

p. 63      Annual <sup>As</sup>Report of R.R. Thompson, Ind. Agent

Dalles, O.T. Aug. 14, 1855

Sir: In obedience to the requirements of the department it becomes my duty to report to you the condition of Indian affairs for this agency district during the past year.

There has been a preceptable improvement in the general condition of most of the tribes and bands within this district in those requisites necessary to constitute them a civilized and happy race. Their contrast and frequent intercourse with our people has resulted in a great deal that is advantageous and beneficial and also much that is demoralizing and pernicious to them.

Becoming better acquainted with our laws manners and customs they have in several instances manifested their good sense by adopting such portions of them as they were able to comprehend and as judged by them to be politic. under their usual circumstances. The savage mind will most readily embrace an entirely new rule or regulation than make an exchange where by he is compelled to relinquish one of his own. The laws and customs of their forefathers as handed down to them from generation to generation are riveted with a sacredness bordering on devotion and are maintained with a zeal and tenacity truly astonishing. When therefore we see them discarding their own laws and adopting those of the whites we may indeed hope that the dark chambers of their understanding have been opened and that the efforts of the philanthropic have not been altogether in vain.

As illustrative of the above I should mention that from time immemorial it has been their custom to take vengeance on any of the nation, tribe, family or caste from whom they may have received injury. Their measure of punishment being as fully satisfied as if punishment had been inflicted on the particular individual. This they say shall no longer



a large extent of fine agricultural as well as grazing country has been thrown open to settlement, affording opportunities which will no doubt be speedily improved by many of our citizens, particularly those who wish to make stock raising their business.

The fact of gold mines having been recently discovered in the Pend d'Orielle country will greatly accelerate the settlement of all those portions of Oregon and Washington Territories lying east of the Cascade Range of mountains.

The fever and excitement consequent upon the discovery of these mines was witnessed only by that which succeeded the gold discoveries of California in 1848. The influx of immigration is such that it can be but a few years at most when this hitherto comparatively unknown region will be teeming with a dense population. What influence this great change will have upon our present native population is at this time difficult to foresee.

By the terms of the several treaties recently made in Oregon and Washington the Indians are permitted to roam whithersoever they please to enjoy in common ~~with~~ with the whites all unclaimed lands as also the fisheries without the reservations. To the commissioners it appeared absolutely indispensable that these privileges be granted them not only because they were deemed necessary to their subsistence but without <sup>consent</sup> them they feared the ~~conduct~~ of the Indians could not be obtained to enter into treaty stipulations.

This is my opinion having in view the welfare of the Indians ~~which~~ is ~~what~~ if not the only objectionable feature in the treaties. Taking advantage of ~~these~~ this provision they will always find it convenient to be away from the reservations, which will defeat the liberal and philanthropic object of the government to bestow upon them mental, moral and physical culture.

I feel impressed with the fact that could the Indians of this region



be removed and kept away from the contaminating vices of the whites that with the aid and encouragement of government as guaranteed to them in the recent treaties they would soon attain a high degree of civilization.

It is absolutely necessary that congress should take action and define what laws obtain in this territory between whites and Indians. As matters stand at present the Indians are at the mercy of the whites as it is impossible to protect them with our present laws, as no person appears to know what is law.

By the act of 1850 Congress extended the intercourse act of 1834 over Oregon as far as the same was applicable. The duty therefore devolves upon the courts to say what was and what was not applicable, which practically nullifies p. 66 the act...

... owing to the temporary absence of the Rev. Father Mesplie I have not received any report of the condition of the Valles Mission for the past year. Should ~~OR~~ his report be received it will be forwarded immediately.

All which is respectfully submitted

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent

North Eastern District, Oregon Ty.

Joel Palmer, Esq.

Supt. Indian Affairs,

Dayton, O.T.



Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem, Oregon Sept. 30, 1858

Sir:

By advice from Walla Walla I learn that the command of Col. Wright had a battle with the combined hostile tribes at the Four Lakes in the Spokane Country on the 1st inst in which 67 Indians are reported as known to have been killed without any loss on the part of the troops.

Since that time the Col. has continued his march to the Coeur d'Alene Mission having had several skirmishes with the Indians in which a large number of their horses have been captured and killed--besides a great quantity of their property captured and destroyed.

At the last advices the Col. Expected to return from the expedition with his command and contemplated reaching Walla Walla by the 15th of October.

I understand that Col. Wright reports the war closed and that the Indians are now suing for peace. These representations are doubtless true, yet there is great danger of the government officers being deceived by the pretended submission of the Indians. and I only regard it as a ruse on their part to rid themselves of the presence of the military.

If the troops are withdrawn from the country they will again resume a hostile attitude and repeat their former acts of robbery and murder.

The only way that peace can be maintained among those people under existing circumstances is to overawe them by the presence of military posts in their country.

I ~~xxx~~ learn from private advices from Washington that blame has attached to ~~this office~~ this office because more full and earlier reports have not been made of the condition of Indian affairs



and the operation of the troops to ~~the~~ the northward of Snake River.

The military officers of course report nothing to me and I have not up to the present date seen an official report from that department upon the subject of the present ~~host~~ hostilities. I have no p 277

agent residing among the hostile Indians neither had I any that could be sent to accompany either of the military expeditions and I did not believe the circumstances warranted me in incurring the expenses incident~~al~~ to keeping a contract express running a distance of five or six hundred miles into the interior.

~~On the other hand~~ To have visited the region myself would have been to neglect the other ~~im~~ important business of the office.

I have not regarded any of the settled portions of Washington or Oregon Territories in danger from the Indians east of the Cascade Mountains and to the northward of Snake river, therefore my energies have been particularly directed to the maintenance of peace with the Indians upon the reservation and near the settlements.

As soon as Commissioner Mott closes his investigations ~~at~~ at this office I design accompanying him on a tour for the purpose of visiting the principle tribes in Oregon and Washington east of the Cascade mountains and will probably be absent from this office six or eight weeks.

Several white persons have recently been killed by the Indians in the neighborhood of Puget Sound. By the indefatigable exertions of Agent Simmons the murderers have been arrested and turned over to the civil authorities for trial.

Things remain quiet upon the reservation with the exception of the mummering of the Indians in consequence of the reduction of their rations accompanied with threats to leave the reservations and return to their old homes ~~where~~ where they can obtain a more bountiful subsistence by forage upon the settlements. Yours etc. J.W. Nesmith  
to Charles E. Mix, Commissioner Ind. Affairs Wash D.C.



During our visit east of the Cascade mountains Col. Wright returned from his campaign into the Palouse and Coeur d'Alene country. The colonel was successful in capturing and destroying large quantities of property and provisions belonging to the Indians.

The hostile tribes appear to have been p. 287

.... stricken by the forces sent against them under Col. Wright and Major Garnett and offered but feeble resistance to the troops. Yet many of the ring leaders to the number of twenty five have been captured and shot or hung by the military. While such acts may appear sanguinary I am satisfied that the consequences of the case required it and I do not believe that any innocent parties have suffered. "While I was at the Dalles, "Sukiski" the last of the murderers of sub agent Bolon, being closely pursued by friendly Indians, killed himself to avoid capture.

The expedition under Col. Wright and Major. Garnett have not only been creditable to themselves and to the army but have resulted in impressing upon the Indians the fact that the Government of the United States can and will contrroll (sic) them and punish them for outrages committed upon our citizens.

It is reported that a few of the desperadoes from the different tribes have ~~gathered~~ congregated at Fort Colville and still maintain a hostile attitude. It is to be regretted that Col. Wright did not visit that place and give them a specimen of the justice meted out to the Spokanes and other hostile Indians.

I understand that it is contemplated by General Harney now in command of the Department to send an expedition to Colville this winter in which event I shall avail myself of the opportunity to send an agent to reside in that valley.

The Indians on the Selitz and Grande Ronde ~~Reservations~~ reservations remain quite as well as those of Washington Territory west of the

Cascades.. etc. N  
J.W. Nesmith, supt. O and W T to Hon Charles E. Mix.  
Washington D.C.



## Abstract

Oregon Suptcy. of Indian Affairs 1848-73. Roll 7, Microcopy 2

(Scanning, not included on typescript)

p. 9. Supt. Joel Palmer, report as supt. 1854, covering Rogue River treaty needs and other Indians.

p. 10-Report sub agent Port Orford, July 12, 1853

p. 29-34 Tansy Point report of agent at Port Orford with census of Indians of Port Orford district.

p. 39-Agent Thompson, re: Snake massacre.

p. 4-54-Annual report of Supt. for the year ending June 30, 1854, including good description of the Klamath country and Klamaths, estimated at 400 pop.; before they were stronger.

p. 70-Vouchers etc. includes (p. 108) estimates of funds for Ind. Service for Wash. and Ore. Tys.

p. 190 Schedule of spoliation claims. (5 claims attributed to Rogue R. Ind.

pp. 205-208-Estimates to comply with treaty stipulations with Indians in Oregon and Wash for 1858.

pp. 308-9 -Letter of Supt. giving views to sub agent on interpretation of 1<sup>st</sup> settlement and military orders. [Views to dept. contained in lengthy typescript]

p. 318- Petition for military post at or near Klamath Lake in S. Ore. Nesmith to Harney, Dec. 27, 1858.

p. 328-Murder of Dick Johnson, Spokane Indian who intermarried with Umpqua, settled and improved farm off reservation.

p. 330-Agent Simmons Puget Sound and other Indians West of the Cascades in Washington Ty.

p. 332-Nesmith Letter of transmittal of report of whites ~~massacred~~ massacred by Inds. since settlement of Ore. country, reference to Wash. Ty. murders.

p. 337- Spoliation claims including 1 against Yakimas for \$3,915.75.

pp. 344-45- Assignment to Klamath district of Sub-Agent Abbott by







Microcopy of Records of the Oregon  
Superintendency of Indian Affairs  
1848-1873  
Roll 7

Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs: Letter Books  
1848-1872. 9 vols. Vol F July 1853-August 1855.

September 1857-September 1859. 399 p.

Contents: Various clippings, copies of the annual reports of the  
Superintendent Joel Palmer for 1853 and 1854 and of reports of his  
subordinates, 1853-55; copies of letters sent by Superintendents  
James W. Nesmith through May 31, 1859 and Edward R. Geary thereafter.  
A list of the above-mentioned reports have been microcopied immediately  
ahead of the volume itself.

Microcopied by the National Archives 1940

The following is suggested as an appropriate method of citing  
a letter appearing in this volume: Oregon Superintendency of Indian  
Affairs, Letter Books F; 10; or Oregon SIA, Letter Books F: 10.







to and destroying much valuable timber. The varieties are pine, fir, and white oak on the uplands with cotton wood, willow, hack berry, birch and choke cherry on the lands bordering on the streams.

Portions of the country are well watered and on the margins of the stream generally is to be found an alluvial deposit furnishing a superior soil for gardening purposes while the hills are well adapted to the cultivation of cereal grains. The soil yields abundantly with very little labor and on this account many Indians have commenced farming, producing wheat, corn and potatoes with many of the ... many vegetables and are no mean cultivators. The Nez Perces, Cayuses, Wasco and Tygh tribes particularly are good husbandmen.

The streams owing to the character of the country are not navigable with the exception of the Columbia, from the Cascade falls up to the Dalles which is navigated by a steam boat and several schooners of one hundred tons burden. But the streams notwithstanding are of great importance as they furnish during the running season of the salmon p 24 an unexhaustable supply of this delicious fish. The Indians in the western portion of the district rely principally upon this food, on account of the great abundance in which it is found and the ease with which they are taken, but it is no longer deemed an indispensable article of food for them as they have beef, horse flesh and vegetables, wild berries, fruits and roots, the three last are ~~all~~ found in great quantities.

The Indians of the central and eastern portion of this district are active, intelligent and war like, rapid in their movements from their superior horsemanship and to be feared most on account of their ability to commit sudden depredations upon the ~~xxxx~~ unsuspecting settlers who are widely scattered over the territory and in the event of hostilities to protract the war. The western Indians are more indolent, sparsely supplied with horses and little inclined to warfare. They may safely be



regarded as permanent friends of the whites.

I would here remark that there appears to be a marked distinction in the habits, manners and pursuits of the Indians within this agency. They may properly be divided into three classes: viz The North Eastern, the North western and the southern. Those on the N.E. are the Cayuses, Nez Perces, Flat heads and those of the southern known as the Mountain Snakes. Those on the NW ~~are~~ the John Day, the, the DeShutes, Tyish, Wasco Dog River or Cascade Indians. Those of the south are the Klamath and the Sho-sho-ne, known as diggers.

The Mountain Snake Indians are a branch of the Root Diggers who in the extreme south are presumed to be the lowest order of the aboriginal race and have a common language. They occupy the country on the south and east of Fort Hall and to the south to include Bear River Valley. These Indians gradually improve in their habits and intelligence as they approach the northern and eastern extremities of their country.

The Flatheads lie to the north of the Mountain Snakes, occupying the Valleys between the Bitter Root and Rocky Mountains from the John Day River. A gentleman who has been trading with them for the past three years, I learn that they have ever been on the most friendly terms with our people and make it their boast that they have never taken white man's blood.

They are decreasing in numbers gradually from the attacks of their much dreaded enemies the Black Feet who make frequent incursions into their country, murdering and pillaging all who may be so unfortunate to fall into their power. They complain that while other tribes continuing hostile feelings toward the whites have received the attention of government, they notwithstanding ~~thd~~ their uniform good conduct have been entirely neglected but wish to ... the United States of their continued friendship and hope some action will be taken to protect them from the Black Feet.



A few bands of Nez Perce Indians occupy the Salmon River and the Clear Water within this district. The principal part live in Washington Territory and therefore need no special description.

The Cayuses live on the west side of the Blue Mountains and south of the  
p 25 Columbia River. These with the Nez Percés are believed to be the most  
intelligent Indians west of the Rocky Mountains. All these North Eastern  
Indians go to the east side of the Rocky Mountains in quest of  
buffalo and depend ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~hunt~~ ~~for~~ ~~their~~ ~~subsistence~~ ~~and~~ ~~depend~~ ~~on~~ ~~the~~ ~~hunt~~ ~~for~~ ~~their~~ ~~subsistence~~  
in part on the chase for  
subsistence. Deer, elk and bear form the principal game found in their  
country. They are cleanly in their person, live in lodges made of buffalo  
hide and use to a considerable extent dressed skins for clothing. They  
annually exchange horses for large quantities of manufactured goods and  
wares.

Those on the north west ~~from the~~ form the second class and are found along the Columbia River and its branches from the country of the Cayuses westwards to the Cascades or Great Falls.

This division includes many fragments of tribes having no chiefs and acknowledging no authority beyond the head of a large family. During a portion of the year these Indians are found wandering along the streams pitching their camps wherever salmon are found most abundant. They are filthy in their persons and their habits, addicted to intemperance and its concomitant vices. They have adopted the dress of the whites and to some extent imitate them in the construction of their houses. Their domiciles range from a comfortable log cabin to a reed hut, the merest apology for a shelter.

The third and final division are along the southern border of this agency district and include a portion of the Digger and Klamath tribes. The latter inhabit the country along the eastern base of the Cascade and Sierra Nevada Mountains (sic) and south of the great Klamath Lake. The Digger country extending to the north of Snake River. With the



exception of the immediate margin of the streams, their country is a barren waste, affording very little vegetation, save artimisa or wild sage. They subsist upon roots and almost every living thing within their reach, not ~~excluding~~ excepting reptiles, crickets, ants etc. It is reported by gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company that they are very impoverished, seldom storing provisions for the winter and in their extremities they resort to cannibalism. During the summer they go in a state of nudity and in winter they use for a covering robes made of the skins of rabbits, the skins of wild fowl such as geese and ducks are also brought into requisition as an article of clothing. The wild sage furnishes them shelter in ~~the~~ the heat of summer and like the Coyotes they burrow in the earth for protection from the inclemencies of winter.

At an early day in history of Oregon(sic) it was greatly feared there was likely to be a combination of the several Indian tribes east of the Cascade Mountains for the purpose of making an attack upon the white settlements in the Willamette Valley, but there is little foundation for such fears. On a better acquaintance with the state of Indian affairs in this region it is found that the tribes are much divided among themselves and bitter jealousies exist between ~~bands~~ the bands of the same tribes, as also grievences of long standing between the several tribes with p 26

proper management on the part of the whites, such an event as a combination to any great extent, never can occur.

From what has been said in the first of this report it will be apparent that portions of this country is rather inviting to settlers and within the last two years quite a number of our citizens have availed ~~themselves~~ themselves of their rights under the act of Congress creating the office of Surveyor General of the Public Lands in Oregon and to provide for the survey and to make donations to settlers of the said public lands and have located on the east side of the summit of the Cascade range. By virtue of an act of the Legislative Assembly of this



territory, this district has been organized into a county called Wasco.

This affords greater facilities to the Indian Agent to reach of .. justice in case of necessity but it has also offered opportunity to designing persons to produce difficulties. Some settlers have claims which include the improvements and property rights of the Indians and have come into collision with the aboriginies, but so far these difficulties have yielded to the decision of the Indian agent.

Under the pretense of locating claims whisky sellers have located at points best suited to their purposes and have given the agency some trouble, and in this connection I might add the constantly recurring difficulty of the emigrants on their route to recover their animals. These are some of the difficulties and as the country is continued to be settled rapidly I would respectfully recommend a speedy extinction of the Indian title to at least a portion of this district.

There is a military station at the Dalles within the district garrisoned by two companies of the 4th Infantry (but as I am informed in reality but 53 rank and file) commanded by Major G. Rains. This officer stands unusually high with the citizens for his zeal and energy in endeavoring to preserve peace and order on this frontier. But I am sorry to say that the force at his command is wholly inadequate to the service to be performed. Being infantry they ~~xxx~~ can only act with efficiency in the immediate vicinity of the post. I would however suggest that in view of this being the only military post within the immense extent of the country lying east of the Cascade range of mountains, the difficulty of infantry pursuing offenders to the confines of it, the equestrian habits of the Indians and the moral effect which United States Dragoons would produce on these savages besides the adaptation of the country to cavalry operations and the support of their animals all concur in rendering ... the presence of Dragoons desirable in addition to the ~~present~~ present force and therefore I respectfully submit these suggestions to the consideration of the



proper authorities of the general government.

There is also a Catholic mission at this place under the superintendence of Rev. Father Mesplie whose report is herewith enclosed. This is the only mission within the district and was established upon the breaking up of the Protestant mission in 1847, one of which (Methodist) was at this point and all of which were abandoned immediately after the horrible massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman and his associates at Wyeletpos. There is no doubt but much of the progress, intelligence and civilization manifest in the Indians residing in the vicinity of these establishments ~~may~~ is owing to the labors of the missionaries who are and have been among them.

p. 24

It has not been in my power to visit all the tribes under my charge since entering upon the duties of this office. I have found an aversion (?) in the Indians to my taking the census and in one instance they (the Cayuses have positively refused to give any information, urging that at one time Dr. Whitman took the census and immediately after great numbers of people (sic) sickened and died. I have therefore decided it prudent to abstain from pressing the matter until it becomes less objectionable to them

In the absence of authentic numbers the following is respectfully submitted as the approximate of the several tribes.

Name of tribes	chiefs or head men	whole number of souls	number in this district
Dog River or Cascades	Wal-li-chin	80	80
Wasco	Clash-Cal-La	300	300
Tyich	Vim -tes-tus	500	500
Des Chutes	Stoke-ote-ly	300	300
John Days	Wish-och-nip-its	150	150
Utillas	Wah-lauch-hie	200	200
Cayuses	We-at-a-not-te-te-..ny	600	600



Nez Perces	2,000	500
Flatheads	400	Occasionally
Mountain (She- <sup>U</sup> ho-Nee)		
Snakes	1,000	200
Bannocks	500	200
Diggers		100
Scattering bands		
Principally Columbia River		300

The accompanying map it is hoped will enable the Department to form a correct idea of the locality of the several tribes and divisions referred to in this report.

It has been kindly furnished by <sup>B</sup>revt. Major G.O. Haller 4th Infantry U.S.A. who has been of great pains in collecting accurate information as to the topography of the country and it may be relied upon as being in the main correct.

All of which is respectfully submitted

R.R. Thompson

Indian Agent

Middle Oregon

Joel Palmer Esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs,

Dayton, O.T.



Mission of the Waskos (Dalles)

Mr. Thompson, Indian Agent

August 6, 1854

~~Sir~~ Dear Sir:

The Mission of the Waskos at the Dalles founded the sixth of May, 1848 by the Rev. Rounsacran (?) at the request of the Indians has since its commencement ~~xx~~ advanced very slowly. On examining the archives kept by my honorable predecessor I see that the progress of religion has been much ~~regretted~~ retarded by the wandering life of the Indians and by the too great intercourse with the whites.

During the three years that I am in charge of said mission I have unfortunately found the same difficulties. Within the last two years the worst of all has been added, namely liquor. This has cast this unfortunate people into a deplorable condition and without being a witness, no one can form an idea of the Indians when intoxicated, they are scenes most horrible to behold and capable of exciting pity in the most hard hearted. This disorder my dear sir stops entirely all improvement of the ~~lower~~ Indians and if this abuse is not stopped the Indians will in a short time become good for nothing, neither for civil life nor much less for Christian life. The greater part of them will disappear. Some will perhaps resist ~~the~~ ...but will be rendered to so bestial a state that they will be insupportable to themselves and much more so to all who may be in connection with them.

What I say concerning the Waskos will apply in like manner to the Indians of T'ah [or Fair] (Indian Creek and to all the small tribes within my jurisdiction. However Mr. Agent we have at Wasko and at Fair some Indians who though in the midst of disorder have ~~professed~~ ~~professed~~ professed by some of the lessons which we have endeavored to give them. They yield easily to the sweet influence of christianity occupying themselves with agriculture and improvement in rendering homage



to their Creator. In general I have observed since you have been established in this place that a remarkable calm has taken place. Many of our people have yielded to fear and others to reason. But the fact exists.

Great credit should be given to you Mr. Agent for ~~being~~ having in so short a time such great results for the present makes me look for a better future and if this new state of things continues I have the sweet hope that your aid joined ~~with~~ with our efforts will in some years obtain a remarkable change. Such Mr. Agent is my present report.

Design, dear sir, to accept it and believe me with the greatest respect.

Your very humble and obedient servant

F. Mesplie.

Mr. Thompson  
Indian Agent.



Oregon Suptoy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73. Roll 7, Microcopy 2

p. 40

Annual report of Superintendent of Indian Affairs for the year ending June 30, 1854...

p. 48

..The report of Agent R.R. Thompson including that of the Catholic Mission at the Dalles of the Columbia is so minute and full as to render additional remarks necessary.

A map prepared by Major Haller, U.S.A. shows the location and extent of country occupied by the Indian tribes of this district.

I fully concur in the suggestions of Mr. Thompson in regard to the importance of ... the present military force in middle Oregon by a body of Dragoons so stationed as to move with security upon any point thereabout with hostilities. To this end I would respectfully recommend that a military post be established as far east as Boise River. The security it would afford travellers passing through that region, its proximity to the numerous bands inhabiting the country along Lewis Fork of Snake river and its tributaries, its being near the forks of the road diverging into northern and middle Oregon and the probability of a third road on the north side of Snake river passing through the cold ~~sandy~~ valley of Salmon river into the Nez Perces country and Washington territory, renders this in a military point of view an important position.

Extensive meadows in Boise river would afford abundant supplies of grass and hay for whatever amount of stock might be brought into requisition and it is believed the soil besides producing the usual varieties of cereal grain is well adapted to the growth of vegetables usual in the northern states...

p. 54      Respectfully submitted Joel Palmer, superintendent  
Hon. Geo. W. Manypenny  
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City, D.C.



Report of Agent N. Olney Expedition to the Snake Country

Camas Prairie July 30, 1855

Gen. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Dear Sir:

I have the honor of transmitting to you a report of my proceedings, the facts that come under my observation and such information as I have been able to procure since my arrival in my district.

I started from the Dalles for my district July 8. I overtook the troops between Grand Round and Powder River. I have travelled and cooperated with them since. We arrived at Fort Boise on the 14th. We found encamped at that place awaiting our arrival 17 lodges of Barnacks, Diggers and one lodge of Winesslas (?) in all 18.

These lodges contained 62 men, 44 women, 40 boys, 44 girls, in all 210 persons. On the 14th Major Haller who is in command of these troops invited these Indians to his camp for the purpose of talking with them. Major Haller explained the object of his visit among them and expressed a hope that they would not only be his friends but assist him in apprehending the murderers. They expressed the warmest feelings of friendship but did not in the least appear inclined to give information of the whereabouts of the murderers or assist in capturing them. I then explained who I was and the relation I bore toward them, gave them to understand the course they must pursue towards American citizens residing in or passing through their country and the advantages that would result from following the course marked out and the result of their following an opposite course. Just as I closed talking Tobaboo my interpreter informed me that he had discovered four of the murderers' band sitting among the Indians and that two of them he recognized as murderers. I communicated the fact to Major Haller who had them immediately taken into custody. For particulars as to proceedings and the final disposition



made of these four men I beg leave to refer you to the inclosed copy of proceedings had in the case.

The country occupied by the tribe of Indians usually called Snakes reaches from Grand Ronde to the warm springs on the DesChutes, to Humboldt River on the south, thence to <sup>Green</sup> ~~Coon~~ River on the east and the headwaters of the Missouri (?) on the north. It is supposed that these tribes combined can muster three thousand warriors. The most formidable of these tribes are the Shoshones or Mountain Snakes. They number about 250 lodges containing about 3,000 souls. They can muster between seven and eight hundred warriors. This tribe is again divided into three bands. The principal band resides on <sup>Green</sup> ~~Coon~~ River and hence they are called the Green River Snakes. They number 1,500 souls. The second band reside about Fort Hall, Camas Prairie, Salmon River and Bear River and are called upper Snakes or Fort Hall Snakes. They number about 1,300 souls 200 of whom are Banacks who have married and live among them. The third and last band live on Salmon river. They number 300 souls. This band are stationery, never going to buffalo but subsisting on salmon, elk, deer, antelope and mountain sheep. Too kos ... or sheep eating p 58

The Sho-sho-nee or Mountain Snakes are ~~xx~~ a brave, active and intelligent tribe and compare favorably with the Cayuses and Nez Perces. They own a large number of horses, are well armed and subsist by hunting the buffalo on the plains and the elk, deer antelope and mountain sheep on the mountains. They do not like their brethren further west and south steal the property and stain their hands with the blood of immigrants passing through their country but on the contrary have invariably shown a disposition to live on terms of friendship with the whites.

The Winisstas (sic) another tribe of the Snakes reside in the country lying between Camas Prairie on the east, Snake river on the south and Salmon River on the north. They number about 400 souls.



They speak a language between Bannack and Snake. Some suppose they have a ~~distinct~~ distinct language of their own, but I think they are ~~mixture~~ a mixture of Snakes and Bannacks and speak a language between the two. They are much poorer than the Shoshones or Bannacks and are thought but little of by either of these tribes on account of their great propensity for stealing. It was some of the ~~bad~~ members of this tribe who murdered the company of immigrants on Boise River last season. They subsist on salmon, roots, berries and ~~saxx~~ game of which they find on the mountains of Salmon River.

The Bannacks are another tribe of the Snakes. They however speak an entirely different language from the Shoshones. They claim the Camas prairie and the country between there and Salmon River. They number about 200 souls. They reside mostly with the upper Snakes and go to buffalo along with them, and what I have already said of the Mountain Snakes or Shoshones will apply strictly to them.

The Diggers are the poorer class of the Shoshones and Bannacks. The Bannack Diggers reside about Fort Boise, the mouth of Payette River and Boise River on the east and on Owyhee Malheur and Burnt rivers on the west side of Snake river. That band or tribes of the Bannack Diggers residing on Burnt River are called the Wal la lack alie from a certain kind of grass seed which they gather for food. They number about 200 souls. They are great thieves and have on several occasions not only stolen large numbers of horses from Immigrants and traders but have killed white persons who have fallen into their power.

The Sheshone or Snake Diggers reside in the country lying south of Snake and Owyhee Rivers to the Humboldt Rivers and west to the Deschutes. Those that live about Lake Sefoia (?) are called War atte raws from the same grass seed as from which the Bannack Diggers take their name.

Those that live on the south side of Snake River and thence to



We have also been told by some of the Bannacks who are camped at this place that a large number of these people are collected and are still collecting on Salmon ~~River~~ Falls and have expressed a determination to give the troops a fight. When Mr. McArthur left Fort Hall for our camp some ten days ago a ... company of immigrants was expected to arrive at that place in a few days, on their way to Oregon. They have had time to arrive at our camp but as nothing is heard from them it is conjecture that they have taken the road by the Salmon Falls and Major Haller I believe intends sending a command of troops to that place, to hunt for and protect them and to give battle to the To-Sha He Hees if necessary.

The country inhabited by the Snake tribe of Indians as a general thing is broken and mountainous entirely destitute of timber except on the loftiest mountains and along some of the rivers. The level and less broken portions are generally covered with a dense growth of Artimesia, interspersed with bunches or tufts of grass. The bottoms ~~are~~ along Payette and Boysie Rivers where they are not covered with Artimesia are very fertile and covered with a luxuriant growth of grass and could no doubt be cultivated with success.

These bottoms are from a quarter to a half a mile in breadth on either side of the streams and extend from their junction with Snake river to a distance of 40 or 50 miles up these streams. These streams take their rise in the mountains between Salmon and Snake rivers and run parallel with each other in a westerly direction. They are 20 miles apart and are divided from each other by a low range of hills. Salmon are (sic) taken in large quantities in these streams by the Indians during the summer and fall months.

The Camas prairie is a level plain surrounded by mountains. It lies about mid ways between ~~Boise and~~ Fort Boise and Fort Hall and about p. 60

40 miles to the north of Snake River. The prairie runs from east to



west its greatest length being about 60 (or 40) miles its breadth from north to south being about 20 ~~miles~~ miles. There are numerous small streams coming down from the mountains on the north and running through the prairie ... in the earth on the south side. The Malade (2) a stream of considerable size enters the prairie near the eastern side and passesthrough, leaves it near the middle of the south side and enters Snake River about ten miles below Salmon Falls. The prairie is very elevated. The nights are cold and frosts frequent during the summer months and the snows fall to a good depth during the winter. The soil however has the appearance of being fertile. It provides grass in abundance and the camas dug here by the Indians is the largest I have ever seen.

On the first of the month I start for Fort Hall in company with Mr. McArthur for the purpose of visiting the Indians in that vicinity, expect to go as far east as Salt River. Major Haller sends with me a detachment of six soldiers as an escort. I fear that it will be impossible for me to get an escort to return with me by way of Owyhee river, Lake Syloia and Klamath lake as the soldiers rations are getting short which will compel them to return to the Dalles much sooner than the commanding officer anticipated. I appraise you however that I shall make every effort to return ~~additd~~ by that route.

Very respectfully

etc. Nathan Olney, Indian Agent

Genl. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Dayton, Oregon. COpO