

Oregon City July 21, 1850

Sir: I have long since been made acquainted with your appointment as Indian Agent to reside in Oregon.

I have made arrangements to locate you on the Uvilla river at what is called the lower crossing of the Emigrant road in the country claimed by the Cayuses or (in their own language) Waillatpus. An agency house is now in a forward state of erection at that point, the plan and contract for which was given out long before you arrived in the country. Three copies of the treaty with the Indians on this subject (giving the site for building etc) are in the hands of three chiefs of the Cayuse tribe. I deem it advisable you occupy that station as soon as you can possibly make arrangements to do so. Although the house will not be finished before September, the necessity for you being there arises from the fact that the time has arrived when the emigrants ~~would begin to come to the territory~~ from the states will begin to come to the territory and there are good reasons for believing that difficulties will arise between them and the Snake Indians, who are very numerous, though extremely ignorant and degraded. Their thievish propensities will doubtless draw them into troubles that could be much easier prevented than settled after the commission of crime. You will be able to judge after you get to your post as to the best method of doing this under the embarrassing circumstances of their being no military force in the country. I am of the opinion, however, that it will ~~be~~ be advisable for you to go in person as far as Fort Hall and on your way call around you as many of the chiefs and headmen of the Snakes as possible and warn them of the inevitable consequences that must and will follow the thievish propensities of their people. At the same time you will not lose sight of another duty which is to persuade, if possible, the emigrants to treat these Indians kindly and advise them to keep a close watch at night over their stock

p. 20- "While speaking of the Snake Indians I would call your attention to the difficulties existing between that tribe and the Nez Perces (Sahaptans). In a treaty lately made with the latter nation it was agreed that they would not make war upon the Snake Indians before the service berries ripened again (one year). But while you are in the Snake country it would be well to fix a time within six months, for a meeting of all the chiefs of the Snake tribe and those of the Nez Perces at Grand Ronde and ~~there~~ there have a settlement of their difficulties made without their going to war. The Nez Perces are a numerous and proud people and there could not be any safety for the emigrants coming overland to Oregon were these two nations at war with each other. I will take an early opportunity to give you a history of the origin of the difficulties between these two powerful nations. There is nothing that can prevent this war, provided the government does not succeed in bringing about an amicable settlement.

Amongst all the other tribes of Indians in Eastern Oregon, including the Nez Perces, there exists the most perfect submission to the United States Government and the most friendly feelings towards our people. It nevertheless will be expected of you to cherish and stimulate this good feeling and nothing will have a better tendency to this end than to check that reckless spirit that is sometimes observable among the emigrants and other white men passing through their country.

On the subject of the whiskey trade I believe there is no part of the state or territory of equal extent where so little liquor is drunk as in upper Oregon. So desirable a state of things I hope you will studiously endeavor to keep up by strictly watching all suspicious travellers in your part of the country. I have granted license to but one trader, A. F. Royer esc. to reside on the Umpqua near the agency. You may find p. 21 it advisable to license others to trade with some of the numerous tribes in Eastern Oregon. I would advise caution on this subject until the government decides as to the rights of the Hudson Bay Company a subject to which I long since called the attention of the commissioner of Indian Affairs

It is expected that you will see that the laws prohibiting those connected with the Indian department from directly or indirectly trading with the Indians, will be complied with in your district.

I have procured all the statistical information necessary from all the tribes in the upper country except the Snakes. You will please procure with as much accuracy as possible, the total number of men, women and children of this nation residing in Oregon and also such details of character, habits etc. as can be obtained from reliable sources.

Your attention is also directed to that part of the late treaty with the Cayuses and Nez Perce tribes which provides that no missionary shall be allowed to locate in their countries without their previous consent. The instructions from government to me are herein copied and you are hereby instructed to comply with them. They are as follows.

(Repeated instructions, continued in earlier letter) (Also copied, instructions as to reconciling differences between tribes)

I extremely regret that the present condition of affairs is such that you will be without power to enforce obedience to the laws, there being no troops nor any peace officer of the General Government or of the Territory in Upper Oregon or within a distance of from two hundred and fifty to three hundred miles. The fact that such a state of things exists will be laid before the government and doubtless suitable provisions will be made to obviate this difficulty.

Your ~~at~~ salary will be paid quarterly by the superintendent and you will be furnished with stationery and such blanks as are necessary to gether with copies of such laws as are applicable to Indian affairs. You will please communicate with the superintendent as often as his advise or ~~instructions~~ instructions may be deemed necessary and you will from time to time receive advises from him in relation to business connected with your agency. I have the honor etc. Anson Hart, supt. Ind. Affairs Oregon to Elias Wampole, esq. Indian Agent.

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, 1848-73 "oll 11, Microcopy 2

p. 23-- Report Office Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Oregon City
September. 1851

To Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Sir:

In submitting my annual report of the condition of Indian Affairs within my superintendency I must beg leave to state that in consequence of there being such a large number of Indian tribes scattered over so great an extent of ~~xxxxxx~~ territory, I shall hope to be excused for any apparent want of information upon the several subjects under consideration.

It may perhaps be unnecessary to add that owing to unavoidable causes I have been left almost alone to perform the duties and labors intended to have been divided among efficient agents and sub agents. At the same time it should be remembered that very great additional labors have been added to the duties of my office by the provisions of the act of Congress of 27th February last which transfers to this department the authority to make treaties with the Indian tribes west of the Cascade mountains. It should also be borne in mind that in consequence of the almost incessant rains that fall during six months of the year in Oregon all the outdoor business of the country must be accomplished in the remaining six months.

While an earnest desire to meet the highest expectations of the government in the performance of the duties assigned me I have left nothing unattended to that the very limited means in my position would warrant me undertaking.

A brief account of the labors performed by agents and sub agents acting under my superintendence (sic) is all that can be communicated at this time, no regular report having been received from them. p 24
H.H. Spalding (sic) esq Indian agent whose post was located on the Umpqua river has visited that part of the country twice since his appointment, once last fall and again in June last. How much of the intervening time ^{been} he may have confined at his home on the Calapooya by sickness I am unable to determine. Believing the state of affairs in the Rogue River country was such as to require the services of an active and competent agent

one who would be willing to render the government some equivalent for the ~~salary~~ salary received I felt it my duty to write you as I did on the 20th day last asking the appointment of E.A. ~~Stark~~ Storking (?) esq to supersede (sic) Mr. Spalding.

Elias Wampole, esq. Indian agent arrived here in ~~the~~ June last and has entered upon the duties of his office at his post on the Uilla River in Upper Oregon.

J.L. Parrish esq of Portland was the only acting sub agent that I found in Oregon upon my arrival in the territory. Mr. Parrish has been a useful and efficient agent always ready and willing to discharge the duties assigned him.

In October last I took the liberty to recommend the appointment of Robert Shortess Esq. of Astoria as sub agent in place of Mr. Van Dusen who declined accepting the office. Mr. Shortess immediately entered upon the duties of his office and has been vigilant and useful. I do not learn that a commission has yet reached him.

On the ninth of August last I received a commission for E. Walker esq. as sub agent to reside in the Spokane country. I am not yet informed that Mr. Walker will undertake this long journey.

Soon after forwarding my brief report of October 1st p 25

I was called to the mouth of the Columbia on account of the difficulties that seemed to oppose our efforts to check the extensive traffic in spirituous liquors in that part of the country. After a ~~thorn~~ thorough examination of the matter I found a state of things existing that induced me to ask for farther instructions in regard to the introduction and sale of spirituous liquors in Oregon.

Up to this time no definite answer has been received on this subject. It gives me great ~~xxx~~ pleasure to remark here that notwithstanding there is a great deal of liq or sold in ~~xxx~~ some localities I believe the Indians of Oregon taken as a whole body, consume less liquor in proportion to their number than any others in the United States. No country with which I

am acquainted exhibits so few drunken Indians. I have seen many thousands of these Indians but never saw but one that appeared intoxicated. I am also well persuaded that with few exceptions the Indians of Oregon are the most peaceable, friendly and easiest managed with proper care of any uncivilized tribes within the bounds of the United States.

The exceptions alluded to are the Snakes and the Shasta or Rogue River tribes whose stealing propensities have led them into many difficulties with the whites and no sudden change in their bad habits or security from the depredations can reasonably be expected until detachments of troops shall be sent into the two sections of the country inhabited by these tribes. The discovery of gold in the Rogue River country has attracted with many well disposed persons, some of the most unprincipled and ungovernable white men of all countries to keep in these these men troops are indispensable.

I regret that my recommendations of November last on this subject have not (ere ?) been as this (sic) carried out. While writing this report General Hitchcock commander in chief of the military forces of the Pacific has called upon me and states that he has ordered p 26 a detachment of twenty men from Astoria and Ft. Vancouver to proceed immediately to ^{the} Rogue River Country.

There should also be a small force stationed in the Snakes ' country before the emigration of next summer comes over the plains. It will be prudent also to have a small detachment of ~~fx~~ at Steilacoom (sic) on Puget's Sound. Elsewhere in Oregon I know of no necessity for United States troops.

In my instructions from the Department the following language is used:

"Under no circumstances should the Company (Hudson's Bay) be permitted to have trading establishments within the limits of our Territory and if any such establishments now exist they should be promptly proceeded with in accordance with the requirements of the Intercourse Law."

Believing that the rights of this company were such as to justify me in calling the attention of the government to the subject before I attempted to carry out the instructions I have deferred action in the matter until further directions shall be received. No answer to my letter of October last on this subject has yet been received, except that the matter had been referred to the Secretary of State and his ~~decision~~ decision would be forwarded as soon as received. I would suggest to the consideration of government the propriety of buying out these possessory rights of the company. The advantages possessed by them are such as to seriously affect the interests of our own traders in what should be our own country. Such a negotiation (sic) I would further suggest should be, on the score of economy, made in Oregon, between the company's chief factor or governor and such other individuals (well acquainted with the property and trade of the company) as might be selected by the President of the United States. p 27

While on this subject it may not be improper to state some facts in relation to the trade of this company. They have at this time within this the territory of Oregon twelve large trading posts situated at the following places viz: Fort Vancouver, Ft. Walla Walla, Ft. Boise, Ft. Hall, Ft. Okanogan, Ft. Colville, Ft. Misqually, Ft. Umpqua, Cape Disappointment, Cowlitz, among the Flat Heads and among the Kootenais. At these places the most perfect order is observed and all their business operations are thoroughly systemized. Their regulations are such that they can procure their factors, clerks, boatmen, servants, etc. at one fourth the price our own merchants are obliged to pay for the same kind of labor.

Their goods are mostly brought out in their own ships and whenever they are brought on other ships, which is not unfrequent, they pay less than one half the price for freight on goods from London to Oregon, besides they save the profits and charges that are paid on goods at New York. I am unable to state with much accuracy the value of goods imported annually to Oregon by this company but should think the amount rapidly increasing. This

year it will be at least one hundred thousand dollars more than it was two years since.

The chief factor of this company, Gov. Ogden, is a gentleman of high standing and much kindness and good feeling is manifested by him on all occasions toward the people of the United States

From the late decision of Judge Nelson it appears that in consequence of a territorial Law of Oregon there is no way by which a white man can be punished for offences committed against Indians unless there be some other white person to testify as a witness against him. It would seem highly necessary that congress enact some laws by which such a difficulty can be obviated.

The following is the decision of the Chief Justice as written out by himself: p. 28

William Johnson and Ezra Johnson have on this 17th day of July A.D. 1851 been brought before me upon a warrant issued against them for an assault and battery alleged to have been committed by them upon the body of a woman belonging to the Clackamas tribe of Indians and now on the hearing of the matter the ~~proceedin~~ prosecution for the purpose of establishing the charge set out in the warrant offer as a witness an Indian woman named Hezika. Her competency is objected to by the defendants and the question arises whether an Indian in a case like this can be permitted to testify against a white.

The legislature of the provisional government enacted in its day a law in these words:

"A negro mulatto or Indian shall not be a witness in any court in any case against a white person." which law was in full force at the time of the passage by Congress of the act organizing the territory. By Section 14th of the organic act it is provided that the law now in force in the territory of Oregon under the authority of the provisional government established by the people thereof shall continue to be valid and operative therein so far as the same be not incompatible with the constitution of the United States and the principals and provisions of this act.

Again, the territorial legislature at its last session re-enacted the laws of the provincial government in the very words in which it is quoted above.

It would seem from this to be very plain that the witness offered is made by law incompetent to testify in the case and she must accordingly be rejected." Signed Thomas Nelson, chief justice Su. Co. of Oregon
 I would suggest in your consideration the passage of a law p. 29 authorizing the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon to appoint interpreters for himself and agents (not exceeding the number specified by law) without sending the nominations to Washington to be confirmed. The reason for such a change was fully explained in my letter of 1st May last to the commissioner.

The total amount of money received in this department up to the first day of July last is twenty two thousand two hundred and fifty seven dollars and fifty three cents and the total disbursements up to the same time amount to nineteen thousand seven hundred and eighty dollars and nine cents.

Receipts \$22,257.53

Expenditures \$19,780.09

Balance \$2,477.44

Quarterly returns have been promptly made of all receipts and disbursement up to the close of the last fiscal year including 30th June 1851.

Estimates were forwarded from the office by the last mail for the necessary appropriations to supply deficiencies for expenditures in this year and to fulfil treaty stipulations.

Estimates are also forwarded for appropriations to meet expenditures for all purposes in the year commencing the first of July, 1852.

Deficiency for 1851 \$51,680

Estimates for 1852 \$60,930.

I intend to start for the Rogue River country in a few days with the view of making a treaty with the Indians of that region for all their

lands. Upon my return I may be able to make a full report of the state of affairs in that quarter.

There will not be time to visit the Puget Sound country p. 30 before the ~~six~~ commencement of the rainy season. An agent will be sent to reside there as soon as there is one appointed.

The following statement of the number of Indians composing the different tribes and bands I think can be relied upon as being as accurate as can possibly be obtained at present. A division of males and females is made in all cases where their numbers have been ascertained.

It may perhaps be unnecessary to call the attention of the commissioner to the great discrepancy between this and former reports in relation to the numbers of Indians comprising the several tribes in Oregon. It may however be interesting to observe how very great the error has been in giving the number of Cayuses and Walla Wallas. I very early discovered there erroneous statements and have thought best to give an account of but very few that I have not personally visited.

A map showing the localities of the several tribes is in progress and will be forwarded as soon as it can be completed.

The Clatsops are a band of the Chinooks occupying the country on the Pacific Coast from the mouth of the Columbia river some thirty miles south. Their lands are considered very valuable. They include what are called the Clatsop plains. Nearly all their territory is already claimed and occupied by settlers. They number in all eighty and have ceded their lands to the United States.

The Chinooks are divided into five other small bands occupying both sides of the Columbia from the mouth some sixty miles up. They number one hundred and forty two of which thirty six are slaves. In 1828 they were thought to number nearly twenty thousand. All their lands have lately been ceded to the United States. They all speak a p 31 language called the Chinook which is not spoken by any white person and

also the common jargon of the country. The whole country bordering on the Columbia as far up as the Dalles was formerly owned and occupied by this tribe.

For a distance of about eighty miles from the Cowlitz river to the Cascades there are now no real owners of the land living. It is occupied by the Vancouver Indians from whom it will have to be purchased. Their band numbers in all sixty.

Two small remnants of bands called the Cheelappas and Quillequwoquas have ceded to the United States a considerable tract of country north of that bought of the Chinooks bordering on the Pacific and extending east nearly to the Cowlitz river. They number thirteen.

The Tillamooks living on the Pacific Coast south of the Clatsops and occupying the country between the Coast Ranges of mountains and the ocean have ceded their lands to the United States. Their territory extends from forty five to fifty miles south of that of the Clatsops. Their total number is one hundred and fifty.

The Clackamas band living upon the Clackamas river near Oregon City were formerly a part of the Chinook tribe and still speak their language. They claim the country on the east side of the ~~river~~ Willamette river from a few miles above its mouth nearly to Oregon City and extending east to the Cascade Mountains. They refuse to sell their land without immediate payment. Their whole number is eighty-eight. They ~~own~~ own a valuable tract of country.

The Tum - Water band, also a remnant of the Chinooks residing at the Falls of the Willamette opposite Oregon City claim a strip of land some twenty mile in length on the west side of the Willamette extending from Sauvie's Island at the mouth of the river up to the Tuality river and west to Tualituit Plains. They also refuse to sell their land without pay down, giving as a reason the probability of their ~~living~~ living but a few years. Their number is thirteen.

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The next lands south extending some sixty or eighty miles up the valley of the Willamette and from the Coast range on the west to the Cascade Range of Mountains on the East have lately been ceded to the United States by the several bands of Moolalas and Calapoocas.

The Moolalles (sic) formerly a branch of the Waillatpu or Cayuse nation number one hundred and twenty three.

The Calapooyas are divided into several large bands and number in all five hundred and sixty. The land ceded by these two tribes, Moolalles and Calapooyas is considered the best in Oregon. Their territory comprises the largest and most densely settled portion of the Willamette Valley and is nearly all an open prairie country.

The Umpquas inhabiting the valley of the Umpqua river havenot ceded their lands. They will be treated with this fall if possible to do so before the rainy season sets in. Their country is becoming rapidly settled and is a most desirable portion of Oregon. They number two hundred and forty three.

The Shasta or Rogue River Indians claim the southwestern part of Oregon south of the ~~Umpqua~~ Umpqua. They will probably be treated with this fall. Their number is not ascertained.

The Cascade Indians, a branch of the Chinooks, live at the Cascades of the Columbia. They number one hundred and twenty.

The Clickitats claim a district of country north of the Columbia but they are a roving tribe and are scattered about in different parts of the ~~country~~ territory. Their number is four hundred and ninety two.

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The Cowlitz, Chehalis and Nisqually tribes have not been visited nor has any reliable information as to their number been received nor of those farther north on Pugets Sound.

The tribes and bands mentioned above are those living west of the Cascade mountains.

Recapitulation

Names

Clatsops

37 males

43 females

80

Chinook	70	72	142	
Vancouver	23	37	60	(37 includes women and children)
Whulapas and Quilliquoquas			13	
Tillamooks			150	
Clackamas	19 men	29 women	40 children	88
Tum Waters	5 men	6 women	2 children	13
Moolalles	40	60	23	123
Calapooyas				560
Umpquas	67 men	104 women	32 boys	40 girls 243
Shasta or Rogue River				----
Cascades	45 men	75 women	0206696040	girls and boys 120
Clickitats	252 men	130 women	45 boys	65 girls 492
Cowlitz, Misqually, Chehales				

The following are tribe and bands east of the Cascade mountains many of which I have visited during the past summer

Wascopams occupy the country on both sides of the Columbia at the Dalles and on the DesChutes or Fall river. They are divided into three bands and all speak the Walla Walla and Chinook languages. They number in all seven hundred and eighty two

The Walla Wallas live principally upon the Walla Walla river. Their number is one hundred and thirty.

The Wailatpus or Cayuses occupying the ~~sddh~~ country south and east of the Walla Wallas number one hundred and twenty six. They are the wealthiest ?? in proportion to their number of any of the tribes in Oregon, owning large droves of horses and cattle

p. 36 The country owned by the Cayuses and Walla Wallas contains ^{more} good tillable land than there is in the four New England states, Connecticut, Vermont, New Hampshire and Rhode Island and as these tribes have become so nearly extinct I suggest the propriety of early provisions being made by congress for purchasing their lands.

The Sahaptin or Nez Perce tribe own a large tract of country north and

East of the Cayuses and Walla Walla and are the most numerous and powerful tribe in Oregon, possessing immense wealth in cattle and horses. They are divided into fifteen bands which number in all one thousand eight hundred and eighty souls.

The Palooses occupy a district of country north of the Nez Percés and speak the Walla Walla language. Their total number is one hundred and eighty one.

The Spokans or Flat Heads own a large district of country north of the Walla Walla and Nez Percés. These Indians received the name of Flat Heads from the fact that their heads were not sharpened by pressure on the forehead as the Chinooks. They are divided into eight bands, the total number of which is two thousand five hundred and twelve.

The Yackamas including the band at Priest Rapids speak the Walla Walla language and own the tract of country drained by the Yakima river, number estimated one thousand.

The number of six bands of the Spokanes were furnished me by a Catholic missionary residing in their country

p. 35 Recapitulation of Tribes East of Cascade Mountains

Wascopams	total			
Two Bands at the Dalles	129 men	206 women	147 children	482
Deschutes band	95	115	90	300
Walla Walla	52	40	38	130
Waiilatpu or Cayuses	38	48	49	126
Sahaptins or Nez Percés	698	1182 and children		1880
Palooses	60	62	49	181
Spokans or Flat Heads				
Sinhumanish band	71 men	85 women	38 boys 38 girls	232
Mission band	70	60	40	210
Upper Pend Grilles 480, Lower do. 520; Couer d'Alenes 200				1200
Rock Island 300, Colville 320, Okanagan 250				870
Yackimas (Estimated)				1,000

Snakes

The Shoshones or Snakes are a large tribe in the southeastern part of Oregon extending into the territory of Utah, and are supposed to be a branch of the Comanchess as they are said to speak the same language. It is impossible to ascertain their number at present.

Soon after the commencement of the rainy season last fall the Indians belonging to the various bands of the Spokans began to assemble in and about Oregon City in numbers much larger than usual. Sixty of them were visiting me at one time. Their object in coming into the Willamette Valley was twofold. In the first place they came to ask my aid in procuring a missionary to reside in their country who would teach them the precepts of the Christian religion. Their next object was to labor for the whites and procure clothing for themselves and families. They all appeared industrious and civil and were very strict in keeping up the forms of worship morning & evening at their encampment. Large numbers of the Wascopams, Clickatats and Cascade Indians were also encamped near this place at the same time. They all claimed the honor of making me a formal visit p. 36

upon which occasion they were supplied with provisions for the day. Each one received a present of bread, tobacco, etc. upon their departure for their distant homes.

When agents become established in these distant parts of Oregon there will not be such a disposition among the Indians to leave their homes

The last mentioned tribes had become alarmed at the report that the government intended to remove all the Indians west of the Cascade mountains and locate them among the tribes east of those mountains.

Having satisfied myself that such a removal could not be made with the consent of the Indians I could do no less in answer to their daily inquiries than promise to meet them at the Dalles of the Columbia in June and ~~there~~ then tell them the result of the negotiations that were about to be made by the commissioners appointed to make treaties with

the Indians west of the Cascade mountains.

When it became generally known in Upper Oregon that I had promised to go to the Dalles I had pressing invitations from nearly all the large tribes of that region to extend my visits to them. They wished me to do so with a view of adjusting if possible many difficulties that they said never could be settled among themselves without going to war with one of the neighboring tribes.

About this time I received instructions from Washington authorizing me to investigate large claims against the government made by the American Board of Missions for ~~expensive~~ losses sustained at their several mission stations in Upper Oregon at the time of the Massacre of Dr. Whitman, family and others in the fall of 1847 and also claims arising from the subsequent Cayuse war. Believing that no just estimate of these claims could be made without personally visiting the several mission stations and believing also that it was necessary to locate an agency house some where in that part of Oregon p. 37

I was induced to arrange my business affairs so as to start upon the long journey about the last of May.

Were it not that I wish to give the government some idea of the difficulties attending my travels in that remote region of Oregon, as well as the enormous expense unavoidably connected with them I would refrain from giving details that otherwise would be uninteresting at Washington.

Having made previous arrangements for riding and pack horses to be furnished us at the Dalles of the Columbia and also for boats to convey us from the Cascades to the Dalles we embarked the 30th May at Oregon City on board the Lot Whitcomb destined to the Cascades. One company consisted of the superintendent and secretary, two interpreters, three packers and a cook besides these there were two carpenters and a cook who were going with us for the purpose of building an agency house. The price paid these men were as follows: First ~~carp~~ carpenter seven dollars per day; E. Walker,

interpreter six dollars; ~~XXXXXXXX~~ one carpenter and three packers five dollars each; two cooks each one hundred dollars per month.

On the morning of the second day we arrived at the Cascades. Our passage and freight thus far eight miles amounted to three hundred dollars.

After two days hard labor in making the portage at a cost of one hundred and fifty dollars we embarked in two large boats for the Dalles and arrived there late in the evening of June 2d. The cost of getting from the Cascades to this place, forty miles, was nearly one hundred dollars.

Here we found awaiting our arrival delegations from many of the Indian tribes of Upper Oregon. On the 4th a council was held with them which lasted three hours, at which a variety of arguments were made use of to demonstrate the wrong that would be inflicted upon their tribes were the government to send among them the Indians west of the mountains. The habits and customs of the fishing tribes of the Lower Columbia and its tributaries p 38 were all unlike theirs, besides those tribes were diseased and dying off rapidly; they did not wish their people subjected to those loathsome disorders etc.

In reply I stated to them that the government did not intend to force the Indians west of the mountains among them, nor would their lands be taken from them, without a fair and just equivalent.

They separated in high spirits and one old chief remarked that he was now willing to die and leave his people under the protection of such a government as ours.

~~Added~~ We experienced much delay here in changing our mode of travelling from boats to horses. On Monday morning June 9th we left the Dalles (having added one man more to our company to act as guide at five dollars per day) with twenty horses, riding twelve and packing eight for which we were to pay seventy five cents each per day, being less than half the usual price which is two dollars.

For the purpose of transporting building materials etc. for the agency

house, two wagons and four yoke of oxen were hired at twelve dollars per day for every day they should be used. At noon we halted at a beautiful creek which runs through a rolling prairie where not a tree or shrub could be seen except a few willows along the stream. These prairies would make the best of sheep farms, where millions of sheep could be kept with little care. At one o'clock we came to a large creek, a splendid mill stream. The soil is of the best quality although it rarely rains here except occasionally in the winter season. At four o'clock we reached the Deschutes or Fall river a large stream flowing into the Columbia from the south over which we swam our horses and encamped upon the eastern side.

10th Left the Deschutes and after travelling some four miles along the Columbia struck off for the high prairie land which are very interesting. I found abundance of excellent lime stone which had not been known to exist here, the main quarry is about midway between the Deschutes and John Day's rivers. This region is susceptible of being one of the greatest wool growing counties in America. Reached the John Day's river at night having travelled about thirty miles this day.

11th In the morning while waiting for canoes to cross the river with I made some explorations in the vicinity and discovered large quantities of manganese. About noon we crossed the river and travelling up some six miles encamped on a small tributary. Here (sic) I found more lime stone. The country passed over this day is more broken and rough and much difficulty was experienced in getting the wagons along.

12th We travelled about twenty five miles through an open prairie country entirely destitute of timber and encamped on a small stream called willow creek. Here is a wide rich bottom containing several thousands of acres. Along the shores of the creek were a great many wild currents (sic)

13th Travelled thirty miles over a dry prairie on which there was an abundance of wild flax growing, very similar to the cultivated flax.

14th After travelling about twelve miles we reached the Uvilla River five miles below the lower crossing. This stream passes through a valley of extensive flats which are very rich and would make fine farms. At the lower crossing of the emigrant road I selected a site for the agency house. Although this is undoubtedly the best place for an agency in all this upper country it will be very expensive building here on account of the difficulty of getting the materials. Boards will have to be hauled forty and shingle stuff fifty miles. There appears to be a great scarcity of timber in Upper Oregon.

16th Left our encampment on the Uvilla and passing over a sandy country destitute of much p 40

vegetation and along the rocky shore of the Columbia reached Fort Walla Walla where we were kindly entertained by Mr. McBean an agent of the Hudson's Bay Company. Our encampment for the night was three miles farther up the Walla Walla river.

17th Passed up the Walla Walla and arrived at the Mission station formerly occupied by Dr. Whitman. After a thorough examination of the premises (an account of which will form a part of my report upon the Mission claims) we passed on three miles farther up the river and encamped for the night.

By a previous arrangement we were to remain here two days for the purpose of holding a council with the chiefs of the Cayuse tribe. Accordingly early on the morning of the 20th eight of these chiefs arrived with their attendants. Some of them were dressed in fine style and all appeared highly pleased to meet us. They said they looked upon our friendly visit as one of the greatest events of their lives and readily gave their consent to have an agency house built in their country. A beef was furnished to feed the Indians while they were together, which cost eighty dollars. We ascertained the whole number of their tribe to be one hundred and twenty six. They were once a numerous and powerful nation and are still a proud and haughty race, but very superstitious.

There is no better land in Oregon than in the Cayuse country which is nearly all an open prairie well watered and rich soil. There is very little timber except in the mountains.

21st In the morning I visited the saw mill belonging to the "hitman station which is a rather ~~ex~~ rude affair (a more particular account of the mill will be given in another report) after it had been sufficiently examined we traveled on towards the country of the Nez Perces Indians and encamped at night on a small p 41

stream twenty miles from the Walla Walla.

23rd: Our rout (sic) this day was over a rolling prairie country where all the streams run through deep ravines which were difficult to pass. It is a fine region for raising sheep, cattle, horses etc and good crops of wheat could probably be raised here. Encamped at night on a small stream (stream ~~xxed~~ out) creek called ~~Hiss~~ Elpaha.

24th Started early in the morning, passing down the Elpaha to its entrance into the South Branch or Snake river where we came to the residence of Red Wolf, a chief. Here we saw corn in the tassel and many thrifty apple trees, some of which were loaded with fruit. One of the apples measures six and a half inches in circumference. In the vicinity were ten lodges, one of which contained fifty three persons. The women were engaged in pounding ~~cxnx~~ camas roots of which they make a kind of bread which is dried in the sun, packed in skins and stowed away under ground for winter use. Some of the Nez Perces own large droves of horses, one of them I was informed owned over a thousand. It is very common to see from one to three hundred in a group, feeding upon the prairies. Encamped at night upon the Clear water river three miles above the mission station formerly occupied by H. H. Spalding.

25th visited the mission station and made a thorough examination, the result of which will be given in my report upon the mission claims.

26th-~~Xix~~ At our encampment on the Clear Water we were to meet the chiefs

of the Nez Perce tribe accordingly in the afternoon of this day they began to arrive. They were all mounted on fine horses which as well as themselves were decorated in the highest style of Indian art and came riding into our camp with a great flourish of trumpets, beating drums and firing their guns into the air. In a short time this whole valley seemed filled with Indians galloping their horses, shouting and going through a variety of evolutions before they came up to the ~~xxx~~ camp p 42

After dismounting and going going through with the ceremony of shaking hands their dances commenced and were kept up until late at night.

27th In the afternoon a grand council was held at which there were probably over five hundred Indians present. We had a very friendly talk with them and they seemed pleased and perfectly satisfied with our kind intentions towards them. The chiefs said they were highly delighted with our visit which they assured us would be productive of much good. It was admitted on all hands that such a gathering had never been seen ~~xxx~~ before in Oregon. Three beeves were killed to supply the Indians while at the council. The cost of which was nearly three hundred dollars. They made but two good meals for them. We ascertained the whole number of the tribe to be one thousand eight hundred and eighty.

I had made arrangements before leaving Oregon City to have all letters that arrived from Washington in my absence forwarded to me by express. As we were about to take up our march for the Spokane country, an Indian arrived with letters informing me that I had been selected as one of the new board to make treaties with the Indians west of the mountains.

In order to accomplish as much as possible in this capacity during the dry season I deemed it advisable to return at once to Oregon City, accordingly we commenced our homeward march early on the morning of the 30th, reached the Dalles on the 9th of July where our company separated a part going by emigrant road over the mountains, myself and a few others going down the river. Passed the Cascades, the 11th and arrived at

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having been ~~absent~~ absent just forty four days.

The geography of this country is but little known even by its oldest white inhabitants, therefore the few remarks that the limits of this report will allow me to make on this subject will be confined entirely to my own observations.

Nearly all that part of Oregon west of the Cascade mountains is what might be called a timbered country ; there are however large tracts of land that are open, the most of which are ~~low~~ along or near streams and are mostly flat or level lands. Of the timber I should think seven tenths of it is of the different species of fir and the remainder long leafed pine and white cedar. I do not think there is a white pine tree growing in Oregon. The accounts that I have been given of the immense size of trees growing in this country are highly exaggerated. There a few of these very large but generally the trees are no larger than are found in other countries, although they are straighter and taller than any I have seen elsewhere. Away from the river flats the country is rolling or very hilly , but on the whole there is ~~generally~~ much less waste or useless land in Oregon than is generally supposed. The lands upon the highest hills are as rich as those on the bottoms . No better wheat or fruit country can be found in the United States.

That part of Oregon east of the Cascade mountains is an open rolling prairie country everywhere except upon what are called the Blue Mountains which are from one hundred to one hundred and fifty miles east of the Cascade Range. On these are large quantities of yellow pine. The open prairie lands extend across the whole width of Oregon from north to south and I think it is all a good wheat country and as stated in my travels well adapted to the raising of sheep , cattle & horses.

Two

Four of the buildings that I was instructed to have built for the government will soon be finished. I will upon their completion forward full vouchers for labor done on them, and for such materials as have not been already accounted

for. I have the honor etc. Anson Dart, Supt of Indian Affairs, Oregon Ty.