

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

July 28, '79

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that I have carefully inquired of the Piute and Banock Indians here at this agency who are complained of by Sarah E. Williams and charged with having stolen her horses thrown down her fences and caused her garden and field of grain to be destroyed. I cannot obtain any information from said Indians in reference to said defendant's action, said to be committed by them p 268

It seems to me the charges made for horses and bolts, said to have been taken, to be extremely high, though I know nothing about the stock personally. I am unable to give you any assistance in settling said claim and return said papers.

I am etc.

July 31st, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to report everything orderly with the Indians of this agency. Our schools are having vacation. The sawmills are not running by reason of the pressure of haying and harvesting. The Indians and employees of the agency are all needed for the above work. An addition has been made to the grist mill. The new stones and smutters adjusted and the mill is in excellent order.

I am sir, etc.

Office Yakima Indian Agency, Ft. Simcoe, W.T. Aug 21, 1879

B.E. Snipes, Esq.

Sir:

"hen I was at the Dalles you spoke of paying
y our ranch bill. Please pay it in to the bank at the Dalles
and then I can draw as I need to use it.. Last year, you remember,
you paid acct. five hundred dollars. You may make a deposit
of what is due the department up to June, 1879

Yours truly

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

J.W. Brock

Dear brother:

Your letter of the 13th is rec'd. If the way opens for you to leave Walla Walla, I will give you a situation here at a salary of \$1,000 per annum as supt. of teaching. It is superintendent of teaching in everything and at all times. Taking charge of the boys and girls in school and the boys in working out of school hours and seeing to them in going to bed, getting up in season for breakfast, looking out for their washing and changing their clothes and doing all that is necessary in a school when we begin with them wild and p 288 educate them to read write and work.

The boarding house is to be provided for. if your wife could manage the work and children of that department, it would please me to have the supervision of the teaching in school and in the boarding under the same management of one family. The children are not only boarded but the clothing for them is made by the woman assisted by the girls of the school. You will see at a glance it is work in both departments in doors and out. If the whole work of cooking and making the clothes with the help of an Indian woman who has been in the boarding department the past year was done I should pay her six hundred dollars. There would be the expense for house, wood stoves, table chairs and beadsteads. No expense for doctor. If you can fill the bill I will give you the p 289 situation and you may notify me immediately and I will provide transportation from Columbus. You will have to give me information in season so the teams could meet you there without delay or over your account.

I expect to put in a competent female teacher in the school.

Yours etc.

General O.O. Howard:

Sir:

Your official letter of Aug. 25th is rec'd
I have the honor to inform you that I counted 26 men and 13 women
and children since I communicated two months since...(faded...
in the war one year ago and ...then here so near the scene of
trouble would be to introduce...element of discord which, without
...would make unending trouble...own people are opposed to their
coming..

Yours truly etc.

294

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that the mail of yesterday
brought a letter from Brigadier General Howard informing me
the orders from the War Department was to turn over the prisoners
now held at Vancouver to me at this agency on the 25th of this
month....had been given me by General Howard that it was in
contemplation to do so and I remonstrated then against its being
done. I have replied to him this morning that I should not receive
them. Their own people here, are opposed to them p 295
being brought here and the Indians of this treaty are opposed and
to bring them here, so near the scene of their fighting last
summer would be to introduce an element of trouble that would be
unending among the whites of this vicinity and the Indians of the
agency. I took the milder part of the prisoners, last winter,
without murmuring o@o10 but the prisoners now held at Vancouver
whose hands are red with blood o0 and who had to be guarded by
the military and have been escaping notwithstanding such guard, to
bring them here I repeat would be to make this agency unending
trouble. I trust with your prudence and wisdom you will see this
command is committed. I am etc.

P.S. P0000 Send them far away. J.H. Wilbur.

Sept. 14, 79

Hon. E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that notwithstanding the Piute Indians raised more than nine hundred bushels of wheat, it will be necessary for the Department for school, seed and the rations to the Piutes above what they have raised, for us to purchase at least one thousand bushels. The wheat may be obtained here of the Indians, costing sixty two and one-half cents per bushel. Please instruct me to purchase said amount at said price.

Yours very truly, etc.

Sept. 5, 1879

General O.O. Howard

297

Sir:

I have written the commissioner of Indian affairs objecting to the turning over of the prisoners now confined at your place. I voiced the feelings of the Indians of this treaty in relation to these, now here, who are being fed with beef and flour provided by this agency. The Indians of this agency would not be satisfied to have the prisoners brought here. To bring them here is giving a premium for their fighting last summer. Please keep them until I hear from the Department. I am etc.

Sept. 5th 1879 298

E.A. Hayt

Commissioner:

General Howard informs me he has an order from the War Department to turn over the prisoners now held by him at Ft. Vancouver to this agency. I object in toto. Have written you my objection. Advise me by telegram what is to be done.

(telegram)

James H. Wilbur. agent

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Piute, Bannock and Snake Indians who were brought here last Feb. as prisoners, poor as poverty and crime could make them, have been supplied, wholly with beef and at least half of their flour, from beef and wheat, the product and property of the Indians of this agency. To take the property of the loyal and industrious and give to the disloyal and lazy is not just. The Indians of this agency look for and confidently expect the Department pg 300

300

to appropriate money for their benefit equal to the value of the property thus furnished. I shall look (as their agent) for a favorable response to their claim. Hoping to hear soon from the Department in relation to this matter of justice.

I am sir, etc.

303

General O.O. Howard

Sept. 16, 79

Dear Sir:

I wrote you Sept. 5th objecting to the receiving of the prisoners held by you and requested you to retain them until I could hear from the Interior Department. I have received the following telegram. Washington, D.C. Sept. 9, 1879

Wilbur

Howard has only eleven Indians to turn over. That is so insignificant to cause objection. E.A. Hayt, commissioner.

B.E. Snipes, Esq.

Dear Sir:

Sept. 16th, 79

Some time since I wrote you requesting you to deposit the amount of your ranch bill with the bank at the Dalles and inform me of the deposit. Not hearing from you or the bank I dared not give any draft on such bank fearing the draft would not be honored for want of funds.

Please inform me is the draft made?

Yours truly etc.

Official Telegram

E.A. Hayt

Sept. 17, 1879

Commissioner Indian affairs Washington.

Chief Moses is to be tried as a criminal Oct. 6 in the circuit court. Will you appropriate means to defend him? I paid council \$100 dollars on the examination, on my own account.

The Perkins murderers will be tried at that time-6 in number--
Will the department help in their defense?

James H. Wilbur

Agent

Hon.E.A. Hoyt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to submit my report for the month of Sept. The grain crop of the agency has generally been thrashed and secured. The steam saw mill, planers and shingle machine has been running until about the close of the month -we are now through for the season. The work of making lumber, shingles and planing it is done by the Indians of the agency with but little instructions from the white employes. We never have about the mill and mill work more than two of our white employes. In all the work in and around the mill, the Indians are good workmen to do the work as they do it willingly and well. As the same number of white employes would do. Our grist mill is in excellent order, and now capable of doing the work of the agency. During the month our carpenter force have been building houses for the Indians of the agency.

The Piutes, Bannocks and Snake Indians have made marked improvements since they came to this agency. My study and constant effort is to keep the Indians at work. Whatever we may give them of material gifts, if we do not give them education in work and morals, all the gifts of the government only make them lazy and form a gambling fund.

I am sir, etc.

Yakima Ind. Ft. Simcoe.W.T. Oct 6, 79

Hon.E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge a statement of funds remitted to this agency for the 3rd and 4th quarters 1879

Amounting in all to \$7,750 dollars. Nothing for head chief, for support of schools, shops, mills, hospital and policemen. The Piutes are destitute and must have monies appropriated for their clothing and food. The winter is fast approaching and what is done must be done immediately or our roads will be blocked with snow. Please answer by telegram what is to be done. I am sir etc.

317

Oct. 8th, 1879(to Hayt)

I have the honor to inform you from my standpoint(illegible)

Our police force for the 40 men and themselves and family require 43,800 lbs of beef per annum worth 48 making \$1,752 dollars.

Four per annum 36,500 pounds worth 3 1-2 amounting to \$1,277.50; money to pay police \$2,430 dollars. For sugar, coffee, syrup, beans, rice, salt and soap \$1,832 dollars. Total for police per annum \$7,337.50. The 40 members of the police are cumbersome and expensive and are not worth as much as the ten reported approved and paid the 2d quarter. I recommend the last 30 approved to commence service August 1 be paid to Oct 1st and discontinued.

The piutes and Bannocks and Snake Indians who have been receiving rations from Feb. 10th and who are still poor and must have rations require ~~70,652~~ 37,592.lbs of beef per quarter or 150,368 lbs per annum worth at 4 cents \$6,014 dollars; flour per annum 125,120 lbs worth 3 1-2 cents \$4,378 making for said Indians for beef, flour per annum \$10,392.92 dollars making for the police and the above named Indians \$17,730.42 dollars. Then add to the above the

subsistence of from 80 to 100 school children, the beef and flour would amount to at least \$2100 making a grand total of p 319 \$19,830.42 dollars. I want to know where the beef and flour is coming from, or rather, where the money is to meet said expenses! I confess it looks hopeless to me if your hon. is prepared to make the needed appropriations promptly and keep us from debt in the future as in the past, I am content, if not I want the expenses reduced or a new agent appointed.

It is ^{true} ~~too~~ the Piutes, Bannocks and Snakes here raised 926 bushels of wheat; it takes as you will see 780 bushels per quarter--they raised some potatoes and corn, wheat, corn and potatoes raised will(I think) subsist them one third 320 of the year; to subsist them through the coming year will require \$6,932 dollars. It is to be remembered these Indians were taken from the war path and even brought here as prisoners, wild as the elk and no more accustomed to work; they have done quite ~~well~~ as well as we could have expected. A liberal appropriation must be made for their subsistence and clothing this coming season or they will suffer. \$6,932 dollars should be appropriated for their subsistence, and at least \$3,000 for their clothing. I understand supplies were taken last winter to the Malheur agency, both food and clothing-- 322 their supplies met them when they were on the way to this agency! What has become to these supplies? What are we to do about the emergency this winter. The winds of winter are beginning to blow and the road will soon be blocked with snow. I shall wait with deep solicitude for a response and to know the needed appropriation is made.

I am sir, etc.

Hon W.W. Upto
2nd Comptroller

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the recp't of your letter of Sept. 22d in reply to mine of Aug. 30th in which you say "The differences have been forwarded and ought to have been received before this time." The bill of differences has not come to hand, and I am unable to determine what is needed in the matter of the accounts under bond of Aug. 30, 1873 to close it finally. If your Hon. will send the differences, explaining fully what is required to close said bond and P 323 and settle my accounts up to the last papers you have examined, I will promptly give an explanation. I am anxious, exceedingly anxious to close the accounts finally.

I understand my accounts were not examined and settled beyond Dec. 31st when I was at Washington, but I did suppose then that all up to that date was fully and finally settled. I trust I shall have time to explain by letter or to come in person and explain before it goes out that James H. Wilbur is a defaulter!!

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

325

Hon E.A. Hayt
Commissioner

Sir:

I have the honor to request (as a favor) that you would let one of your efficient clerks look after my accts. as they pass from your office to the final settlement with the 2d comptroller and give me a full exhibit of what is needed in an explanation of their final settlement. I know this is asking

something outside the regular order of business but please ~~me~~ do
me this favor.

I am sir etc.

326

Hon W.W. Upton, comptroller

Sir:

Oct 17th 1879

Your Hon. Says "if the original certificate for the \$3.70 has
not been forwarded, to the secretary of the treasury, please
forward it immediately." Do you mean the receipt obtained of the
Secretary of the Treasury for the \$3.70 as being the discrepancy
in my accts. up to Dec. 31st, 1875. You have a copy of said recpt
in your office . If it is necessary the original be sent, I will
do it when informed. I am sir, etc.

Hon E.A. Hayt

Commissioner, Sir:

Oct. 21st 1879

I have the honor to reply to your official letter made in the margin (C.W. Oregon 274-79 dated Aug. 12, 1879 relating to a claim of Harvey Fields for \$805 for horses and cattle taken and destroyed by the hostile Bannocks and other Indians formerly at the Malheur agency.

In a council held this day with the Indians above named I find the horses were seen by them with hostile Bannocks that sheep and cattle were killed along the road.

The evidence by the Indians and the proof furnished by Fields satisfies me the horses, beef steers and sheep were so taken and the charge made for them is reasonable and should be paid.

I am sir etc.

Hon E.A. Hayt,

Commissioner

Oct. 23, 1879

Sir:

I have the honor to request the approval of Martha Olney as cook at the Boarding School at a salary of \$200 and Lewis S. Whitcomb, teach, at a salary of \$500. Also the list of irregular employees, the month of September. I am sir. etc.

336

Oct. 27, 1879

To an unknown man who I understand is building a house on the Canyon road on the reservation.

You will immediately desist and leave the reservation.

Mine truly

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

Yakima Indian (sic)

Ft. Sincos, W.T. Sept 30, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, sir:

I have the honor to submit a report in relation to the Indian police at this agency. The chief of the police, M.G. Royal left at the close of the quarter without making the needed report. During the quarter the Indians of the agency have been unusually industrious and orderly. Four persons (Indians) have been arrested for adultery, tried by the council of Indians and imprisoned four weeks--two men and two women.

In a letter written Oct. 8th I stated that 40 policemen were cumbersome, expensive and not worth as much as the ten reported approved, and paid the 2d quarter and recommended the last 30 approved to commence August 1st paid to Oct 1st and dismissed. In a letter more p 339

recently I wrote requesting a change in the captain of the police that Eneas be dismissed and John Lynley appointed in his place. In the case of Moses and indeed others, I have found Eneas was unreliable.

I have appointed J.H. Fairchild chief of the police and from the close of the 3d quarter he will record and report the doings of the police.

Hoping this report under the circumstances will pass with your favor, I am sir,

Your obedient servant etc. James H. Wilbur, U.S.
Indian agent.

Hon E.A. Hayt

Commissioner

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the recpt of invoices of goods purchased by your agents at San Francisco, Cal. and other places and shipped to us. I find in looking over the nvoices a lack of some things needed which I respectfully ask permission to purchase in open market. The things required for the s rvices are as follows:

50 prs blankets at 4.75 per pair \$237.50

6 doz pair shoes \$15 per doz \$90

6 doz hats at 7 per dozen \$42

Platform scales, small)do not know the price.)

20 lbs powder and 40 lbs shot p 242

15 lbs hanes thread 2 doz awl hafts

20 d00 lbs copper rivets 6 doz awl blades

1 doz papers hanes needles 4 doz axes

6 doz axe handles 4 doz boxes concentrates?

six doz table spoons, large.

4 doz knives and forks 6 doz tin plates

6 sets tin pans. 1 larger box stove and drum.

The above articles when the prices is not carried out with

all others will be purchased in open market at the lowest market price and paid out of miscellaneous receipts.

I am etc.

346 Snebly

To Mr. Snebly esq.

Sheriff of Yakima county

Nov. 11th, 1879

Dear Sir:

A company of Indians of six, related to Hite, the prisoner condemned to be hung now in your custody, are here representing that a proposition has been made to release Hite if they would give a certain number of horses! I said to them I would write to you and that if that was the fact that horses were to be taken in exchange of said man I would know right from you. Please answer by the bearer. Yours truly etc.

347 Wiley

Mr. Wiley Esq.

Nov. 17, 1879

I am informed that you with other white settlers are cutting and hauling away timber from the reservation. I wish to inform you that I am instructed to prosecute any and all persons who may be trespassing upon the agency. I do not want to make you trouble and cost, but shall enforce the law against any and all persons who are found trespassing. Hoping the report is not true and believing that if it is true you will cease, I am,
etc.

349

G.W. Cary, esq. Nov. 21st, 1879

Dear Sir:

You are hereby authorized to sell to Indians known to you to be friendly small quantities of ammunition for hunting purposes, no one man more than five dollars at a time and at suitable intervals between. Yours truly

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Nov. 24, 1879

Sir: I have the honor to communicate to you that Oitz the head man of the Piutes, Bannocks and Snakes who were upon the war path in the summer of 1878 is here for the purpose of taking some 29 of his people from here to the Warm Springs agency in Oregon. Having reported for the people when they were turned over to me last Feb. and knowing the ...it would produce with those left here, the hostile feeling existing toward the Indians who have been on the war path on the opposite side of the Columbia and the strong probability of their being caught in a snow storm on their way p 351 and lost, but not heart, their having no protection I decided that Oitz stay here with his wives and children until they could return (if that was your order) with a degree of comfort and safety. I consider it very injudicious to send him about the country alone. He is content to stay now with his people and I shall keep him unless I am differently ordered. I am etc.