

Secretary of State, Olympia  
Indian Wars Commissioner 1855-60  
No 12

Spokane Falls W.T. July 25, 1878

Governor E.P. Ferry, Walla Walla, W.T.

Sir:

I came here at the request of some of the leading Indians to explain to them in persons words from General Howard who had directed me to convey the information to them in order to relieve their minds of great anxiety. The accidental killing of three friendly Indians on the Columbia by the gunboat was greatly exaggerated amongst ~~them~~ all of Moses friends (one of the women being his relation) It was reported by the refugees (Columbia Indians) who sought Moses camp frightened to death, that Gen. Howard himself was on the gun boat and was intending to kill all the Indians along the ~~river~~ Columbia. Fortunately last evening I met a ~~man~~ relative of Moses (one of the little Spokane Chiefs) who will carry to him (M) correct information about these matters and the designs of Genl. Howard. Although he did not tell me so directly, but I am inclined to think ~~that~~ Spokane Gary will meet at Tobacco Plains or beyond, more American Indians who have sought refuge in British Columbia, than Kootenay's from the same region.

The condition of Indian affairs in Eastern Washington is somewhat anomalous. The only treaty p2 ~~xx~~ stipulations entered into are under the Yakima treaty. The only lands to which the Indian title has been extinguished are under that treaty. In 1855 when treaties were made with the Indians placed upon the Nez Perce, Umatilla and Yakima Reservations Gov. Stevens promised the remaining portion of Indians <sup>the</sup> not treated with in this part of the territory, they should have a treaty with similar provisions to those in the ~~treaty with~~ treaties alluded to. The war of 1855-6 prevented the making of any new treaties or the confirmation of the Senate of those made; which were not finally confirmed until the spring of 1859.

In the meantime-in 1858- the land laws were extended over Eastern Oregon and Washington. With the exception of the lands ceded by the Yakima treaty we find the remaining portion of eastern Washington encumbered with whatever original rights the Indians had to occupancy, the land laws of the United States and the reservations for the N.P.R.R. Co. From time to time the Indians had been promised by representatives of the government that there would be a speedy and satisfactory adjustment of affairs which adjustment has not been made. Many with many of the older chiefs fully understood this history of matters and still hopes to have something done for them whilst the younger Indians simply have a vague idea p 3 that they have been greatly wronged by the government and regard the coming immigration as entenders upon them. From their stand form of reasoning they regard was as their only remedy and as I said in my last communication, but for the wisely planned and rigorous campaign of Genl Howard but few could have been restrained as soon as they were through with their fishing and camas digging. Near all of the better disposed Indians want to take up land in severalty, abandon tribal relations and adopt the customs of the whites; the others (and the majority now) have become imbued with very extravagant ideas of their rights through the counsels of ambitious chiefs. To concede the demands that are being made in order to satisfy them is a surrender of a large proportion of this upper country which with the rapid influx of population would within a short time bring on an inexpressable conflict between the two races, resulting in the extermination of the Indian and the compromise of the dignity of the government. With a view to peace Moses has a very ambitious plan which involves large military and other resources of the government to back him as head chief over all the Indians of this part of the country excepting those who have and will determine to take up land in severalty upon one reservation. If Moses possessed sufficient influence

with the Indians to carry out his program with his limited aid from the government, the plan would be a feasible one, but he admits himself he cannot exercise exclusive control over his immediate followers and his plan would only involve hostilities for the benefit of him and his immediate followers. Kenasket has a somewhat similar ambitious plan and equally as impracticable. Mary proposes an Indian country including everything north of the Spokane including were all the Indians of this region and the Nez Perce and Umatilla reservations excepting those who would prefer to remain on their present locations taking up land in severalty--should be placed, taking up land in severalty but retaining an Indian jurisdiction subject to ~~Mex~~ U.S. Laws. Gov. Stevens rather advanced or conceded this idea at an early date, practicable then but not so now. The Catholic Indians north of this desire to be to themselves under the best possible arrangements they can secure without any regard to the interests or views of the remaining Indians. I have not learned Kamiakan's views yet, but of one thing I am sure, he would not consent to play a secondary part in any of these arrangements. And last, but not least, in consummating final adjustments comes Smohalla, the dreamer or prophet, in times gone by known by the name of Watskel

p 5 or Big Talk on the Four Mountains. He is not a war chief, nor in fact recognized as a chief, but is a kind of high priest trance medium and big medicine man. In former years he wielded great influence which he almost entirely lost, until within a very few years past when he commenced regaining it as the Indians became dissatisfied with the management of the reservations under the different church organizations of which he always had a great jealousy and has labored to secure followers in opposition to them and not with any direct views to making war. He has followers upon all of the reservations in this region of the country and his voice for good or evil is more potent than that of any of the chiefs of the present time.

It will be almost impossible to bring him or any of his followers under what may seem to them any church organization.

To have arrested Smohaller as many recommended would but only increased his influence, for his immediate friends would have claimed he was a martyr to his views and that the Boston religionists were ~~only~~ trying to get rid of him, fearing his influence. Of my own knowledge I know that ~~that~~ there has been much laid at his door of which he is innocent, pernicious as his practices are. I am of the opinion that of later years, his zeal, in his ways, is not from entire conviction but from a desire to wield influence and rival the church organizations amongst the Indians. Many of the hostiles of last year were followers of his, although he was not ~~responsible~~ responsible for their going to war, which was not premeditated. I am of the opinion that <sup>W</sup>ary's plan will embrace all of Smohalla's followers, possibly himself, which would secure a safe refuge and homes for all who have been in hostile way heretofore.

The only way to harmonize the conflicting views and incidents amongst them, in my opinion, will be for Congress to enact a special homestead law for the benefit of the Indians in Eastern Washington, instead of attempting to enter into treaty stipulations with them. Some coercion would be necessary to enforce this policy, but less than under any other. This homestead act should provide that the lands would not be alienated for a term of years, the Indian <sup>title</sup> ~~altogether~~ altogether extinguished to the country and provisions made to assist them in an educational way and in agricultural pursuits which would only involve the expense of a few teachers and superintendents of farming, doing away with the agency system altogether. By this plan the best interests of the Indian, the government and our own people could be observed with a great saving to the government of a large ~~an~~ amount of lands for settlements

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besides large expenditures of money. His plan can be made successful and undad would lead the way for the abandonment of reservations now established, instead of a consolidation of Agencies f r a peopddadad perpetuation of the system. The proposed plan of the Indian Bureau for the consolidation of the Agencies means war from its first attempted inauguration.

With Spokane Gary I am sanguis e of being able to induce him to take a reasonable and practicable view of the situation, however it will not be prdd prudent for me to be premature in this effort. Having no authority myself to inform them that any of their propositi ons would be rejected or received with favor, I have a btter opportunity of expressing my own views to them.

I done Smohalla a great favor in years gone by which he has never forgotten. I am arranging to get a two or three days interview with him away from his followers, andwhile I have no hopes of inducing him to quit dreaming, at present; but I feel confident I can induce him to dream the right kind of dreams by which all of the believers in his dreams would be properly influenced and his influence retained and exerted in thepresent excigencies in behalf of peace and a satisfactory solution of all pending difficulties. I desire to make use of Smohalla's influence to counteract the unreasonable demands of the ambitious chiefs.

I feel safe in assuring you that theIndians I have particularly beferred to will remain quite this year, but unless the situation is relieved by Congressional legislation next winter and other precautionary steps taken, Eastern Washington will be the sddad seat of war next year.

I ha e thehonor to be very respectfully your obt svt.

A. J. Cain

Any communication w ll reach me at or from this Post Office. (filed Aug 20 1875)  
zzzz 1878

Secretary of State Olympia

Indian war 1855-60 (Cannister)

Western Union Telegraph company

Portland, Oregon 18 June 1878

Received at Olympia W.T. June 18, 1878 450 pm

To Governor Ferry, Olympia:

The following just received from Colman inspector general dated Boise City today and sent General Wheaton at Walla Walla, commanding all forces in up country.

"Owyhee River crossing seventeenth. Major Mason Boise City.

Winnemucca, Piute chief has just returned to my camp with a small party of his men. The interpreter Jerry being among them from Winnemucca and Jerry says that hostiles have left Stein's mountain and are moving into Harney Lake Valley toward the Malheur agency intending to pass on north and including toward Snake River continuing until they make a junction with the Columbia River Indians first going to the Umatilla and then to the Northern Columbia Indians. They expect to form a junction with the latter and make a clean sweep of everything returning this way. This band of hostiles are composed of Bannocks, Eagle Eyes band of Weisers and Oits band of Piutes in command of all. They have Eagan and his band of Piutes prisoners and say they will keep them till they can by killing white men get arms to arm them with. Eagan has told Winnemucca that he will escape on first opportunity. An Indian who escaped latter and came in says the hostiles have taken horses and everything from Eagan and party and are holding them close prisoners. He says they believe they are going direct to Harney and take the place. Whipple with his two companies has just joined me. I will move after the hostiles as fast as possible. Jerry also says the hostiles have killed hundreds of cattle and horses in the vicinity of Steins mountain leaving them where killed. I have sent a courier after General Howard with the report. Sgd. Barnard. J.A. Sladen 292 paid govt. rate and de camp.

Subject of State - Olympia  
Indian Wars Cannister

Olympia, Aug. 15, 1878

Capt. A.L. Nickerson, Vancouver,

Inform Genl Howard that activities of Yakima county apprehend difficulties with Indians. Both parties are so excited and any act of hostility might lead to assault?

A military force stationed at its eminence might allay excitement and give confidence to settlers in the future.

E. . Ferry  
Governor

Secretary of State Olympia  
Indian War 1855-60 Canister

Yakima City W.T. Aug 15, 1878

E.P. Ferry, Governor, Olympia, W.T.

Dear Sir:

Yours of the 7th inst is at hand accept our thanks. I haste to drop you a few more lines. Mr. ~~Burg~~ Burbank has just returned from the Winatchee country. He and some other parties went over to Moses camp to get their horses. that were taken by the Indian raiders.

He saw Chief Moses who went with him to the camp of the hostiles. They refused to give up the stolen horses but they found one of the horses and Moses took him and Burbank got that horse and brought him home.

The hostiles showed no disposition to kill him and his party but Moses commanded them not to do so. Moses is holding them there for the troops to come and settle thematter. The hostiles are about 150 strong. They are all camped on the east side of the Columbia

p 2

It is thought they have about 1,500 head of horses. Mr. Burbank says he saw a number of Indians that he recognized. A number of Father Wilbur's Indians were in the camp but they are mostly Umatillas. He also saw a rope in their camp made out of human hair of various ~~colors~~ colors, evidently made out of hair from the whites they have murdered. Now these Indians are near the mouth of the Winatchee river on the east side of the Columbia. There are two camps of them about eight miles apart.

Moses expressed an anxiety for Howard to come without delay and that he would turn those hostiles over to the soldiers horses and all and ~~xxxx~~ they could do what they please with them. Moses will not protect the hostiles. He is friendly and intends to remain so. But he says that he can not hold them much longer, that the raiders want to

go on through the Spokane country to Yellow Stone Country.

p 3

Now what we want is for you to either bring or send force enough to make sure work with that band of Indians and capture the horses. I think you can depend on getting about 100 men in this county. But it will require a decisive action in this matter or the Indians will scatter and escape.

"We mean business and desire immediate action. There never will be a better time to settle this Indian question than just now.

We need have sufficient cause for redress and if we allow this to pass they will be encouraged next time to raid this whole country. They have taken stock belonging to almost ~~xx~~ every stock raiser in this country and are now and have been for some time killing cattle for their meat.

Let us know at once what we can depend upon.

Some of these Indians are supposed to be from Steen's Mountain

Some of our citizens will start

p 4

this evening to the Dalles to send a telegram to you and to carry this letter etc.

We sent Mr. Huntington over with similar papers last week. But lest there might be to great delay I drop you this additional/ items.

Yours Truly E.P. Boyles and many others

~~Letter from~~

Letter from E.P. Boyles relative to Indian matters  
filed Aug 22d, 1878

Secretary of State, Olympia

Indian War 1855-1860

8 -?  
Aug 25, 1879 (LAWLICK 9)

(No. 14)

Maj. Gen. O.O. Howard, commanding Dept of the Columbia  
Fort Vancouver, W.T.

My Dear General:

Your letter of the 21st inst calling my attention to that justice of my last annual report to the secretary of the Interior which refers to a contemplated new Indian Reservation on the Columbia River has been received.

Permit me to appraise you general that it was not my intention to misrepresent you, nor to place you in a position where p 2 you would be subject to the slightest military censure.

When I made the report I was of the opinion that you had promised to use your influence to secure for Moses a reservation on both sides of the Columbia River near Priest Rapids and this was the idea that I intended to convey, and no more. I did not question your right to do this but desired that the security of the military ?? be informed that our people are opposed to any more Indian reservations in this country.

The use of the word "promised" without qualification on examination I can now see might be construed to mean that you absolutely promised the Indians a new reservation although I did not intend to be so misunderstood.

But then with this explanation it appears that I have not intentionally misrepresented your action in the promises.

You say "~~Waxenlyxprentix~~" the only promise p 5 I made was that I would lay the Indians request before the authorities at Washington." This being the case I have certainly been laboring under a misapprehension and am perfectly willing to send this to the Secretary of the Interior if you advise me to do so.

Very Truly Yours.

Letter to Gen O.O. Howard August 22, 1878 (PLAINLY 8)

Secretary of State

To His Excelency E.P. Ferry , governor of Washington Territory

As there has been a company of militia organized to be under your orders as territorial volunteers according to our wishes and approbation

We, the undersigned officers of Klickitat Co. W.T. being personally acquainted with the below named officers elected by said company do cheerfully recommend them to your consideration.

For Capt E.W. Pike, first lieutenant Edwin Letterman, Lieut. C.J. Gougel. They are all men who have served in the late war of the Union for three to four years have all had experience in Indian warfare and we believe them to be men of honor and sound judgment. The name adopted by this company is Klickitat Mounted Infantry Volunteers and has a membership of sventy five this is the only regular ~~militia~~ militia company in this county and it is armed with needle guns furnished by you.

A.H. Curtis company Com. John Gruhum , co. com. S.M. Silmore, probate judge. W.B. Walker, co. com .

Hon H.T. Lewis

Commission for Capt. E.W. Pike and the other officers of the Klickitat Mounted Infantry Volunteers will be furnished in a few days.

Gov. Ferry

H.T. Lewis rel. to Capt. Pike and others. Sept. 12, 1878

Secretary of State Olympia

Dead Man, Columbia County W.T. Feb. 1, 1879

To his excellency: Governor of Washington Territory.

Sir, we the undersigned settlers and citizens of the above named county and territory most heartily petition your honor to send us some ammunition for the protection of our families ourselves and property, at home and not for aggressive purposes, but you see as deemed most effectual for us for our protection and protection of our property, we fear of almost a certain Indian war in the coming spring or summer and living near Snake River where there is too or three fords where the Indians are in the habits of fording we feel in safe without the means of some arms to defend ourselves against their raids in view of the unprotected families of the part of the county and to avoid a repetition of the horrors of last summer in the Umatilla county and also of Idaho of the summer before we sincerely pray you will grant our petition.

N.D. Kettlefirst

Marion Swinney

C.E. Webster

G.D. Wilson

Wiley Baldwin

J. Wm. Pattie?

N. Kettle ?

W. Wolcott

G.V. Tuttle

R.S. Kirby

J.H. Harris

John R. Davison

Wm Turner

Theo Ruark

Thomas Rouché

Dell Cook

J.A. Howard

W.E. Sammond ?

W.L. Howell

H.E. Hutchinson

G.W. Fanning

W.L. Howell,

I.R. Snodderly

G.L. Bradley

David Briles

L.B. Mays

Eugene Lennon

T.T. Eaton

T.W. T. Suttin

Reinhold Kluge

C.E. Cook

J. Henry Fleener

E.E. Fanning

John Fanning

E.B. Foote

J.A. Mills

G.H. Cook

C.H. Mowrey

Allen McQueen

.. Ledgerwood?

James P ?

Thomas Morgan

J. Higginson

C. Andrews

Wm McFall

E. Buckmaster

E.D. Briggs

C. ?? W.B. Stallcop? A. I. Davis (Filed Feb 20, 1879)

Wilbur. Moses. Yakima City

Copy to R.A. 1961.  
Secty of state. Olympia  
Indian War cannister

Yakima City Wash Ter. April 2, 1879

Dear Governor:

Your long and interesting letter of 24 25th inst reached me yesterday. We are having very high waters and some consequent delays of mail.

Hope you will get us some arms and that you realize all your anticipations in regard to peace.

My views are that our people "would be satisfied" with Moses north of 48. Let Wilbur go there too, that is, as his Methodist friends claim by way of no excuse for his conduct that he is doubted, let his Indians either go there or he put in charge of some one not in his second childhood.

So-happy and other leading sub chiefs and men including Eneas, the chief of Wilbur's police have been to consult me and they tell me as do all Indians that they have lost all confidence in Wilbur and have full faith in Howard. Infact they fear and respect Gen'l. Howard and look to him as the person to look after the cultus siawash.

The whites have less confidence in Wilbur than they hve in the Indians.

The only foe we dread is the present Indian policy.

I am Gov. Yours Truly

D.P. Ballard

P.S. And private. Use the above if desired. If you can get Wilbur removed as the man who does will sweep Eastern W.T. in 1880. Being a free thinker I am ... of politics, but can help my friends as John W. Cochrane can tell you.

Secretary of State, Olympia

Indian War 1855-60

Kittitas Valley W.T. July 1, 1879

Hon Elisha P. Ferry, Gov. Wash. Ter. Olympia W.T.

Dear Sir:

Now that we have met personally, that you have visited our valley in person, have met our people face to face, know the length and breadth of our domain it is but justice to you as our chief executive to know some of the wishes of the people of Yakima etc.

There is then, I would beg leave to say a matter in which the people of this county are particularly interested (xxed out) and unanimously interested. and that is that a military post be established somewhere within the borders of our county and that you assist us in securing the same.

You are well aware that Fort Colville and Cordelane protect the settlements on the south and east ~~which~~ whilst by placing the post at the mouth or on the Oconaging river leaves a gap of something like 150 miles in which Yakima has not the slightest protection. Besides Troops can be subsisted in this valley as cheaply with a good many things as in any portion of the land besides being accessible at all times of the year. I have never known a section of p 2 country make such rapid strides as this has done since the establishment of U.S. troops in our midst. They have established confidence and security and hence the country is settling up and moving ahead.

Madam rumor has it here that you are working against us. This is trust is untrue.

You are well aware that in the last Territorial Convention Yakima held the balance of power and had the citizens of Yakima co. received the official respect due them you would have been standing where Thos. H. Brentz stands.

What I wish to say there is another day, another November

~~if we live and the people of~~ Yakima are not only unanimous on this point in regard to post but sensitive.

In the above regards I have not beat about the bush but have come square to the point with unvarnished facts .

Let me hear from you and believe me

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

S.T. Sterling