

Head Quarters Harney Depot

Colville Valley, W.T. July 15, 1859

Sir:

I have the honor to report for your information that under instructions from Department Head Quarters I occupied this country with a battalion of U.S. Troops the 20th ultimo.

On my march from Snake river to this depot many Palouse Indians, all the Spokanes and Pend d'Oriettes and some Coeur d'Alenes called on me at various points and expressed the earnest friendship for the white man.

Since my arrival here I have been visited by many other Indians and now I proceed to give you a hasty sketch of these different tribes.

PALOUSE INDIANS- I have seen but one band of this ~~band~~ tribe. This band resides on Snake river near the mouth of Palouse. They have been unusually successful this season in collecting roots and berries and in catching salmon. They will get along very comfortably during the winter months. I have not yet been able to ascertain how many warriors this tribe can bring into the field but they were so thoroughly subdued last year that I anticipate no serious trouble with them in future.

SPokane INDIANS- The country occupied by this tribe embraces the land watered by the Spokane river and its tributaries from the Coeur d'Alene Mountains to the Columbia river. The tribe can muster 150 warriors. They live on game, fish roots and berries. A number of Indians belonging to this tribe cultivate the soil and have a few cattle. With assistance from the Department they could be easily induced to raise all the game and vegetables required for their subsistence. They are very desirous of having missionaries sent among them to teach their children to read and write and also how to work.

I trust they will be encouraged by the Department to better their condition for they are well behaved and well affected towards the whites as any Indians I have ever seen.

COLVILLE INDIANS- This tribe occupies the country watered by Mill Creek on the east side of Columbia river and by the Colville River, coming in from the west. They can muster about 115 warriors, have quite a number of farms under cultivation, are well clad, had an abundance of provisions, many comfortable huts and some cattle. Most of their horses were lost however during the past very severe winter. ~~They~~ The very ~~best~~ best salmon fishery on the coast is at Kettle Falls on the Columbia and belongs to these Indians. Previous to my arrival they were very insolent, insubordinate and had been committing many depredations on the settlers & miners but since then they have been ... fully friendly. As long as troops remain here no trouble need be apprehended. Farming implements and seed should also be purchased from these Indians as many are willing to labor.

LAKE INDIANS- This tribe resides on Columbia river about the parallel of 49 degrees. They number some 58 warriors, have always been well disposed and have but a single bad Indian in the tribe. When the boundary between the United States and British Columbia shall be ascertained I think these Indians will be found to be north of that line. They however come to Colville during the fishing season and claim to be an offshoot of the Colvilles with whom they have a constant intercourse.

Sans Poils- This tribe resides during the summer at the mouth of the Spokane river where they have a fishery and during the winter the whole tribe collects at the mouth of San Poil creek on the Columbia river. They can bring more than 100 warriors into the field and have invariably claimed to be very friendly toward the whites.

Okinakans Indians- This tribe is divided into two bands, one band

resides on Columbia river. The other near the forks of the Okinakane river. The two bands can bring nearly 200 warriors into the field. I have had very little intercourse with ~~them~~ these Indians and can not therefore give you much information concerning them. They are however very friendly, although they were very hostile last year.

Upper & Lower Pend d'Oriilles--I know nothing of the ~~upper~~ Upper Pend d'Orielles but the Lake Pend d'Orielles are well affected, industrious and comfortable. They raise wheat and potatoes and are generally improving. The Pend d'Orielles are the most numerous tribe near the depot but they have always been friendly, sober and industrious.

Kootinais--Thus far I have had no intercourse with this tribe. For conclusion I will remark that ~~if~~ if I can ~~sex~~ succeed in keeping intoxicating liquors and evil disposed whites from being introduced among ~~them~~ these Indians, there will be no difficulty in keeping them well affected and improving their condition. You can rest assured of one thing that I will do everything in my power to elevate them in the scale of civilization and I will most certainly do all I can to prevent the introduction of intoxicating liquors into any portion of the country occupied by these different tribes.

Mr. George Monteur has been doing duty with me as interpreter since the 1st of June last. I consider him as being competent, reliable and faithful. He has a very great influence over the Spokanes. George Monteur was appointed interpreter by Supt. Nesmith and directed to ~~report~~ report to me. I have expended from my private funds some twenty dollars for pipes, tobacco and matches as presents to Indians. Can I not be furnished with a few blankets, some tobacco, pipes and matches to be given from time to time to the chiefs and headmen of the various tribes who may visit me. I am etc. Pinkney Lugeneel, bvt. maj. Capt. 9th infy. comd depot. acting Indian agent. to E.R. Geary esq. supt. of Ind. Affairs, ~~Rex~~ Portland, Ore.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Colville W.T.

November 30, 1861

B.F. Kendall, Esq.

Supt. Indian Affairs for Wash. Terry. Olympia W.T.

Sir:

I relieved Major P. Lugenbeel, U.S.A. in command of this post on 18th inst. The departure of Major Lugenbeel leaves this country without an Indian agent and as there are various reasons why that agency and the military authority should be united I take the liberty of suggesting that I receive a special agency from you.

The Indians about here are numerous and peaceably disposed.

I have made issue of provisions to some of them, most needy, and expect to be called on for more.

Should you see fit to forward me an appointment, please send it at same time some office regulations with such other information as will be useful for my guidance.

I am, etc.

James F. Curtis

Major 2nd Infry. Cal [sic] vols
commdy. post.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Colville, W.T.

April 10, 1862

Sir:

On the 5th inst. I had the honor to receive a letter from B.F. Bendall, esq. Supt. Indian affairs of date, Dec. 23, 1861.

I have now to report that the various tribes of this vicinity are quiet during the passed month some miners upon the Columbia at its junction with the Pend d'Orielle barely escaped hostilities with a tribe who ranges thereabouts. I succeeded in quieting matters before they had proceeded too far.

I also beg leave to report that a distillery for the manufacture of whiskey has been recently started into operation in the immediate vicinity of the military reserve and that the vile liquor manufactured there is obtained by the Indians and will soon produce serious trouble. I respectfully ask some instructions or authority from the Indian Dept. to abate this nuisance and to close the establishment.

Since the departure of Major P. Lugenbeel, spl. Indian agent and whom I relieved in command of this post, George Montour has been employed as Indian interpreter and has for years previous held the same position--with a salary of fifty dollars p. mo. upon the Indian Dept. I beg to say that he is entitled to have the same pay continued & respectfully refer his case to you. He has rec. no pay since November last.

I am sir, very respectfully,

Your Obt. Svt.

James F. Curtis, major 2nd Inf Col. [sic]
comdy post.

To Supt. Indian Affairs,

Washington Territory, Olympia, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Head Quarters Fort Colville, W.T.

April 25, 1862

Sir:

Referring to my letter of 10 inst. I have the honor to inform you that the distillery therein mentioned had become an intolerable nuisance to the country and was leading to collisions between whites and Indians. I have therefore destroyed all ~~their~~ their stock of whiskey (less than 100 gallons) and have removed the machinery so that no more can be manufactured.

Trusting this course may receive your sanction and approval

I am sir

Very Respectfully, your obt. svt.

James F. Curtis,

Major 2nd Infy.

Comdy post/

Supt. Indian Affairs for Washington Territory.

June 30, 1862

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor 2 inst. "ithin a few days I expect to be relieved from the command of this post by Major Humly (?) and two companies of W.T. vols. and shall then proceed to California ~~xx~~ via Fort Vancouver.

I shall leave the Indians of this country from the northern boundary line to Snake river and between the Rocky Mts. and the Cascades in a quiet and contented condition. Many of them express a desire to see their new superintendent and to have a talk.

By a communication rec. from your predecessor, B.F. Kendall, supt. I was requested to give my personal attention to any matters here pertaining to your department which I have carefully done for the passed eight months, and the Indian Dept. has been at no expense that I am aware of excepting the salary of an interpreter (Geo. Montour) [later letters conform to one spelling and very clearly, Montour , in contrast to former rather difficult to transcribe writing]

Since the departure of Major Eugenbeel, U.S.A. in Nov. last on various occasions it has been policy to make trifling presents to visiting Indians beyond the issues of flour and beef which I am allowed as commdy officer to issue from my commissary stores; as no fund existed to meet these demands, I have advanced it myself--the total amount thus disbursed is about three hundred dollars (300*

I cannot perhaps properly make any claim upon your Dept. for my services rendered but the trouble that I have been at since 17 Nov. last has not been inconsiderable and the duties not unimportant. I believe you will concede with me that I am entitld to some remuneration.

I respectfully call your attention sir, to this matter and would like to hear from you upon the subject. I shall be at Fort Vancouver soon after receipt of this. James F. Curtis, major, commanding Ft. Colville

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, Nov. 12, 1862

Sir:

I rec. yours of Oct. I found an interpreter at the post on my arrival who has been here for several years. He is very much in want of money. The merchants here do not consider the vouchers which they have been in the habit of issuing here of any value. Can you not send me some funds in some shape so I can pay an interpreter.

Previous to receiving your letter Gen. Alvord had instructed me not to interfere with the liquor trade amongst the whites.

The Indians are very quiet and friendly in this section. Am in hopes I shall be able to keep them so.

Respectfully

L.H. Rumlill

Major commanding

to C.H. Hale,

Indian Agt. [sic]

Fort Colville, W.T., June 8th 1865

Sir:

Your letters of May 12 and 15 reached here a few days since but being absent at the time I was unable to reply by return mail.

The salary vouchers have been signed and are enclosed herewith.

As my baggage containing all my papers has been left behind at Walla Walla I am unable to furnish the amount charged Lindsley for goods but the amount of goods issued to him will be found on Mo. papers of the first fractional quarter/65 and as a list of prices made from memory will be enclosed intoo this, you will be able to arrive at something near the amount.

The blank vouchers forwarded shall be used as directed but it will I fear be impossible to get the signature of all to whom disbursements were made on the trip up owing to their remotness from this point.

I feel the need of a horse, saddle and bridle badly as no travelling can be done without. A suitable horse and rigging costs here from \$150 to \$175 coin.

I trust that funds will be forwarded for the purpose as I am compelled to hire whatever my duties compel me travel and the funds turned over by you have been expended in reaching here, fitting up quarters and traveling about since my arrival.

I am at present very busily engaged in collecting information as to the numbers and condition of the Indians within this district who are at present widely scattered. In a few weeks however most of them will be assembled at the different fisheries along the Columbia and Spokane when I shall visit them and endeavor to obtain an accurate census.

Owing to our proximity to the boundary line it is exceedingly difficult to discriminate between the British Indians and our own as

they frequently travel to and from residing on either side.

The same difficulty also exists with regard to the Indians of Idaho Territory.

Very respectfully etc.

G.A. Paige

In charge Colvilles

W.H. Waterman esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T.

Fort Colville, W.T.

July 10th, 1865

Sir:

Yours of the 17 ult reached me on the ~~32d~~ 3d inst.

In accordance with your instructions I have discontinued the services of the interpreter at this place. I would however respectfully represent that the services of an competent interpreter in the control and management of these Indians are indispensable.

Now if any of the Indians outside of Colville Valley can speak Chinook and complaints of trespass and bad treatment on the part of miners and others passing through their country continue to be brought in almost daily. ~~Withtharxika~~ Within the past five days I have been compelled on several occasions to ~~bddddd~~ beg the services of the late interpreter to investigate complaints brought to me from a distance of fifty miles.

If retrenchment be the object I would most respectfully suggest that the physician's services be dispensed with and the interpreter retained as large delegations from tribes living at a distance are constantly coming in to confer with me on business of importance.

I enclose herewith a letter from Capt. McLawn (?) commanding the post in reference to the necessity of an interpreter.

Having an ex officer[or official] Indian agent before my arrival transacted considerable business with the Indians, Capt. McLawn's judgment in this matter may be considered reliable.

I beg to object to the reappointment of Harry Shutteworth to the position. Had your instructions to dismiss him not have been received I should have done so myself and appointed another in his place .

We has for some time kept an Indian woman and I am reliably informed

has been in the habit of furnishing women to those formerly belonging to this post.

A more suitable person for the position could easily be found.

Trusting that the above suggestions may meet with your approval,
I am, very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

G.A. Paige, in charge Colville and Spokane
Indians

W.H. Waterman, Esq. Supt. Ind. Affrs. Olympia, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Oct Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, July 10/65

Sir:

Your letter of 8th inst is at hand.

In reply I will say that I think that it is a matter of impossibility to act as Indian Agent at this post and discharge all the duties properly without the aid of an interpreter.

In case that either the physician or interpreter must be discharged I think that the interests of the government should be better served by retaining the interpreter. But both are absolutely necessary. at this post.

I am sir, very respectfully

Your obt. svt.

F .. McCown [appears fairly legible]

Capt. Comd. post

G.A. Paige, esq.

In charge of Colville and Spokane Indians.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Port Colville, W.T.

Sept. 11, 1865

Sir:

I have the honor to report for your information that I have recently caused the arrest and examination before the U.S. commissioner at this place of several persons charged with selling liquor to Indians.

Three of these parties were bound over to appear at the next term of Dist. Court which it was supposed at the time would be held here on the 2nd of this month.

We have just received information from below that a term of court will be held here this fall so I presume these cases with several others will have to go by default as the transportation of the parties and witnesses to Walla Walla for trial would be attended with heavy expense even admitting that we had the right to do so which I regard as somewhat questionable.

This is the more to be regretted as I have incurred some expenses in bringing the parties to an examination and was very anxious to make a few wholesome examples. These parties were the first ever arrested here by civil process for this offense and our failure to convict them or even bring them to trial cannot but operate against us in our efforts to suppress the traffic.

Had I the usual means I could in a short time get up twenty good cases in the valley but the ferreting out of these matters is attended with some expense and I have not got a dollar of government money in my hands and am compelled to labor under great difficulties in discharging the part of my duty.

Could not a small fund be placed at my disposal to aid me in arresting this traffic?

In this country the expenses of travelling to different points are very heavy and I am frequently compelled to remain at home when my ~~present~~ presence is required elsewhere among the Indians because of the want of funds.

Hoping to receive an early and favorable reply

I am, very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

G.A. Paige

In charge of Indians, Fort Colville, W.T.

W.H. Waterman, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs,

Olympia, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Rail No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

Sept. 4th, 1865

Sir:

I have to report that a quantity of Ind. Dept. goods consisting of blankets and ^{funds} ~~prinks~~, to the amount of about five hundred dollars was stolen from the store house at this post some weeks ago.

The robbery occurred while I was absent on duty and was effected by means of false keys. All or nearly all of this property has recently been recovered and one of the offenders, a soldier, is now confined in the guard house awaiting trial by court martial.

A citizen who was also implicated effected his escape into British Columbia before a warrant could be served, for the recovery of this property. I am indebted to the exertions of Mr. Robert Lamphere, the efficient sheriff of this county who becoming aware of the robbery some days before my return was employed by me to assist in ferritting the matter with a view to recover the property.

Mr. Lamphere was employed in the business more than three weeks and his bill for his services is \$100 in coin or its equivalent which under the circumstances I deem reasonable.

The goods at the time of the robbery were in one of the government store houses where they had been stored nearly a year and were supposed to be perfectly secure. I mention this lest it be supposed that the robbery was the result of carelessness.

I trust that Mr. Lamphere will be paid the amount as had it not been for him the property would likely never been recovered .

Enclosed will be found affidavits of Capt McCown and myself touching the robbery, also vouchers signed by Mr. Lamphere who requests

that the money may be forwarded to me at this place.

In order to guard against a recurrence of this act I have made the property as secure as my limited means will allow.

Respectfully,

Your Obt. Servt.

G.A. Paige, in charge of Indians
Fort Colville, W.T.

W.H. Waterman Esq.

Supt. Ind. Affrs.

W.T.

Wash'tn Duptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

Sept. 16, 1865

Sir:

In consequence of an unusual amount of sickness among the Indians of this district and the numerous applications made to me for relief, I have been compelled to purchase on the credit of the department a quantity of medicines and a small quantity of provisions for the relief of the sick and destitute in my charge.

I enclose to you a settlement; accounts of the above purchases, also an account of blacksmith work done for the Indians to enable them to conduct farming operations, also an account for hay purchased for the Ind. Dept. horse at this place.

I shall at the expiration of the present quarter forward a report of Dr. J.L. (Or I.L.) ~~Taney~~ Tobey, acting physician on the sanitary condition of the Indians which will fully explain the necessity of the above purchases for their relief.

Very respectfully etc., G.A. Paige

In charge Indians, Fort Colville Distr. W.T

W.H. Waterman esq.

Supt. Ind. Affs. Olympia W.T.

September 24, 1865

Sir:

I desire to ask your opinion upon the point mentioned herein and as the opinion will to a great extent regulate my future official course in the management of Indian affairs here, I shall feel greatly obliged ~~xxxxxx~~ if you will give the subject prompt attention and transmit at your earliest convenience such instructions for my guidance as the anomalous condition of things here require.

In case of individual assault, sometimes with weapons, either between whites and ~~Indian~~ Indians or between Indians and Chinamen in which the Indian is said to be the aggressor, it is my duty to try the case and inflict punishment when the courts are open for redress and the representative of the Ind. Dept. stands ready to deliver such offender for trial.

I ask your opinion in this point because several cases of the kind above cited have lately arisen and application been made for one to punish ~~xxxxxx~~ the offender on the grounds that there was not sufficient proof to convict them in a court of justice and if convicted it would only put the territory to unnecessary offense.

Such offenses are plainly matters for judicial investigation and believing that an Indian is entitled under our law to a fair and impartial trial I have respectfully declined to punish them but have advised that they be tried in due form and I stand ready at all times to turn over for trial such offenders whenever a demand is made upon me.

It will be seen that the proposition for me to inflict punishment because the courts (in a community deeply prejudicial against the Indians) may ~~fail~~ fail to convict, amounts to a request that I shall punish them on suspicion--a proposition to every sentiment of humanity and to utterly at variance with the commonest principle of justice that I have firmly declined to accede to it. Am I right or wrong. G.A. Paige in chg. Colville and Spokane Inds.

(Excerpt)

....You^x say "It is very manifest that on the score of expense nothing is gained by the change of administration at Fort Colville."

Perhaps not ^{too} on the score of expense, but on other ^{more} scores I can assure you that much has been gained. I am prepared to show by the best of evidence that this post and village located in the midst of a vast Indian country and heretofore the favorite resort of prostitute Indian women and drunken Indians is now purer in these respects than the town of Olympia. Let us see. On the parade grounds of the garrison as well as in the streets of the village close by there were formerly as many prostitute Indian women and drunken Indians as there were soldiers and citizens. Some say more, but placing the numbers a much less I am inclined to the belief that I have done the most to some service when I assure you that none of these things have been practiced in this vicinity since my arrival.

The above evils were tolerated if not encouraged by the ex-officio Ind. Agents at this place formerly with the exception of Capt. McCown, the present commander who commenced the work of purification shortly before my arrival. The captain started the ball in this immediate vicinity before I succeeded him. I have kept it rolling pretty briskly and successfully and have rolled it into other localities. I have travelled to many different points, made numerous arrests of Indians guilty of drunkenness and other misdeeds and punished them. I have caused the arrest, examination and committal of several persons guilty of selling liquor to Indians and have succeeded in checking the traffic throughout this valley. I have visited remote points to ascertain from personal observations the condition, numbers, feeling and wants of the Indians and have given valuable information to the department.

None of the act. agents formerly in charge had ever done these

things. I have done them without the aid of a regular interpreter. In doing this I have ridden over nine hundred miles since my arrival. Persons living in the lower country have but a faint conception of the high prices and great expense of travelling in this country where everything has to be hauled hundreds of miles by wagons. From \$5 to \$7 dollars a night is not an unusual charge for meals, lodging and horses keeping under all the circumstances I ~~hardly~~ think I deserve ~~therap~~ about expenses. However I have got Indian matters into a proper turn and shall certainly contract no more indebtedness though I feel confident there will be much suffering among the Indians the coming winter.

Yours truly

G.A. Paige

C.A. Huntington, esq. Olympia N.T.

Oct. 29th P.S. Since writing the above I have received yours of the 9th inst. The orders of the Supt. to contract no debts for any purpose shall be faithfully executed. Yours truly

G.A. Paige

Oct 30-Since writing the above I have seen Mr. Lamphere who has just returned. As you state in yours of the 9th that the missing vouchers have been found I presume his are enclosed so I will not trouble to make out new ones. The claim is just and should by all means be paid.

Fort Colville, W.T.

January 4, 1865 [sic]

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of Nov. 30th informing me that funds had been placed to my credit for the liquidation of Ind. Dept. indebtedness here.

I have made arrangements with the firm of Smith and Young of this place to advance the funds and have given an order on you payable to E.F. Smith, Portland. Paige to W.H. Waterman, esq. Supt. Ind. Aff.