

1 Enc.

Calif.

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, March 12th, 1880.

Refer in reply to the following "L"
Washington

76-388-
1880.

James H. Kilbuck.

U. S. Indian Agent.

Fort Simcoe, Yakama Co.

Washington Territory.

Sir:

I enclose, herewith, for your perusal, a copy of a letter, dated the 17th ultimo, addressed by one George Hunter, to the Honorable the Secretary of the Interior, and by him referred to this Office.

Said letter professes to be written in the interests of the "Palouse" Indians, (numbering about 200).

living at the junction of the Snake and Palouse rivers; and states that he has acted as their adviser for the past five years, and has kept them from joining Joseph's band of Nez Perces, and the Umatillas in their raids; that they do not want to go on any reservation, have never sold any lands or drawn any annuities, but now wish to take homesteads, and become civilized, but that they are poor, and do not know how to proceed, and suggests that the Government should provide them with homesteads, and place them thereon free of expense.

Referring to the Treaty with the Yakama Nation of Indians, June 9. 1855. (12 Statutes 951) it appears that these same Indians were parties thereto, but beyond the statistics showing that they are included in the Yakama Agency, I find no special mention made of them in your Annual Reports for some years past.

You will therefore furnish this Office with all necessary information as to the condition of the Palouse Indians, how long, and for what reasons, they have been away from the

reservation, and your views generally upon the subject matter of said letter.

Very respectfully,

E J Brooks

Acting Commissioner.

Hindmarsh.

March 12
1870
Reverend to
Calumet and

C O P Y.

Paluce Columbia Co.W.T.

February 17 A.D.1830.

Carl.Schurz;

Sect.of War U.S.A.

Dear Sir;-

I would most respectfully call your attention to a small tribe of Indians(The Palouces)some two hundred all told. Their homes are on the Snake river some seventy miles above its mouth at the junction of the Paluce and Snake Rivers. I have acted as their adviser for the last five years and kept them from joining Joseph(the Nez Perces)and the Umatillas in their raids, in fact they have chosen me to look after their affairs, they do not want to be put in any reservation, have never sold any lands or drawn any annuities, they wish to take homesteads and become civilized, but are poor and do not know how to proceed, will have to have instructions.

General O.O.Howard of this Department and Governor Ferry of this Territory, recommended them to me to aid them in getting their homesteads. and now I think the Government(as they have sold no land or received no annuities)should allow them homesteads without charges and pay for necessary assistance in effecting same. Hoping to get your opinion on this matter, I refer you to General O.O.Howard Governor Ferry of Washington Territory and

Honorable Thomas Brents representing the Territory of Washington
in the Congress of the U.S. at Washington D.C.

Geo.

Please answer to Coln. Hunter.

Dayton Columbia Co. W.T.

Respectfully yours to command,

Geo. Hunter late in command of Dayton
Volunteers under Gen. O.O. Howard in Nez Perce War, and Lieutenant
Coln Washington & Idaho Vol.

to be answered