

Yakima April 7, 1881

Arden R. Smith Esq.

Special U.S. Indian Agent, Malheur Agency, Oregon

Sir: Your favor of the 21st ultimo reached me yesterday and I take the earliest opportunity to reply. I note your suggestions relative to the beef cattle now at Malheur and am entirely of your opinion that it would be advisable to drive them to this agency.

We are now purchasing beef cattle for issue to the Piutes and owing to the hard winter can get none, but those of very poor quality, in fact, only fit for beef under the pressure of necessity.

Consequently it is important to have these cattle driven here as soon as practicable. The pressure on the force here is so great putting in our crops, preparing to locate the Piute etc, that I hardly see how we can arrange for the drive for some time to come. Under these circumstances I p 776 have thought that perhaps it would be possible for you to make arrangements to have the cattle driven here as soon as the roads become practicable. I am not informed as to your situation and do not know that this can be done, but make the suggestion in case it should be within the scope of your instructions, and should meet your views.

You would of course, use your own judgment as to what cattle to drive, and what to leave till summer. I entirely agree with you in regard to the hogs at Malheur, that such as are fat enough for the purpose be killed and made into bacon. I expect to start for Malheur some time about June 1st and with my present information I think I shall take from twenty to thirty four horse teams from this agency.

I have not received the list of articles that in your judgment will bear transportation to this agency, which I understood from your letter you would send and it is possible that when I have seen it I may modify my plans relative to the number of teams, etc. Wiubur

Settler A

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1881 Yakima Indian (copy)

Fort Simcoe, W.T. April 16th

Hon I.M. Nichol

Acting Commissioner Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of March 17th saying "you are directed at your earliest convenience to brand all the government stock at your agency in such a manner that they may be readily identified. You will make the brand a matter of record on the agency books, and upon conclusion of the work make report with description of the brand, etc. to this office. The agency blacksmith can make proper branding irons."

I take pleasure in informing you that the government stock of this agency, during all the years I have been in charge, have been carefully p 782

andfully branded with a government brand and so branded that they can readily be identified. The cattle are branded on the right thy, thus ID with a hole punched in the left ear 3-4 inch in diameter and the older cattle are branded on the horns with a small ID. The horses are branded on the right thy with the same brand. The calves and colts (natural increase) or any that are purchased, are branded and so reported on our property returns from quarter to quarter. Issues made by the Indians of said government stock are vented thus ID (sidewise with I at bottom) having an addition their own brand.

The winter has been very severe and many cattle and horses have died. The cattle and horses will be gathered at the earliest convenience and carefully counted and if any colt or calf has escaped the branding iron will be branded. The water is now over the bottom lands of OCHAGOVOVO and the government stock generally poor, so prudence would delay the gathering for a short time I am Sir. Your obdt. (Wilbur)

Yakima, April 19th

Maj. J.W. Powell

Supt. Census Indian Division, Washington, D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to enclose estimate of funds necessary to meet expenditures incurred in taking the census of Indians on this Reservation.

As I have before written, the work has been greatly delayed and rendered more expensive in consequence of the severity of the winter and difficulty of travel. There remain the Indians belonging to this reservation who are living off it, by virtue of the provision of the treaty which gives them the privilege of remaining at their old homes, till their improvements are valued and paid for by the government. These I estimate at something over 1,000 p 785 as they are widely scattered from the Palouse river to White Salmon and Lewis ~~xxx~~ River it will add very materially to the cost of the census to enumerate them.

The work will be pushed forward vigorously and I hope soon to complete it. I may add that high water and the condition of the roads since the snow disappeared, has made it impossible to prosecute this part of the work.

Very Respt. etc.

(Wilbur)

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..The enumerator was paid \$45 per month and \$1 per day for hire of horse and paid his own travelling expenses....

Wilbur.

Purchases 786

April 19, 1881

Flour Saunders Yakima City

Mr. Saunders,

Grist Mill, Yakima City

Sir:

Please send me 25 bbls flour at \$5.50 per bbl in addition to that purchased by me yesterday.

Very Truly yours

James H. W. lbur

U.S. Indiana gent.

Palouse ~~City~~, Wash.

Yakima Fort Simcoe April 28th (1881)

Post Master

Palouse, Wash Ter.

Sir:

I am required by the Indian Department to take a census of the Palouse Indians who are parties to the treaty with the Yakima nation and consequently belong on this Reservation, though permitted by treaty to reside at their old homes.

Will you please inform me if they are located in your vicinity and the probable number or if not in your immediate vicinity, the location of the nearest post office to them. The information required by the Department will require a visit to every family, and I wish

to ascertain if I can secure some reliable person living near them to perform the service, and the probable cost of the service.

As the appropriation is limited I must secure the service at the lowest rates, or must send an employe from this agency 799

The information required may be briefly summed up: name of each member of every family as far as can be ascertained, together with sex and age; statistics relative to industries showing the number engaged in different occupations, land cultivated and land occupied by each, number of horses, cattle, sheep, swing and fire arms owned by each and educational statistics showing the number capable of reading, writing etc.

Please inform me how far from your place the Indians are located, their probable number, if the service above mentioned could be procured there, and what in your judgment would be the probable cost and greatly obliged

Very respectfully, your obedient etc.

(Wilbur)

Yakima Indian(copy)

Fort Simcoe April 28 (1881)

J.B. Huntington Esq.

Sir:

Your letter of the 9th and 22 have been rec'd. Am sorry Mr. Morgan did not succeed. If Morgan close s out, we will occupy the ranch. I do not want to ranch any cattle on the reservation. I have been instructed from the Department at Washington lately to notify all persons having cattle on the reservation to remove them in thirty days from the notice given and if not removed in said time to report the parties at Washington with witnesses knowing said parties have cattle on the reserve and they will institute a suit.

I therefore direct you to remove your cattle from the reservation by the 1st of June next.

Relating to the settlement with Shuster and Levy we will settle according to Mr. Millers' measurement of the hay.

Yours truly

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

Monthly Report

Yakima, May 2, 1881(Fort Simcoe)

Piutes-Land.
Cattle

Hon H. Price

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report of operations at this agency for the month of April.

...I also called a council of the Yakimas and made arrangements for the cession of a portion of the Reservation for use of the Piute, but as the season was too far advanced to break and fence ground this spring for a crop, I selected for the Piutes this spring a piece of ground already fenced. The Piutes cheerfully took hold, and we soon had from 25 to 30 acres planted to potatoes, peas, corn etc, which they were given to understand belonged to them, besides ~~some~~ which several had put in small gardens on their own account

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As soon as practicable after the early crops were in the fences placed in good condition and it was possible to turn to something else, I put a large force of men gathering up all the I D cattle for the purpose of counting them.

The loss during the winter I was satisfied had been great and I also learned that the Indians believing the herd "all belonged to the Indians" had been killing quite extensively

Accordingly several parties were organized and the whole range swept and the cattle gathered at the agency where arrangements had been made to count them. They were to pass through three narrow passages at each of which was stationed two men thoroughly familiar with the brand and in this way I am satisfied a correct count was

made. I was prepared for a great loss of stock but it was even greater than I had anticipated.

We should have by the papers 2112 head. We only found 987 head showing a loss of 1125 which added to 158 reported for March make the entire loss during the winter (blurred) or about 60 per cent of the herd. ... of this loss may be traced directly to the course pursued by Inspector Pollock will be the subject of a future communication.

Interest at the school continues unabated and the progress of the pupils has been highly satisfactory. I have made arrangements to start up the steam mill early in May. During the winter several of the more industrious Indians were busily engaged getting logs to the mill and there are enough now on hand, nearly all belonging to the Indians, to keep the mill employed at least two months.

The shops have been busy repairing wagons, stocking plows, making harrows etc. As considerable doubt has been expressed in a certain quarter with respect to the accounting of my estimate of the amount of wheat raised on the reservation, I may say that the Miller, Mr. Ross, who took charge on the 1st of Sept. last reports the amount ground at the Department Mill since he took charge as follows:

From Sept 1st to Dec 31st 1880 10,400 bush.

" Jan 1st to Mar 31st 1881 1662 bush.

Note during the 1st quarter 1881 the roads were for a great part of the time impassable so that scarcely any wheat was brought forward till nearly the middle of March.

Amount ground from April 1 to April 30, 589 bush making in all 1265 bushels ground for Indians. I have purchased from Indians 179 bushels. The employees have purchased about 30 bushels for their own personal use, making nearly 13000 bushels from the Indians beside the amt ground in August which could not well be less than 2,000 bushels. The amount taken to the mills at Yakima and

Amount and the amount fed the stock and sowed , so that the total amount cannot fall far below my estimate of 3,500 ~~bushels~~ bushels for last year.

The information relative to the sanitary condition I respectfully refer to the report of the agency physician

Etc.

Wilbur

Umatilla--Crime

Yakima Indian(copy)

Fort Simcoe May 6 (1881)

Dr. William McKay , Dear Sir:

I am informed that an Indian belonging to this agency was wontly killed by three white men when getting his horse. I have written a letter to the agent at Umatilla and write this to you. Please look after this matter and try and know the truth and if the white men are guilty as reported to me, see they are arrested and dealt with according to justice.

Any information you may obtain in reference to the matter please communicate to me.

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Yakima Indian, Fort Simcoe W.T. May 6, 1881

to the U.S. Indian Agent,

Umatilla Agency, Oregon. Dear Sir:

Dear Sir:

Two Indians came to my office this morning as soon as it was light and informed me that an Indian belonging on this agency looking for a horse on the Umatilla side of the river found his lost horse, took it and started back for home, was followed by three white men, overtaken, stabbed in different places in his body and has since died of said wounds. One of the men informing me is the father of the man said to be dead. Please see and Please for the cause of justice and the future good of the service to inquire into the said case and if I am rightly informed, see that said white men who are thus guilty are arrested and brought to trial.

(Wilbur)

Pollack

Yakima Indian Fort Simcoe W.T. May 14th, 1881

Hon H. Price, commissioner of Indian Affairs

Washington D.C. Sir:

I have the honor herewith to enclose the report of the chief of police for the quarter ending March 31st, 1881

Your honor will see by said report that a great change has taken place with the Indians of this agency during the past few months and naturally, and wisely, you will want to know why this change. What is the cause and how can it be remedied. I answer. Near the close of December Col. Wm. J. Pollack U.S. Indian inspector came to the agency in my absence and remained until the 13th of January, 1881

p. 814

holding councils with the Indians and in said councils telling the Indians Wilbur had been cheating them and lying to them and the great father at Washington -that the great father would be surprized when he came to know Agent Wilbur had been doing in making the Indians work for goods he had sent them. This was not the mind of the President that if they worked doing anything outside of their own places they were to have their pay in money-that when the good agent had let them have things and they had agreed to work for them, they need not work, that everything that was charged to them on the books of the office they need not pay. That Agent Wilbur had sent papers to the great father telling him he had so many cattle belonging to the p 815 department, that he (Pollock) believed there was a great many more than Wilbur reported and that it was his mind (Pollock's) to gather up the cattle thirty miles below the station and county them. He (Pollock) organized parties of men from 75 to 100 and sent them out in all directions over the reservation to gather in the cattle to a certain point where he would come and count the cattle and he believed there was a great many more cattle than Wilbur

reported and he would give each man so hunting and driving
or "rounding up the cattle" as he called it a cow and calf or more.
After the parties had been out two or more days Pollock gave a counter
order and told them to go out and stop the drive, the drive
then stopped and the cattle left out in open ... in the snow about
p 816

18 inches deep with a heavy crust and out of the hundreds started
from their places of shelter only fifteen were driven where they could
be fed--the result of the drive was the loss of hundreds of the
Department cattle with a claim for services rendered by the Indians
in the drive and the loss of their horses, made poor in the hunt of
cattle which died during the winter, as the Indians claim, in
consequence of the drive of about , at least, one thousand dollars.
I need not multiply the doings and sayings of said inspector ~~which~~
while here--the above is but a faint representation of what he
did to destroy the confidence of the Indians in their agent.

Pollock told the Indians all the cattle belonged to them and that
in the month of May he would come back and issue all p 817
the cattle to them.

Since his talk with them last winter there has been more
stealing and general lawlessness in one month than we had before
in ten years. An unpardonable injury has been done the agency.

Your obedient etc.

James S. W. Ibur

U.S. Indian Agent.

Yakima Indian(copy)

FortSimcoe W.T. May 31st, 1881

W. Rinehart, esq. Farmer at Malheur Agency, Oregon

Sir:

On the 12th instant I wrote A.R. Smith special agent that in about ten days I thought I could start our teams for the goods and supplies at Malheur agency. My plans was to start about 30 four horse teams and go in company with them--attend to the loading and then return with them. Yesterday all the teamsters were here and when I told them I had rec'd a letter from the commissioner, there was no money to pay transportation on said goods and the Indians could be paid out of said supplies, the Indians without an exception said they would not go for goods. If they could have the money they would start p 827

at once. Having no money here to pay transportation . . . and incidental expenses by the way I am compelled to defer until a telegram can be sent and an answer obtained from the commissioner. If funds for the transportation and other needed expenses for the work are placed at my disposal, there will not be a day's delay in starting teams.

I am etc.

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Yakima, May 20, Agent. Western Union Telegraph Co. The Dalles, Ore.
Sir: Please send the enclosed dispatch to the commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, payment to be made at that office.

(Wilbur)

Official-collect. Commissioner of Indian Affairs Washington.

Cannot transport supplies from the Malheur without funds. Distance three hundred miles. Tolls and ferriages must be cash. Have not near enough Department teams and Indian teams will not go without half money. Will start at once on receipt of telegram that funds will be furnished.

Wilbur--Agent.

Police. Celilo ⁸³⁰ Piutes
Simpson

akima Indian, Fort Simcoe, W.T. May 21st

The bearer, Thomas Simpson goes out to the fishery on the Columbia River about six miles above Dalles City to watch over and prevent any difficulty between the Indians and whites. Any help that can be rendered by the whites to detect men that are selling whisky to the Indians or are imposing upon the Indian women will be kindly rec'd by the bearer and highly appreciated at this office. He also is instructed to keep a watchful eye and see that the Piutes do not cross the river unless they have a permit from here

James H. Wilbur

Yakima May 23d (copy)

Hon H. Price, commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash.D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose report of J.H. Fairchild on the condition of the Indians, parties to this treaty, who in accordance with its provision reside principally at the Tumwater fishery near the Dalles. I intirely concur with the conclusions reached by Mr. Fairchild relative to the purchase of the rights of Mr. Taylor to this fishery. It is not possible to overestimate the importance of this fishery to the Indians of this Reservation. It furnishes a very large proportion of them with about all the ~~subsistence~~ subsistence other than vegetable, they ever get, while many live entirely on the fish and all make great use of it as an article of diet. Unless steps are taken to purchase p 832

the rights of Mr. Taylor it is very evident that at the furthest a very few years will see the Indians deprived entirely of rights they positively refused to cede when the treaty was made, but were careful to expressly reserve. . Three thousand dollars is a very small sum for this property. Without doubt it will be held at a far higher figure within one or two years than is now demanded. I strongly recommend the purchase which as I understand includes from one quarter to a half section of land and would suggest that a part of the money due the Yakima Nation for subsistence furnished the Plutes be applied in this manner.

Very respt. etc.

Wilbur

Yakima Indian

Umatilla

Fort Simcoe, W.T. May 25th

Mr. Walker Esq.

Dear Sir: I send Homer Hoffer up the river to obtain as near as possible the number of Indians at the mouth of Rock Creek and near your place and if there are any above you that do not belong to the Umatilla agency that you know and can estimate something near their number, please help the bearer to any and all the information you have means of giving and greatly oblige. We are getting a census of the Indians belonging to this treaty.

I am sir

etc. (Wilbur)

Yakima, May 26 (1881)

Hon FR Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir:

Referring to communication from office dated March 8th marked in upper left corner P Letter 3450 author 22399c authorizing me to expend \$500 in the purchase of beef cattle for "issue to the Yakimas" I have the honor to remark for issue to the school and weekly rations to Piutes and Bannocks we are compelled to slaughter from four to seven beoves per week costing from twenty to twenty five dollars per head. Five hundred dollars therefore will supply the amount of beef absolutely required but a very short time. There are several parties who have had cattle grazing on the Reservation for one or two years. As these parties own ranches near the line of the Reservation p 836 and their cattle are graze sometimes on one side and sometimes the other side of the line, it is always difficult to fix the exact amount of this indebtedness to the Department. I have always insisted on a much larger sum than they have been willing to pay. From the close proximity of their ranches to the line of the Reservation it is impossible to keep their cattle off, without a large force of men. I have made arrangements with some of these parties this spring to furnish us with beef we may require in part payment of their grazing account, and we have already killed 45 worth \$980 and must continue to get beef cattle from this source till we are able to bring the herd from Malheur. As there is much doubt if we could get anything for the grazing account of these parties if I insisted on the cash, and as the present arrangement practically leaves the matter of fixing the amount of their ranch bill in my hands, and the beef is an absolute necessity, I respectfully ask that authority p 837 be given me to receive payment for grazing on the reservation in beef cattle to an amount not exceeding two thousand dollars for the current fiscal year. The great loss of cattle the past winter renders the purchase a necessity

Hon H. Price

Yakima May 28, 1881

Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir: Approval is respectfully asked of the purchase of eleven hundred and fifty ~~dollar~~ (1150) bushels of charcoal at 15 cents per bushel making \$172.50 of which \$72.84 was paid in supplies, leaving \$100 ~~100~~.16 paid in cash from miscellaneous funds class 2 in my hands not otherwise required.

Very respectfully etc
(Wilbur)

Yakima May 31st, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report from this office for the month of May.

Work has gone forward in the shops ~~just~~ pretty much as usual the mechanics have been constantly employed repairing agricultural implements etc for the Indians while the farmers with a considerable number of Indian laborers have been engaged planting, repairing fences, irrigating ditches etc.

The miller reports a larger amount of wheat brought by Indians than I expected, showing that contrary to my impression quite an amount remained in the hands of the Indians at the close of the winter. Owing to the great loss of teams, I do not think the quantity p 841 of land cultivated will reach the usual average this year, still I am gratified that under so many discouragements so large an amount of wheat, barley etc. has been put in. Early in the month I started up the steam ~~mill~~ saw mill. As stated in my report for April, the Indians last fall and winter cut and hauled to the mill a large quantity of logs, more than ever before, so that the mill will be kept busy for two or three months and if present indications may be relied on an amount of building done by Indians greater than in any previous year.

In my report for April I gave the results of the count of the government cattle and will now only add that since that date, the farmer in charge has gathered 21 head more of ID cattle which will be taken up on Abst C (copy) I have ordered a thorough search over the whole range and it is probable that more may be found which will be properly taken up on ^{my} ~~my~~ quarterly accounts. Much sickness has prevailed during the month with physician's report will show, produced I have no doubt by the frequent changes in temperature 842

I am glad to say however that the great majority of cases have readily yielded to treatment, and few deaths have resulted. The

school continues in a highly satisfactory condition. The number of pupils is somewhat less than last month owing to a number of the larger children having been required at home to assist their parents in the labors of the field and the household.

They are now just reaching the stage of development where having unlearned the lessons of their past lives, their progress can be noted. I am now preparing materials for a new school and boarding house capable of comfortably accommodating over 100 children.

When this is completed I trust the school at this agency will prove an efficient means for the civilization of these Indians.

There are others p 843.....nearly every day brings intelligence of such Indians who are neglecting their homes, who have been drinking and gambling and seem fast relapsing into their former savage life. They are sullen, discontented and idle and seem to regard their agent and white men as natural enemies. I have no hesitation in saying that I believe there is more crime on the reservation than there has been more gambling and drunkenness within the past six months than for five years past. I am sometimes almost discouraged when I look around and see the results of twenty years of faithful, patient and self-sacrificing labor so nearly overthrown in so short a time. Nor is it necessary in my opinion to look for the cause.

In no spirit of egotism I say that for nearly twenty years wherever these Indians have heard their agent spoken of by those whose opinion was entitled to any measure of respect, whether off the reservation at the Dalles, at Portland or by the scores of intelligent gentlemen p.844, Army officers or officials of the Department, who have visited this agency and examined its affairs, they have always been spoken of with respect. They have heard his administration commended and have been counselled to listen to his teaching and follow his advice. Can it be wondered at that they lose all confidence in the white man, his civilization or his religion when a high officer of the Department,

officer of the department professing to come direct from the great father, and to be clothed with his authority and power gives them to understand that this trusted agent, this man who has been so strongly commended to them, has all these twenty years been enriching himself at their expense, has systematically robbed them, while preaching to them to be honest and true.

I will not say that Inspector Pollock intended to create this impression, but I do affirm that he did create this impression on the mind of every Indian that heard him, and further that he used the precise language best calculated to produce that effect without perhaps positively saying it in so many words p 845

Even the confidence of our most reliable Christian Indians was shaken for a short time, but the trust begotten by twenty years of intimate knowledge proved stronger with them than the words of even so high an authority as an inspector in the Indian service. With some of the Indians cool reflection has been sufficient to remove entirely the unworthy suspicion created by the inspector, with some it remained but a very short time, but some still cherish it and it will remain for years an almost insuperable barrier to the success of any agent who may strive to gain their confidence for their benefit and improvement.

Very respectfully etc
(Wilbur)