

The Dalles Oregon
May 12th 1888.

Captain Thomas Priestley }
Agent Sineas Reservation }
Yakima Co. Wash. Ter. }

Dear Sir,

Judge

Thomas Lang has just shown me
your letter of May 7th and accompanying
papers. It appears from the letter of
the Commr. of Indian Affairs April 18th to
the Secretary of the Interior, that he
intended that the Special Assistant
Agent at the Dalles should look after
the rights of the Warm Springs Tribe
also, and as there are other Indians
formerly belonging to the Yakima and
Warm Springs Tribes, who are not now
on these reservations, but who are frequently
appealing to us for assistance, we
have thought it better to define

more fully in "Descriptive Statement" under the ~~exhaustive~~ heading "For what tribes employed", the extent of Col. Lang's authority, and also for the further purpose of meeting the contingency of his authority being questioned by those who may have controversies with the Indians, and who would doubtless be ready to take every technical advantage to evade the law. As you will observe we have written in pencil in this column of "Descriptive Statement," more fully as to the Indians we shall look after and if you approve this, please erase and write with ink, ^{or bill or other blanks} and forward.

I am glad this appointment of Judge Lang is made, for I have anticipated that we need

have trouble here, and it has
already commenced. I went to
Astington Or. on the 10th and on
the morning of the 11th was telegraphed
to come back on account of serious
trouble at the Tum-water pike, and
on my arrival found that a fight
occurred between ~~the~~ some of the Indians
and Taylor's men. The Indians claim
that they were brutally and cruelly assaulted
and had employed a lawyer and
commenced a criminal prosecution
before my arrival. They claim that one
Indian was badly mutilated and beaten
with a rock and another had three
holes shot through his clothes by one
of Taylor's men. The trial is to be had
on Monday the 14th, at which I will be
present and if possible will have all
the facts fully brought out. The Indians

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claim that Taylor will not allow them to go on a certain part of the fishery which they say is the main fishery. Taylor has denied this, but it seems Locally claim that they have no right to fish anywhere till 1st of June. Our attorneys White & Allen claimed to me that, when the decree was sustained in connection with the complaint that it did not limit the time of the Indians right to fish, and that such right was during the fishing season. But the wording of the decree is such that the other side is plausible, at least, in making this claim, and I would be glad that they would boldly and unequivocally deny the right so that I could thereupon get the matter again before the Court.

1886

Taylor requests that you give passes
 to your Indians visiting the piskeny,
 or rather that you require them
 to obtain passes from you before
 coming. I think you had better do
 so, as it will serve as a protection
 to them. But I anticipate that his
 chief reason for the request is to dis-
 criminate against those who do not
 have passes and endeavor to exclude
 from the piskeny all Indians who are
 not now residents of the Fort Union
 reservation. Please advise them to
 avoid trouble when they come and
 not to turn their stock into Taylor's
 pasture. As long as I remain here
 I will endeavor to see that the
 Indians get their rights or for
 as can be had for them under the
 decree which embarrases the whole matter.

Yours very truly and faithfully
 Geo. W. Gordon
 Spt. Agent

Jan London 15
Brillat

1881

Wm. H. Miller