throughout all Grant and Baker counties, that an army could hardly protect him from the vengeance of the people.

Should it be determined to permit the return of these Indians, as recommended by the military authorities, I shall most cheerfully acquiesce and p 189

render every assistance in my power to carry out the arrangement, but till the matter is finally decided, my own course is fully determined upon. As soon as the weather renders the measure practicable, I shall take my force of mechanics and laborers to the location selected

for the Piutes , where I already have a part of the necessary lumber-- shall build a house for the farmer in charge of the Piutes, a store house or the issue of subsistence, a school house--shall move all the Piutes there shall clear a large body of land, break and fence it, and seed it to corn, potatoes, wheat etc. for heir subsistence. I have also determined that such labor in clearing, fencing and planting grounds solely for their own benefit as the Piutes are capable of doing, they must do. I neither believe it good policy or for the best interest of the Piutes or the Department that they should be kept in idleness, receiving their weekly rations and rendering no return and it is my intention that they shall as soon as practicable, perform the greater part of the labor, necessary to supply their own subsistence.

p 190

And if while the work above indicated is in progress the Department should determine to permit the Piutes to return to their old country, there are enough Yakamas who would be glad to render a fair return in labor for the improvements intended for the Piutes while a large proportion of the latter would elect to remain here.

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.

(9 pages in letter book)

June 14, 1894-- J.K. Rankin, who had charge of the allotment of the reservation finished and left for Wash .

The number allotted was 1,817, ~~which was not included~~

Almost 100 homesteads have been taken in Klickitat by Indians and 40 patents issued. Permitted to homestead 80 acres for farming or 160 acres for grazing, mother at head of the family can enter X 80 or 160 acres of land for each of her minor children.

1892--

U.S. geological Survey party, under Professor Russell .

Chief Engineer Storrow thinks no artesian wells at Fort Simcoe (Yakima Agency, " but excellent basin in the canyon back of us where storage can be provided for large source.

Special Allotting Agent John K. Rankin reached the fort , March 3, 1892.

"He expects to allot about 112,000 acres, the new law giving 80 acres to each man, woman and child which is about one-seventh of the reservation or one-half the arable lands."

000000000000 April 2, 1885

March

(The same month the first session of the reservation court met at Stwireville at a new building, three judges elected in Nov. sworn. tried 32 cases..previous to them, appointed.

Another matter outside the usual routine was convening of a general council of Indians on 28th for the purpose of considering the question of granting the right of a company of white men inc to construct an ~~100~~ irrigation ditch out of Satus creek, south easterly 10 miles to S.E. boundry of reservation thence down valley to Tak river 20miles below the reservation... refused.

Feb. 18

1892-- mee in called by Paul Schulze of the NP and citizens..

mailed to com Ind affairs separate package a plan of dam now in course of construction across the Yakima River.."- think ~~of the dam~~ the dam if built on the plan submitted and described in letter of chief engineer will seriously interfere with the rights of the Indians guaranteed by treaty of 1855 in regard to fishing.

"which fish they obtain for food...also need water for irrigation

"ilbur to Hon H. Price, commissioner, May 1, 1882

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