

Yakima Reservation
Washington Territory
June 30, 1867

AGENCY REPORTS
Year - 1865 1867
File-Click Relander
Typed-J. Lindberg

Sir:

In submitting my annual report of this agency it gives me gratification to be able to state that all the Indians who have ever been brought under the control of this agency remain friendly and have made great advances in agriculture and other civilized arts and are now in such a condition as will render further progress comparatively easy and rapid.

There is, belonging to this reservation, about 3,400 souls; 1,000 men, 1,500 women and 900 children.

From a careful observation of the children born and the deaths among the people I am persuaded that there is an increase over last year of about 200. The disparity existing between the men and women, in numbers, arises partly from the loss they have sustained in former wars among themselves and the whites but more from their irregular habits and idle...the women have been the burden bearers and have performed three-fourths of the work in providing subsistence; this day of oppression of slavery is passing away and the men and women are mutually bearing the burdens that belong to them; in this we see the march of civilization.

The general sanitary condition of the Indians has been improved since last year. For a full account of this I call your attention to the annual report of the resident physician.

They have built the past year with but little expense to the department, 20 houses and 10 barns. They raised grain for food and seed so as to be above want except those who were just beginning, the sick, blind and very old ones that always need a little help.

From the best accounts I can get they must have raised 10,000 bushels of wheat and corn, about 2,000 bushels of oats and 1,500 bushels of peas. Potatoes they raised all they could use and had a little surplus this spring after planting.

Their fisheries, bordering upon and not far removed from the line of the reservation afford them an abundant supply of salmon.

The mountains abound with game, deer, elk, bear and mountain sheep; their valley, the central part of the reservation abounds with prairie chicken, grouse, ducks and geese.

My report of last year showed 1,500 acres of cultivation. This year from the first of April to the last of June we kept three large ox teams ploughing new land for the Indians consisting of from seven to ten yoke of oxen in each team ploughing from one to two and a half acres per day to a

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team making new land broken for the Indians this year not less than 300 acres. This has been done by the Indians.

We have hired two from among those who were capable of managing the oxen and holding the plough for each team, provided them with camping equipment and rations; they went to the different settlements, made their camps and prosecuted their work with a manliness that would do credit to white men. The Indians where they have been ploughing have worked in assisting in herding the oxen and doing such other work as their limited education would permit.

When the land is broken they come with their horses and the ploughs and harnesses we furnish them to plough, fence, and make fruitful fields.

The more elevated among the Indians during the winter months were engaged in cutting and hauling saw logs to the mill and obtained as the fruit of their labor forty-seven thousand eight hundred and fifteen feet of lumber.

The party thus working consecrated 25,000 feet of lumber to build two churches. One is about seven and the other five miles from the station. They are equal in size and finish, 20 x 30 feet. From the cutting the trees in the woods to the building, their altars there has not been more than 46 days of white labor; this has mostly been performed by the teacher, Rev. A. C. Fairchild, who is a practical builder.

A few of the larger boys of the school were taken and the Indians from the different settlements came in and worked until the teacher said enough.

The whole cost of the two churches could not be reckoned less than \$1,500. This is a little of the outcropping of the piety of 180 who make a profession of religion among them.

The plough and the Bible, with the influence growing out of both are worth more upon an Indian reservation to secure permanent peace than a thousand soldiers with their glistening sabres and their prancing steeds.

The reservation mills have during the year been in good working order and have done more service by one-half than in any former year since their erection.

During the month of August last, we lost two dwelling houses and one storehouse by fire. The loss to the department could not be less than \$3,000 or \$3,500. For a time we were embarrassed for want of room but we have made changes in filling up residences so we are now comfortable.

The industrial schools have been progressing the past year. The instruction is not wholly confined to the children who are taught at the station but extends to the Indians in the different settlements through the agency, instructing the men in the various kinds of work needed to obtain a livelihood and the women how to keep their houses, make garments for themselves and families, card and spin, knit and manufacture articles for their comfort.

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The employees have more uniformly devoted their time to their respective branches of business than in former years; and each has been made responsible for the success of his particular work. Their monthly reports will show an amount of work done in value from \$100 to \$200 per month by each of the mechanics and a corresponding thriftiness with the farmers, millers and other employees. Our plan is to employ the best of men so as to get good work and give the best example to the Indians; our employees are all kind, temperate, moral and most of them religious.

The stock upon the reservation is mostly horses. There are about ten thousand head of horses; these are mostly small and not suitable for teams. I purchased last fall four American stallions which will do something in changing the size and general character of their horses.) ✓

They have about twelve hundred head of meat cattle. These are in small bands all over the reservation and owned by about two hundred different persons. Their stock is their wealth and with suitable pains taken in improving and increasing it they will soon become in this wealthy.

It is now near seven years since I came to live with this station. At first it was extremely difficult to overcome their long established notions of wandering and to induce them to make themselves homes; but with the encouragement they have received and the help which has been furnished in ploughing their land, making them harness, ploughs, harrows and all kinds of useful tools they drop the notion of wandering and settle down to cultivate the soil. One succeeding in it induces ten more and ten will make a fixture of a hundred and the ration is increasing every year in this degree.

In circular dated Olympia, February 1, 1867, the agents, sub-agents or special agents are required in their annual reports to furnish a map, etc. I herewith transmit the map.

Since receiving the above circular I have not been able to take as complete a census of all the different tribes under my jurisdiction as was desirable. The only time this can be done with any good degree of accuracy, without great expense to the department, is when the Indians are called to receive their annuities. It will soon be two years since they have received annuities and at the gathering there this fall I will see that it is done to my own and the satisfaction of the department.

In said circular you ask the opinion of the agents in relation to the breaking up of some reservations and consolidating on others. This, no doubt, could be done to the advantages of the Indians where they are by their location brought into connection and contact with the whites. Any and all reservations located where great thoroughfares are bordering upon or passing through them will find trouble growing up between the whites and Indians.

The treaty with the Yakima nation provided there "shall be on tinner" etc. We have never had a tinner to work as tinner since the reservation was organized. The gunsmith with a light stock of tools could do the work needed in this department and a practical harness maker in the place of tinner would be worth three or four times as much to the Indians. It will be remembered. I recommended this change in a former communication to your office. 2

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In conclusion permit me to say, keep good men among the Indians and let the laws be vigorously enforced against the lawless who prowl around reservations like greedy wolves or hungry dogs and peace and prosperity will attend the Indian service.

Respectively submitted

/s/ James H. Wilbur

U. S. Indian Agent, Washington Territory

...two teachers have been employed during the past year, Rev. A. C. Fairchild and Mrs. L. A. Wilber,--William Wright, Superintendent of Teaching.

Yakima Agency
Commissioner of Indian Affairs
House of Representatives
Third Session, 40th Congress
1868-69

AGENCY REPORTS
Year-1868-69
File-Click Relander
Typed-June Lindberg

June 30, 1868

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report in relation to the Yakima nation of Indians:

At the conclusion of the Yakima treaty in the year 1855 Kamaikum was understood to be the authorized head chief of the nation. Since the ratification of the treaty however, he has lived hundreds of miles from the reserve, and has never performed any service of a public character. He has been repeatedly urged to come upon the reservation and live and perform the duties of chief but has refused to do so so that until recently they have been without a leader, a man of their own choice, to represent them. An Indian by the name of Spencer was appointed chief by Superintendent Gery and performed the duties of the office for a brief period until removed by the same power that appointed him. It was expected of a chief that he would be called upon to perform many services of a public character, occupying much of his time, in the absence of a chief, with much of the work that very properly belongs to him and which would be very appropriate for him to perform, but it has devolved upon the agent and greatly increased his labors. While the Indians were assembled at the agency last winter to receive their annuity goods, I thought it a suitable time to elect a chief. After some talk with them upon the subject I proposed that they nominate candidates and proceed at once to elect their officer. Prominent Indians, four in number, were nominated and voted for by ballot. Joe Stwire having received the largest number of votes was declared duly elected. He entered upon his duties January 1, 1868. In the selection of Joe Stwire as head chief of the Indians, they have made a good selection, one which meets my hearty approval. L

I am gratified to learn from the department at Washington that the claims of Spencer, which should have been satisfied long since will be paid at an early date and that funds will be remitted soon for the pay of Joe Stwire. Now that a chief has been elected and his duties are being faithfully performed, I trust that funds will be placed at my disposal regularly and promptly for his payment.

While the Indians were assembled in convention, they voted for having a change made in the treaty, so that instead of a tinner, a saddle and harness maker might be employed. I have informed the department of their wishes and, believing that such a change would be advantageous to them have recommended that it be made. It has been suggested that the tinner could repair and make harnesses. It would be difficult, I think, to find a tinner that understood harness making; and if he could be found he might not be just the man that was needed in other respects. Besides, to make it

thrifty he should understand his business well. I hope the wishes of the Indians will be regarded and that such action will be taken as will bring about the desired change.

It seems to me but just and right that the \$500 which has been appropriated annually by congress for the pay of head chief and unexpended should reach the Indians and be applied to their benefit in some way. If Congress would make the change in the treaty that the Indians have asked for and together with that would make an appropriation of \$1,000 annually in view of the above deficiency for five years for the purchase of leather and material for making harness and saddles, which could be made up by the boys of the school under an instructor, teaching them a useful trade and putting into the hands of the Indians what would enable them to be thrifty in their farming interests, I know of no other way in which the money could be better invested.

The sawmill has been kept in running order and has furnished the agency and the Indians with lumber for building houses and making fences and other needed improvements. The quantity of lumber sawed during the year ending June 30, 1868, was as follows: 1st quarter - none; 2nd quarter - 11,107 feet; 3rd quarter - 62,486 feet; 4th quarter - 89,521 feet; total - 163,114 feet.

Of this about 100,000 feet were for the Indians, who furnished the logs at the mill and took away the lumber to their homes, all without expense to the department.

The flour mill has been kept in repair and rendered good service. The quantity of grain ground during the year ending June 30, 1868 was -- 1st quarter - 1,807 bushels; 2nd quarter - 3,604 bushels; 3d quarter - 628 bushels; 4th quarter - 645 bushels, making in all 6,684 bushels. During the year we have purchased and put into good running order a smut machine costing \$300. This enables us to make flour for the reservation that would compare favorably with other mills in the country. Our flouring mill is too small to accommodate for storage and other purposes and we have resolved upon putting on an addition at the side which will be done to accommodate the incoming harvest.

The employees of this agency are industrious and faithful as shown in the value of the labor of some of the principal mechanics for the year from their monthly reports:

Plough and wagon maker - \$1,305 - 11 days at other work.
Blacksmith - \$1,980 - 26 days at other work.
Gunsmith - \$1,295 - 23 days at other work.

From the report of Rev. A. C. Fairchild, Superintendent of Teaching, which accompanies this, it will be seen that much may be done to elevate and instruct Indian children. The Indian schools exert a wholesome and Christian influence. I am well satisfied that by continuous and well directed efforts on the part of faithful teachers the Indian children may be educated and raised to positions of respectability and usefulness. No pains should be spared to advance them in knowledge and virtue. The educational and farming interests should be well sustained.

The Indians of this reservation are not "fading away before the breath of the white man". There is a small increase from year to year on this reserve.

Two young men, Indians, who had received instruction in making harness while members of the industrial school, were employed for six months making and repairing harness, bridles, halters, etc. The clerk of the agency cut out the work and superintended the making of it. The articles made and repaired were as follows; 20 sets of team harness, manufactured; repaired, cleaned and oiled; 19 sets of team harness, made six riding saddles, 12 riding bridles, 10 halters, oiled 40 horse collars and bridles, saddles, harness, etc. The value of the articles manufactured and repaired were worth \$1,106.50. It will be seen by our vouchers that very much of our work is done by the Indians. I find after the years of instruction they have had and their experience in working at various kinds of business, that in the general work of the reservation, it can be done with two thirds of the money by them and employs them and furnishes them means to purchase stock, make improvements and prepares them in the future to take care of themselves.

During the year the Indians have built two churches. These are nearly finished. In them they worship every Sabbath. About 200 profess religion and are members of the Methodist Episcopal Church, and I am pleased to say give good evidence of being new men and women in Christ Jesus.

The Indians, as a whole, belong^{ing} to this agency are increasingly industrious and consistent. Some who have lived in and bordering upon towns have become almost depraved and low in their habits and character as the white men with whom they have been associated and from whom they have received their instructions.

The past year we have furnished them with oxen, plows and one Indian man to each team to break new land.

With their teams and those furnished by us they have broke and fenced 500 acres of new land; they have built with but little expense to the department 25 houses, 30 barns, raised about 20,000 bushels of wheat, 4,000 bushels of corn and 3,000 bushels of oats, potatoes and vegetables in abundance. They have about 1,500 head of meat cattle and 11,000 head of horses. The agent is giving supervision to their stock so as to improve the breed.

The year past has been one of great economy as will appear from a consideration that \$7,238.75 was due us in December, 1866 from the late Superintendent Waterman, and has not been paid. I have kept out of debt but have been compelled to use means in some instances slightly differing from my instructions. Any seeming indifference to instructions given in using means will find an explanation in the press of circumstances under which I have been placed by the above deficiency. I confidently look to have the above amount remitted soon.

In conclusion permit me to say after a residence of more than 20 years in this country and eight upon this reservation I am better qualified to judge Indian character and what is needed to secure and perpetuate peace with the Indian tribes than in former years.

Give them stability and uprightness in their treaty stipulations; put men among them who respect law and who will encourage them by a wholesome example, and they will leave off their wanderings and adopt the habits of civilized white men in building up monuments of comfort and wealth. Respectfully submitted, James H. Wilbur, U. S. Indian Agent.

To General T. J. McKenney
Superintendent of Indian Affairs
Washington Territory

Fort Simcoe
Washington Territory
June 30, 1868

Sir:

The following report in relation to the Yakima Industrial School is respectfully submitted for the year ending June 30, 1868 and also for the present month.

During the present month the children have been in school as usual. Out of school hours they have been weeding, hoeing and preparing coal wood.

The school has been in session eight months and a half. Mr. N. E. Pearce has had under his instruction 23 children, 8 girls and 15 boys. These children have been taught in the common English branches and show by examination that a good degree of progress has been made.

One class of 12 wild youths, many of whom could not speak a word of Chinook or English at the beginning, has been taught to read and spell readily and to pronounce quite distinctly. In all the branches taught here except arithmetic I think they acquire knowledge as rapidly and retain it as well as white children. I esteem the present class of students to be industrious and obedient and trusty. Religious instruction has been given them every day.

A meeting for prayers and religious conversations has been held every week through half the year and twelve of the children give evidence of being Christian. There has been no sickness worthy of notice among them this year, but very little wrangling, and but one case of severe corporal punishment. They have been easy to manage by firmness, kindness, and by the use of a few words.

They have gathered and placed under shelter 60 bushels of carrots, 20 bushels of turnips, 2 tons of cabbage, 100 bushels of potatoes, 40 bushels of corn, 80 cords of wood fitted for stove, planted and cultivated 44 acres of garden, moved 500 loads of dirt and manure.

According to the moderate estimate made in a monthly report the boys' labor is worth, for the time they have been here, \$510 or \$720 for a year. I think it may be truly said that the school is industrial and can be made self-sustaining.

At the boarding school the girls have been instructed by Mrs. N. E. Pearce in all matters of housekeeping. They have made butter sufficient for the school, the boys bringing the milk to them. I think it is not saying too much to say that order, economy, cleanliness, and a Christian example characterize the boarding house.

Yakima Reservation: (Father Wilbur)

I would recommend that a portion of the principle reservations, those that have large tribes of Indians settled upon them, be surveyed into small tracts in order that the Indian Department may be enabled to give to each Indian a home in his own right, for the use of himself and family. L

From my personal knowledge, having been in the field in this Territory for the past seven years as a deputy, I am satisfied that there is nothing that could be done that would tend so much to civilize as well as christianize the Indian as to give him a small tract of land and let him realize that he is a man and that he must depend upon his own exertions to procure a livelihood. This would serve to break up his tribal relations; it would create a desire for agricultural implements, a permanent house instead of the bark shanty and a thousand other wants of the civilized man, thereby inducing him to become an inhabitant of one locality rather than a wanderer seeking a precarious living by the chase as his forefathers have done for centuries before.

The only reservation in this Territory, and the only one in the United States, so far as I know, where the Indians are increasing in number, is the Yakima agency.

The Rev. J. H. Wilbur has induced about two hundred red families to "adopt the habits of the whites" to the extent of becoming farmers. They have selected small parcels of land, built comfortable houses, have good churches in which they hold regular services, and are fast becoming not only civilized, but christianized. A survey of a portion of the best lands in each principle reservation would be a great blessing to the remaining few who are fast passing away. L

They want "something they can leave their children when they go to the happy hunting ground." The reservations, if surveyed into small tracts and a portion set aside to such as are willing to occupy it with a proviso that it shall never be sold out of the tribe would in my opinion work a lasting good to a race of people who are rapidly decreasing in number. L. P. Beach, Surveyor General, Washington Territory. (1870?)

To-
General T. J. McKenney

June 30, 1868

Mrs. J. H. Wilbur, one of the teachers, has taught the girls to card and spin, to knit and sew and to cut and make their own clothes.

The following exhibit of her labor for the year includes her report for the month of June:

Pants-58 pair @ \$2 per pair - \$116; Stockings-29 pair @ 75 cents per pair; Mittens-13 pair at 25 cents per pair - \$2.35; Dresses-38 @ \$2.00 each-\$76; Cloaks-7 at \$2.00 each-\$14.60; Jackets-12 - \$30.00; Cape-one @ \$1; Quilted skirts-8 at \$2.00 each - \$16.00; Underskirts \$2.00 @ \$1.00 each; bed quilts-two at \$10.00 each - \$20.00; Skirts - 76 at 75 cents each - \$57.00; Aprons-24 at 50 cents each - \$12.00; bed ticks-7 at 75 cents each - \$.25; Candles - 24 dozen at 25 cents per dozen \$6.00; Soap $3\frac{1}{2}$ barrels - \$5.00 per barrel \$17.50; labor performed in office and other places $29\frac{1}{2}$ days at \$2.00 per day - \$50.50....total \$456.75.

I certify that the above report is true. A. C. Fairchild,
Superintendent of Instruction. Submitted to J. H. Wilbur, U. S. Indian Agent.

Colonel Samuel Ross
Superintendent of Indian Affairs
Olympia, Washington

AGENCY REPORTS
Year - 1870-71
File-Click Relander
Typed-June Lindberg

Yakima Agency, Fort Simcoe
August 31, 1870

Colonel:

In accordance with instructions contained in circular letter of June 1, 1869 emanating from the Department of the Interior, Office Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C. I have the honor to submit the following annual report regarding the condition of Indian affairs at the Yakima reservation, together with statistics of education, return of farming and sub-reports of employees now engaged at this agency.

I arrived at this agency in September last receipted for property and moneys invoiced to me by my predecessor, Mr. Wilbur, and took charge on the 13th of September 1869. I entered upon my duties under very unfavorable auspices as regarded the possibility of the Indians subsisting themselves during the approaching winter from the fruits of their labor in the previous spring as the crop put in by themselves had proved a failure owing to drought. Nevertheless, by issuing some flour from the produce of the farm and purchasing some more with the beneficial fund on hand when their own and agency flour was exhausted, I was enabled to relieve most of the sick and needy. The harvest this year has been more satisfactory, taking into consideration the limited quantity of seed grain and their and my command, and it is with feelings of gratification that I have it in my power to report peace and quiet throughout the reservation. The statistical return of farming will give more detailed information.

The arable land on this reservation, in itself of no great extent, is dependent entirely for success in grain raising on the quantity of rain which falls. If this is slight and there are no showers when the sun commences to act, a drought is sure to follow. Very little facilities exist here, outside of the agency grounds, for artificial irrigation.

The farming department, lately placed under the supervision of Mr. Hays, has been properly and successfully conducted in all its branches. All sorts of vegetables have been raised by the employees for their own use, on a piece of land laid out for that purpose contiguous to the fort, and the Indians have been greatly encouraged by this example to do the same for which purpose I purchased and distributed among them various garden seeds. The vegetables planted the previous year suffered in the same manner as the grain which prevented the raising of seeds.

The riding animals of this agency are old and worn out and a great want is felt here for them in keeping up communications between the farm mills and the agency, separated from each other from six to eight miles, not mentioning the occasional necessity to communicate with more distant points, such as the location of Indian bands scattered over the reservation and with the nearest post office Dallas, Oregon (copy) 65 miles distant.

The cattle are thriving which cannot be otherwise on such unequaled grazing land as this reservation affords.

The public buildings are generally speaking in good order although some of them show signs of decay and need repairs to make them habitable during the coming winter. After harvest the carpenter will be directed to attend to the matter.

The mills are in running order but the flume will soon need repairs. Lumber has been furnished to the Indians as fast as logs for sawing have been delivered. During the year past they received some 60,000 feet of lumber. About 6,000 bushels of grain were ground besides the wheat and barley produced at the department farm.

The sawmill could have been more advantageously located--say on the Top-nich river, four miles from the fort, which affords better water power than the present site of the mill, 8 miles distant, and offers greater facilities for getting logs. A portable steam saw mill would have proved in the end of greater benefit to the Indians than the one erected for them; and it would not be amiss if this could yet be considered.

The employees now engaged here are all good, moral men attending to their several duties to my entire satisfaction and making it a matter of conscience to set a good example before the Indians.

On account of gross misconduct caused through machinations to have my predecessor reappointed as agent, I had to discharge several of the employees I found here. I could not discharge my duties and carry out the policy of the government regarding the Indians, impartially and faithfully, with such mischief-breeding elements about me; hence with the approval of the superintendent I discharged those who succeeded in making themselves obnoxious and recommended such persons to fill their places as were willing to cooperate with me cheerfully for the good of the Indian service generally.

The plow and wagon maker, the carpenter, blacksmith and gunsmith, have all been constantly employed in attending to the wants of the Indians either in repairing old or making new articles for their use. I beg to refer you to each of their reports, herewith enclosed. Their monthly reports will show an amount of work done of from \$100 to nearly \$200 per month each.

The school has been attended in only limited numbers. Teaching in reading, writing and arithmetic has been done in the morning, and saddlery has been taught in the afternoon in the several branches with good success. For more detailed information I beg to leave to refer you to the statistics of education, the reports of the superintendent of teaching and of the teacher; all herewith inclosed. I will here also suggest that in order to make an Indian school a success the children should be separated from the parents and their people and entirely taken care of at the expense of the government. This has been done here so far, but only with a small number, not having sufficient funds at my disposal to extend this principle to a larger number of scholars. The education of the rising generation of Indians withdrawn from the influence of their parents and people is the fundamental principle of success in their contemplated regeneration and civilization. But to do this properly and effectually funds must be available for the entire maintenance of such children at the agency. Even so much as can be substantiated of the vaunted success reported to have attended the labors of my predecessor in former years was only effected with ample means. These means have been considerably curtailed of late and a corresponding result cannot be expected to be accomplished with the limited amounts now given to the agents for support of schools. They can hardly be continued at all in a manner to be effective.

As regards the Indians generally I will remark that their sanitary condition has undergone no material change since previous years from what I can learn. Their principle ailment is venereal disease and its consequent evils; partly contracted in former years and partly inherited from their parents.

Blindness, sore eyes and ulcers are the prevailing consequences. The doctor is endeavoring to cure those so afflicted. His report, herewith sent, will give further information. As a general thing the Indians are industrious and progressing. They have two churches presided over by two of their own tribe, ordained ministers of the Methodist persuasion in which service is held alternately twice on each Sabbath and is tolerably well attended by both sexes.

Those who have farms cultivate them to the best of their knowledge. Instructions and help are constantly given them by which they can improve, if so inclined. They visited the fisheries on the Columbia River and generally succeed in laying in a good winter supply of salmon, the salt for curing being furnished from the agency. Their surplus fish are sold to the whites from whom they receive good remuneration. When the fishing season is over they betake themselves to the mountains gathering berries, part of which they also dispose of for cash.

I cannot here omit to remark that I have noticed a good desire by many who have not devoted themselves heretofore to farming to do so, if only their request for help as regards implements, etc. could be responded to. As a general fact I have observed that those pertaining to the Methodist church are well supplied with such material and I may say, well-to-do in most respects; whereas those adhering to the Catholic faith have little or nothing.

This state of affairs suggests the conclusion that sectarian prejudices predominated and influenced the distribution of supplies, intended for all alike, and to the detriment of such as chose to differ with the agent in religious doctrines and observances.

Since I commenced my duties here I have made no distinction; the sick and needy have been my first care; and while seeking them out complaints of unequal treatment in previous years have been made to me by the Indians. They plainly affirm that the Methodists could get all they asked for, while to the Catholics most everything was denied.

Furthermore by comparing the highly favorable reports from this agency in previous year, copies of which are on file in this office, regarding the wealth of the Yakima Indians on the reserve, with the result of my inquiries instituted on this subject, the conclusion forces itself to mind that these reports were grossly exaggerated, far from the true state of affairs, and must have been so colored with a view to create certain favorable impressions personally. For instance, from reliable sources I learn that the Indians never possessed over about 800 head of cattle (and that number even is considered as overestimated by some persons) instead of 1,600 as reported last.

The quantity of feet of lumber reported as having been sawed for them should also make a greater show in frame houses, barns and other improvements than actually exists. Instead of, as affirmed by the agent, 5,000 bushels of wheat having been sold by the Indians, facts prove that only 500 bushels at the most were disposed of by sale from their surplus. So has every article of produce been overrated in the same ratio. In one word, these glowing reports have been far from the truth, but must have been purposely and systematically exaggerated.

The number of arms in the possession of the Indians living on the reservation does not exceed 100 guns and about 40 or 50 pistols, principally issued to them in former times by army officers on behalf of the government. These have been very much used and undergone considerable repairs. Bows and arrows are entirely out of use with them.

Respectfully submitting the foregoing, I remain, Colonel, your obedient servant.

James M. Smith, First Lieutenant, U. S. Army Indian Agent.

(Col. Samuel Ross, U.S.A. Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Olympia, Washington Territory.)

YAKIMA INDIAN AGENCY W.T.
FORT SIMCOE Aug. 1, 1859

Sir:

Since my last report, the Indians of Washington Territory, in Columbia river district lying north of the river and east of Cascade mountains, have remained quiet and peaceable.

The military expedition under Major Garnett, to which reference is made in that report, succeeded in driving every known hostile out of my district.

(March 1) During the expedition and shortly after it as near as I can ascertain some twenty Indian who had murdered white men before the breaking out of the war, were captured and executed. In this number are included the murderers of agent Bolen and the murderers of Mattice. It is a significant fact, however, that one of the murderers of Bolen died by his own hands so fully was he convinced that the vengeance justly due his bloody deed would overtake him by the halter or the bullets of the military. The Indians in my district may be considered as thoroughly subdued and subjected to the rule of the white man: so emphatically is this the case, that nothing demanded of them as a proof of their friendship for the whites is too hard for them. This has been shown by their delivering up even near relatives to the authorities ~~of~~, to suffer the just punishment of their crimes. These remarks do not apply to what are called the Okin-a-kanes who reside upon the Okinakane River and roam over a large part of the extreme northeast portion of my district. They are considered hostile to our people; they secreted themselves from Major Garnett on his expedition last summer; they made many attacks upon gold miners passing through their country last season, and are justly considered mischievous and untrustworthy, like some of the tribes about Colville, not in my district. I have never visited the Okinakanes though their country is in my district, their attitude has hitherto forbidden it. This season, however, I intend to visit them at all risks, so soon as the mountain streams will permit a small party to pass from this agency to that part of my district, not being willing to remain longer personally unacquainted with large tribe within my jurisdiction.

Since my last annual report all the military forces have withdrawn from Fort Simcoe. Two of the three companies have been marched to the forty ninth parallel to act as an escort to the boundary commission. Their presence high up the Okinakane River, the Similkamee and other tributaries of the Okinakane will have a strong restraining influence upon the wild and depredatory Indian in that region and we may hope that they may become somewhat tamed and subdued. A military force has also been stationed at Fort Colville where it was much needed in restraining bad Indians.

This last station completes a pretty good cordon of posts around the outskirts of my extensive district. Fort Steilacoom, on the Sound, the boundary commission escort on the Okinakane, the Colville station and Fort Dalles, will all have a repressing effect upon any restless spirits that may penetrate my district to disturb the peace and quietness now so happily subsisting.

The troops and stations are far apart but the moral influence is very strong upon the Indian mind so much so, that should there be any disposition to make trouble the fact of the troops being on all sides, though distant will compel bad men to be quiet and peaceable.

Just prior to the removal of the troops from this post, all public buildings were transferred by order of General Harney to the Indian Department. Your predecessor ordered me to receive the transfer and to remove my agency from White Salmon to this place. The troops remaining here are fifteen men under Lt. Alexander, left in charge of army property and who will leave as soon as the property can be got away, a process now going on.