

General T. J. McKenny
Superintendent of Indian Affairs
Washington Territory

AGENCY REPORTS
Year - 1871
File-Click R. J. Lander
Typed-June Lindberg

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report which owing to the short time since I resumed my duties as agent, will not be as full as might be desired.

I entered the Indian service first as Superintendent of teaching, in the fall of 1860 and as Indian Agent in 1864. From the first I have had but one idea in respect to the true import of the service. I have known the common sentiment of the country regarding the Indian race as doomed to extermination; that it expects no high results from the appliances of the Indian bureau, in the way of ameliorating either the moral or material condition of the race. So deeply seated and universal is this feeling that it is useless to try to make anything of an Indian more than an ignorant savage; that all direct and positive endeavor to instruct and benefit him is scouted as a vain and foolish attempt; and out of this feeling grows a tacit justification in the minds of Indian officers not only, but in the mind of the country generally of that loose and inefficient, not to say, dishonest way of conducting the Indian service which has brought it into great disrepute. The argument is, if the Indian will be savage in spite of the most faithful and honest appliances of the means appropriated for his benefit, then it were as well to divert these means to the political and personal advantage of those to whom they are intrusted. This argument has given rise to practices in the administration of the affairs of the department that have entitled it too often to the opprobrium of a political machine and the appropriations by which it is manipulated to that of a corruption fund.

I have always taken direct and practical issue with this popular heresy. I believe, and always have believed, in the manhood of the Indian and in the possibility of elevating him to a high state of civilization. The fact that the government service has so generally failed in his improvement is no mystery to me. Looking at the question from a Christian standpoint, I cannot see how the result could have been different from what we see it; nor do I find the failure chargeable to anything inherent in Indian character. True, he is ignorant, treacherous and cruel by nature; he is destitute of moral character; he is poor in every respect. He needs everything that enters into the comforts of civilization but his first great want is character. Failing to give him character all material gifts but hasten his degradation and render his future destruction more positive and complete. I repeat, the first great want of the Indian is character. As a Christian teacher I have believed in the possibility of giving him this first indispensable condition of civilization. I have known I could inspire virtue in the Indian only by the plain, open unequivocal manifestation of virtue on my own part in all my intercourse with him.

I entered the service in the first place as a Christian teacher and have since endeavored to administer the affairs of the agency on Christian principles. I would as soon put wolves among sheep and rattlesnakes among children as immoral men upon the Indian agency. Reformation of moral character has been the great point at which I have aimed. When I contrast the condition of the Indians of this agency with what they were eleven years ago when I first came among them, I find the result of my labors a perfect justification of my theory, in respect to the possibility of giving to the Indian race the comforts and respectability of civilized life. From the time I took charge as agent in 1864 to the day of my suspension, and turning over to Lieutenant J. M. Smith, September 1869, all branches of business on the reservation were marked with progress and the work of moral reform, though slow, was gradual and certain. From that time to my resuming duties, January 1, 1871, every interest, material and moral, was waning.

Employees were paid for services long before reaching the reservation and with the influence they exerted in dancing, swearing, drinking and card playing, the interests of the reservation were rapidly declining.

The cattle belonging to the Indians when I left the agency numbered 1,600. The natural increase would have been about 600. When I returned there were not more than 350 old and young. These cattle were worth \$25 per head; add 600 to 1,600 and you have 2,200 at \$25 per head, making \$55,000; deduct the price of those found, \$8,750 and you have \$46,250 loss in latter; or say nothing of the increase and take 1,600 head at the price above and you have \$40,000, deduct the price of those found when I resumed my duties as agent, \$8,750 and it makes the loss in cattle \$31,250. This is a fair index of how other things were managed under the administration of my predecessor for sixteen months.

Had the Indians been protected against dishonest traders from without and a species of robbery within, they might today stand up and compare property with white settlements of the same number and show equal wealth.

Some of the Indians that were doing well when I left the agency under the military administration left their farms and the reservation and did not return until last spring. There was a universal dissatisfaction with the better class of Indians under the administration of Lieutenant J. M. Smith.

I am pleased to say that the Indians profession religion numbering about 300 at the time I left maintained their piety amid their persecution with but little loss.

SCHOOLS -- When I left the reservation I turned over to my successor \$1,200 school fund. The annual appropriation was \$3,200, making \$4,400. On resuming my duties I found no school, only on paper. The boarding house which had been used for the convenience of the school was changed so as to make it impossible to gather the children. The funds appropriated for schools had been used in other ways. There was no lumber to fit up any other boarding house and no food to subsist the children or funds to cloth them, so I was obliged to defer the opening of the school until we could cut and haul logs and make lumber, sow seed and reap a harvest. Our school

Our school room and boarding house are being put in order and in a few weeks we expect to open a school upon an enlarged plan.

On entering my duties as agent I found a destitution of wood for the station but little stock of any kind for the shops and business of all kinds at a near standstill. As soon as I became acquainted with the employees and the general condition of things on the reserve I determined to make changes and in less than one week I relieved six of the employees I found when I came. We were destitute of seed to sow and the Indians were destitute of seed and food.

Money furnished. With money furnished by the Superintendent we purchased seed for the Indians and for the agency farms, thereby inducing many of the Indians to return that were away and are now industrious and have reaped a harvest sufficient to meet their coming wants.

Breaking lands. We have broke about 100 acres of new land for the Indians this season, worth \$300.

School Farm. During the summer we have put the school farm in good condition, dug a drain of more than half a mile and grubbed out about 15 acres of very excellent land at a cost of \$250.

Wheat raised. At the department farm we raised 800 bushels of wheat worth \$1.25, \$1,000.

Oats - We harvested and thrashed 500 bushels of oats worth 75 cents, \$375.

Corn - One hundred bushels of corn worth \$1.00, \$100.

Hay cut and hauled - Seventy tons of hay have been cut and hauled worth \$10 per ton, \$700.

Straw stacked - Sixty tons of straw have been stacked worth \$3.00 per ton, \$180.

Coal burned and hauled. We have burned since January 1871, 1,200 bushels of charcoal worth 25 cents per bushel, \$300.

Potatoes and vegetables - These are not harvested but we have raised enough for the uses of the agency.

Repairs of agency buildings- During the season we have repaired the dwelling houses of the employees, the school and boarding house at an expense of at least \$500; we have built one house for an Indian, labor worth \$100.

Mills - The reservation mills are in good running order. I have given them this season a general overhauling. We have put in a new wheel at the sawmill and made other repairs at a cost of about \$250.

Harness Shop - Some of the boys that have been in school in years past have been instructed in harness making so that now they are capable of cutting and making team harness for the agency teams and for the Indians. During the first and second quarters these Indians made twenty-eight sets of team harness which have been issued to the Indians. All the repairs of the harnesses for the agency teams and the Indians are done by the Indian boys.

Wagons - I have been obliged to purchase three new lumber wagons as our old ones were not sufficient to do the work of the agency. The destitution of timber to build wagons and the great amount of repairing there is to do on the Indian wagons make it inexpedient to put up new work here as the wagon timber would have to be transported 165 miles.

Catholic mission - There has been within a few years a Catholic mission established a little over the line of the reservation. They succeeded in drawing off a few of the Indians and instructing them that marriages solemnized, baptism administered, and religious instruction given by the agent is invalid and should be so regarded. It seems to be the object of those in charge of said mission to keep the Indians, so far as they can, in a feverish and dissatisfied state. This teaching is doing the Indian an injury and tends directly to keep them from settling upon the reserve, to make and keep up a difficulty between the Indians and the white settlers around the reservation. Petitions, numerously signed by the settlers around said mission have been sent to me complaining of the Indians and urging me to put a stop to their congregating at that place. I think there is not more than one in ten belonging to this reservation that sympathize with them, though Colonel Ross, in his knowing report of last year said "three-fourths of all the Indians were Catholics". There is more danger of difficulty between the whites and Indians from this quarter than all others put together.

Indian labor-It will be seen by our monthly reports that very much of the work of the agency is done by the Indians. My object is to bring as many of them into the service as we need to accomplish the business of the agency, with as few white men to instruct and assist in the work as is allowable. This gives them the knowledge they need, makes them industrious and furnishes means for their subsistence and general improvement. In conclusion, I have to say, give the Indians the amount of means appropriated by the government from year to year, give them agents and employees whose examples are worthy of imitation, instruct them that it is honorable to work and to pray and you start them upon an upward grade to civilization and to become sons and daughters of the Lord Almighty, living without rebuke and in the midst of a crooked and perverse generation.

All of this is respectfully submitted. James H. Wilbur, U. S. Indian Agent, Washington Territory (Gen. T. J. McKenny, Supt of Indian Affairs, Washington Territory)

Yakima Reservation. J.H. Wilbur.

Report of Commissioner of Indian affairs, 1872

Agency, Aug. 15, 1872

Sir: The termination of another fiscal year brings me to the duty of another annual report.

In recalling the history of the year just closed, I find abundant room for congratulation in the memory of the health, peace, material prosperity and the moral progress of the Indians under my jurisdiction.

The Indians that have been induced to accept the industries of civilization and have improved plantations for agriculture in their own right and interest are all doing well. They have comfortable tenements in which are found many of the comforts and some of the luxuries of civilization. They have horses and cattle which enables them to provide against want; they have growing crops of wheat, corn and vegetables adequate to the use of their families and in some instances they produce considerable for the market.

The Indians that are most thrifty are those who profess to have been converted and are members of the church. These are very constant in attending upon the regular means of grace as instituted by the Methodist Episcopal church. Usually their churches are crowded with sincere and earnest worshippers who are led in their devotions by the agent or one of the native preachers..

The experience of twelve years in this service has confirmed me more and more in the faith with which I entered upon the work, viz: That Christian truth brought to bear practically upon the character of a savage people is the only means by which such a people can be reclaimed; that the bestowments of material gifts

in the absence of that renovation of character that comes only through Bible truth accompanied by the influence of the Divine Spirit is an evil and not a blessing. Such bestowments never satisfy them and always tend to corrupt and demoralize them; they engender laziness and form a kind of gambling stock that is fruitful of no good. The first condition of improvement in the outside manner of

life with my people with my people is the improvement of the heart; here is the place to begin the work of reform among the Indians. If I fail to give moral character to an Indian I can give him nothing that will do him real and permanent good. If I can succeed in giving him moral character, so that he is no more a liar a thief, a drunkard, a profane person, a polygamist or a gambler but a man of integrity, industry, sobriety and purity, then he no longer needs the gifts of the government or the charities of anybody. He then becomes a man like other good men and can take care of himself. This conclusion throws me back upon the work of moral reform as my only hope of success.

Schools--This work needs begin with the younger children, gathering them into the industrial schools of the reservation where they can be taught lessons of cleanliness, good behavior in the school, in the family, on the play-ground and every-where. Here they are taught to speak and read the English language. Here they obtain information and useful knowledge which they bear to their fathers and mothers, brothers and sisters and become so many teachers to their people. It is a matter inspiring stronger hope and making broader the platform of usefulness among the Indians that the government has appropriated \$1,000 to the school fund over former years. This will enable us to enlarge our work in the department. Our school for the past year has averaged something over forty children who have been boarded, clothed and have made commendable improvement both in books and work.

The farming interest among the Indians is steadily increasing.

The gambling propensity is diminishing. During the year I have taken rigid measures to break up this practice among them and have been to quite an extent successful. They are giving up their plurality of wives and adopting Chinese marriage. Christian marriage more universally through the nation.

barns and a portion has been by them sold to the white settlers around the reservation. My policy is, and has been, to use little white labor as possible and supply its place with Indian labor. I have two-fold object in this: First it gives employment and pay to those who are most needy; and secondly, it holds the young men of the nation who have set out to be something above wild savages, to habits of industry and useful labor which is indispensable to the moral well being of all men of all races.

I remember the fact that the treaty with the Yakima Indians will in a few years expire when it will be expected of them that they will be capable of taking care of themselves. I hold the same thought in mind in the direction given to the mechanical labor. We are educating young men in our shops to make harness, build houses, work in the mills and on the farms so as to make them capable of every department of business of taking care of themselves. We have already young men that are capable of building houses, making boots, shoes, making harness, doing good work in the blacksmith shop and are good helpers about the mills.

If the remaining installment of money that will be due this nation under the treaty could be invested in cattle, a herd could in short time accumulate upon the reservation that would yield an annual revenue greater by far than all that is paid them by the government.

The grasses are spontaneous and very abundant, producing the finest beef on the coast. Cattle generally live and remain

fat through the winter by grazing; so the cost of raising a cow or a steer three years old in the range is not so much as to feed the domestic fowls about our doors. These need to be fed while the cattle feed themselves. The investment of the remaining appropriation due them in cattle, with judicious management on the part of the officers in charge, could not fail to make the whole nation financially independent in a few years.

I have consulted the head-men of the nation and they are agreed that the annuities as now given by the government due them very little good while an investment in cattle would do them and their children good in all time to come.

Suppose \$3,000 were invested by the government in young cows at \$30 per head this would buy 100 head; these with their increase in two years would be worth \$6,000 in four years they would be worth \$12,000 and in six years \$24,000. In the light of this calculation ~~they~~ it is easy to see that all the annuity money that will be due them for the remaining time of the treaty could be made to accumulate into vast proportions making them capable of taking care of themselves; while under the present system of payment the poverty of the Indians is not relieved to any ~~perceptible~~ ~~perceptible~~ perceptible extent and no provision is made against future want. In view of the fine facilities for stock-raising that the Indians have and in view of the profitable employment this investment would give them I consider it of great importance that this change be made in the use of the money appropriated for beneficial objects and that it be done immediately. I earnestly recommend that their land be surveyed.

In conclusion I call attention of the department to the money that was due this agency from the late Superintendent W.H. Waterman (deceased) who owed this agency December 31, 1866 \$7,250 and professed to pay said amount in drafts, which were protested when presented to the assistant treasurer at San Francisco, California. A particular account of said transaction was given the department by me in my "account-current" and statement therewith for the month of July 1867. This \$7,250 embraced the salary of the agent for the quarter ending December 31, 1866. No part of the above money has been received. For further particulars of information relating to the interest and wealth of this nation I respectfully refer you to the

accompanying blanks which have been filled, and are herewith sent forward.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

James H. Wilbur

United States Indian agent, Wash.
territory.

(To) QJQ T.J. McKenny, Esq. superintendent Indian affairs, Olympia,
Wash territory/

To T. J. McKenny, Esq.
Superintendent Indian Affairs
Olympia, Washington Territory

Agency Reports
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File-Click Relander
Typed-J. Lindberg

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The gambling propensity is diminishing. During the year, I have taken rigid measures to break up this practice among them and have been to quite an extent successful. They are giving up their plurality of wives and adopting Christian marriage more universally through the nation. The reservation mills are in good running order. Great inconvenience is suffered in having to haul the logs to the sawmill so far — from three to six miles. A steam sawmill at another point on the reservation but little further from the station costing not more than \$4,000 would pay for itself in two seasons. I respectfully request that we be permitted to build such a mill from the funds saved from the repair of mills, and from a beneficial objects, arising from grazing cattle upon the reservation.

It will be seen by reference to my cash accounts that between two and three thousand dollars have been received for grazing stock the past year. In addition to the above amount, the Indians have received for herding cattle over \$1,000. If allowed improvements to build said mill it will enable us to build houses, fence farms and make other improvements as can never be done with the old mill.

The Indians would be pleased greatly and profited by the above arrangement without any additional appropriation from government. The houses built and farms opened and improved provides comfort and subsistence for them and takes them up from the condition of paupers and makes them self-supporting, releasing to the government an undoubted guarantee of future peace. When they have comfortable houses and fruitful fields with cattle and horses, wagons, plows and harness with household goods they have much to sacrifice if they go to war. These permanent fixtures do more to secure peace with a nation of Indians than regiments of soldiers.

It will be seen by the report of the miller and sawyer that during the year near 100,000 feet of lumber have been sawed for the Indians. These logs were cut and hauled by them without any expense to the department. The lumber made was worth \$2,000. This lumber has been used in improving their farms, building houses, barns, and a portion has been by them sold to the white settlers around the reservation. My policy is, and has been, to use little white labor as possible, and supply its place with Indian labor. I have two-fold object in this: First, it gives employment and pay to those who are most needy; and secondly, it holds the young men of the nation who have set out to be something above wild savages, to habits of industry and useful labor which is indispensable to the moral well being of all men of all races.

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All of which is respectfully submitted.

James H. Wilbur

United States Indian Agent, Wash.
Territory

To T. J. McKenny, Esq. Superintendent Indian Affairs, Olympia, Wash.
Territory.

Yakima Reservation
Report of Indian Commissioner

Year - 1872
File-Click Relander
Typed-J. Lindberg

I was much pleased and surprised on visiting the Yakima Reservation in August last to witness the splendid results of Agent Wilbur's labor with the people of his agency.

He has fully demonstrated the truth of that generally doubted and scouted problem among western peoples, the capability of Indians for permanent civilization and Christianization. I saw there finely cultivated farms, well-built houses, barns and other out-buildings, fences, ditches, etc. many hay and grain stacks, numerous wagons, plows, thrashing, reaping, and mowing machines and other agricultural implements all the property and mostly the work of Indians who owned, besides many cattle, horses, sheep and hogs.

They have also a large and well attended school and two churches with full congregations of well-dressed orderly and devout worshippers; in short all the appliances and indications of a well established and healthy civilization.

This great progress is due almost wholly to the efforts of Agent Wilbur, who has been with the Indians of that reservation in the capacity of missionary, teacher and agent almost continuously over twelve years, and through his thorough knowledge of Indian character and his unselfish, untiring energy, firmness, kindness, zeal and devotion to their best interests, has won entire confidence. Having no children of his own he seems to have adopted the 3,000 Indians of his reservation and personally knows and calls them all by name and they respect and look up to him and to his excellent Christian wife as a father and mother.

Being a man of excellent judgment and thorough practical business habits, his people come to him for advice in everything. He does not sit in his office or ride around his reservation merely ordering and directing what is to be done but he takes hold with his own hands and shows how work of various kinds should be done.

He goes with the Indians to the mountains, camps with them and with ax, saw and gad, assists and shows how to cut and haul saw logs; with his carpenter assists in building houses and barns for the Indians; with the farmer, and instructs the Indians in cultivating, sowing, planting, harvesting and thrashing the crops. He leads and instructs in the church and Sabbath schools; he visits the sick and dying and comforts the afflicted. He hears, decides and settles disputes and difficulties, tries and convicts wrong doers, admonishes the erring and punishes the guilty.

On his reservation he is the kind governor, wise legislator, just judge, stern sheriff, busy worker, and good instructor in all physical and moral and religious duties; everywhere and at all times an earnest practical working man, profitably employing every hour and civilizing and improving those around him, both by precept and example. Considering Mr. Wilbur's mature age (being over 60) his long experience among Indians has probity and integrity, his energy and business habits, his peculiar fitness for the position he holds, the Indian department cannot more certainly and effectually insure the rapid progress of the civilization and prosperity of the Indians of the Yakima reservation than by granting everything he asks in his annual report and letting him have his own way.

The great need of and immense benefit that would be derived from the steam sawmill he asks permission to obtain is perceived at a glance.

There is an inexhaustible supply of the finest of pine timber for lumber in the mountains on the reservation. This lumber is greatly needed for the construction of buildings and fences. History and experience have demonstrated that every well-constructed building of lumber, brick or stone and every fence built in the style of good husbandry by white man or Indian on his own land, is an advance step in permanent civilization.

Such a sawmill besides supplying all the lumber needed for the reservation would produce a fine income from the sale of lumber to settlements around and as Mr. Wilbur proposes to purchase and operate the sawmill without asking a cent from the government, I hope he will at once be permitted to obtain it.

It will be seen that Mr. Wilbur in his annual report for this year corroborates my views as hereintofore expressed, as to the evil of the mistaken policy of distributing annuities and presents to Indians in goods and money and asks that he be permitted to invest the remaining five annual payments of \$4,000 each as they fall due, under the terms of the Yakima treaty, in young cattle. I have not a doubt of the wisdom of this policy if carried out with the energy, honesty, good judgment and management characteristic of Mr. Wilbur. The data mentioned in his accompanying annual report, and upon which he bases the great increase and profit of such an investment, is founded upon many ears of observation and experience and may be relied on with certainty.

If he is permitted to thus invest the remaining annuities and to procure the steam sawmill and the reservation is surveyed and divided in severalty as requested, the Indians of that reservation when the payments and employes provided for by treaty cease, will not only be able to sustain and care for themselves but be comparatively civilized and prosperous and be on the high road to affluence. I therefore cordially "Second the motion" to permit Mr. Wilbur to invest annuities in cattle as he may deem best.

I unite with Mr. Wilbur in calling special attention to the Department to \$7,250 due his agency either from the government or from the estate and official bond of the late superintendent of Indian affairs of this territory, W. H. Waterman, deceased. The unpaid drafts of said deceased for the sum of \$7,238.73 on the assistant treasurer of San Francisco are in this office. The department is referred by Agent Wilbur for a full history and statement of this matter to his account current and statement therewith for the month of July, 1867. Justice as well as the honor of the government requires the prompt settlement of the matter.

White Bluffs.

Office of Yakima Indian agency, Fort Simcoe, Wash August 26, 1873.

Sir: In accordance with instructions of the department I have the honor to submit my annual report for the fiscal year 1873.

During the strife the department had with the Modocs the inhabitants east of the Cascade Mountains, many of them believed we were to have serious trouble with Indians belonging to this treaty.

Reports were put in circulation that two thousand Indians, armed and well fortified, had gathered at White Bluffs on the Columbia river and were about to break out on the settlements. Quite a number of the white families left the country; others went to ~~the settlements~~ into fortification and applied to the government for arms to protect themselves during the approaching struggle.

I took five Indians from the agency and visited these places of reported danger, and found nothing that indicated hostility on the part of the Indians.

I did find that a class of irresponsible whites were quite anxious to have a war, that the treaty might be broken up and the land of the reservation opened for white settlements. I am pleased to be able to report that our Indians during the war with the Modocs evinced the most perfect agreement with the department. Such was their zeal ~~to have~~ for the right, I believe I could have raised five hundred men in a day that would have ~~marched~~ marched to the hottest part of the battle.

The difficulty said to exist on Snake River was reported to the department on my return (See said report)

There has been no year since the making of the treaty with this nation of Indians when they have been so universally well disposed toward the whites. Little difficulties have arisen between the whites and Indians on the border of the reservation but I have been prompt to

go to the place of difficulty and have the parties together and thus settle the matter. I have almost universally found the whites were first in transgression.

Farming-Our farming interest has increased over last year among the Indians in inclosing and cultivating land at least one-fourth

Mills-In my last report I asked the department to permit me to purchase and erect a steam saw mill without additional appropriation of money for such purchase and erection which permission was given. I have the pleasure to report that said mill has been purchased, transported to the agency and erected and is in good running order capable of making 10,000 feet of lumber in 12 hours or as much in one day as our water mill would make in twelve.

The Indians are much encouraged with the expectation of making improvements in building houses, barns and fencing their land with permanent fences. In the transportation and erection of said mill, the Indians have rendered valuable service without pay. The cost of the mill in running order is a little over \$4,000 and is worth at least \$87,000. The water and steam mills can be used to good advantage being sixteen miles apart and accommodating different parts of the agency.

The grist-mill has been repaired the past year at an expense of \$100 and is now in good running condition.

The schools at the agency have been in operation for ten months of the year and have done well.

Their sanitary condition was never as good as this time. The skill and untiring attention given to this department by Dr. Kuykendall is universally approved by the Indians and employes of the agency. There has not been money enough appropriated for the purchase of medicine.

The religious interests of the agency is not the least of any and all interests here represented. There is a steady coming up in the

character and stability of right action that merits the approval of all who observe the change.

In conclusion I wish to call the attention of the department to that part of my report of last year to the money due this agency from the late Superintendent Waterman, \$7,250.

This money should have been paid in December, 1866. No good reason can be assigned why this money should be withheld from this agency. Also, I observed that there was appropriated \$1,000 of school money over former years, which money has not been received.

Please call the attention of the department to this money matter that with it we may enlarge our schools and increase the general interests of the agency.

I am have the honor to be your obedient servant.

James H. Willen (Copy) Stypist
note..undoubtedly "ilbur.

U.S. Indian agent, Washington Territory.

Gen. R.H. Milroy, suptl Indian affairs, Washington territory.

Appendix.

Office Yakima Indian agency.

Fort Simcoe, Wash. Sept 1, 1872.

Since the date of the foregoing report and before mailing it I have received a copy of a letter from the honorable commissioner of Indian affairs dated June 13, 1873 addressed to Charles Ewing, Esq. Washington, D.C. which letter was written in answer to the request of the Roman Catholic bishop of Nisqually for permission to build a church and residence for a Catholic priest within the jurisdiction of both the Yakima and Nez Perce Indian agencies and states that the honorable secretary of the interior had given permission to the Catholic

authorities to erect such buildings.

In response to the very surprising information contained in this letter I beg leave to submit the following considerations;

1st: The two reservations referred to have been assigned by the President under the new Christian policy to two Protestant denominations--that of the Nez Perce to the Presbyterian church and that of the Yakima Nation to the Methodist with the expectation on the part of all Protestant Christians that, so far as the religious instruction of these tribes are concerned, those respective churches were to have entire jurisdiction without the interference of other denominations most of all without the interference of the Catholic priesthood.

2d-In the case of reservations assigned under the new policy to the Catholic church as at Tulalip, under the Point Elliot treaty, where a Catholic priest is now the agent, and where the same priest has been many years the teacher and where the whole machinery of the Catholic church, including a school for girls under the Sisters of Charity has been long in operation, no denomination of the Protestant church has ever attempted to interfere. It has been conceded on all hands that Father Chirouse had entire jurisdiction of the religious instruction of all the Indians under the treaty and that it would be unlawful and improper under the present Indian policy of the government. No good results could follow from instructions that would contradict the teachings of the lawfully constituted authority of ~~power~~ the agency. Such contradiction would only confuse the minds of the heathen tribes and weaken the confidence in Christianity altogether.

3-So far as the Yakima nation is concerned I believe the same is true of the Nez Perce Indians, the steady uniform, persistent policy of the Catholic priesthood is now and always has been ~~undoubtedly~~ to contradict the instructions of the Protestant teachers to

defeat their influence and drive from the mind of the Indians all confidence in their honesty and all inspired purpose of thrift and progress.

4-To encourage within the lawful jurisdiction of an Indian agent, an element of power and influence that is utterly hostile to all the endeavors of the constituted authority must necessarily prove disastrous to the success of all attempts at true Christian progress not only but it must prove disastrous to the peace of the reservation and to the safety of the lives of the resident employees.

It becomes my conscientious duty, therefore, to remonstrate in the most distinct and positive terms against an order that

I know to be fatal to the very true interest of the ~~Administration~~ the Indians of my agency and a violation of the precedents and the policy of the Christian administration of Indian affairs.

Respectfully submitted.

James H. Willem (Copy) undoubtedly "illeg.
U.S. Indian agent, Wash. ter.