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Pollock's Report
United States Indian Service
The Dalles, Oregon
January, 19, 1881.

Sir

The "Yakima Reservation" established by treaty of June 9, 1855, ratified March 8th, 1859, containing 800,000 acres, is doubtless as fine a body of land as there is on the Pacific Coast north of the Cascade Mountains.

An hundred and thirty thousand to an hundred and fifty thousand acres of said Reservation ^{is fine tillable land} and a great portion of the remainder is (or was, before it was overstocked) fine grazing land.

In consideration of certain cessions of land and annuities for twenty years, the exclusive use of this Reservation was guaranteed to the "Yakima Nation" which was composed of fourteen (14) tribes or bands of Indians.

The Agency, having been built by the Military for a Post in 1857, is better supplied with dwellings and warehouses than are most agencies. The Military, however, built no school, and there is none worthy the name.

An old one story building, 24×50 used formerly as "soldiers quarters," is now used as a school house, in which 84 Indian children are pupils, the boys (38 in number) sleeping gregariously in the garret.

There are four (4) church buildings. Two old ones 20×40 each, built seventeen (17) years ago; One, 36×72 , built in 1879, and one, 20×30 built in 1880. School has been taught occasionally in one of these old ^{church} buildings.

Near the building in which school is now taught stands the Boarding House and school girls dormitory. This building 25×58 , was originally one story, and used as "soldiers quarters," but Agent

Wilbur put an additional story upon it three or four years ago in which the school girls (forty six in number) and the matron now sleep. Neither the kitchen nor dining room are sufficient either in size or appointments. In fact education and educational interests have not been prominent features, considering the number of families residing near, that have for years been at least partially civilized, and awake to the necessity of educating their children.

Agent Wilbur has been in charge of this Agency since September 1864, except about 18 months in 1869 & 70 when the military were in charge, and his christian influence seems to have had its effect upon the Indians, as five hundred and twenty five (525) of them are reported church members (two hundred and three males, and three hundred and twenty two females). I have had the pleasure of witnessing them in

their devotional exercises which are indeed very affecting.

The employes, ^{generally} are above the average, but the Agency physician is in my judgement a weak, vain, Janus-faced sycophant, a traitor toward Agent Wilbur and an enemy to the Department and as his services are of but little benefit to the Indians, he should be displaced at an early day.

The peculiar business management of Agent Wilbur and its long continuance, is most wonderful, and is, I believe without a counter part in the Indian service in modern times.

The Agent seems to have considered all the annuities and supplies sent here for the Indians, as well as all the "miscellaneous receipts" a fund to be used by him, in addition to the cash sent for employes' salaries, in payment for services rendered, or to be rendered by the Indians, not for

themselves personally, or individually, but as, or in the nature of Agency employes, and as the Agent could not employ all the tribes, and as some of them would not be so employed, (as employes) and so paid (in their own goods) comparatively few of the three thousand nine hundred and fifty (3950) Indians have been the recipients.

Proceeding on this general theory, seemingly without the remotest conception of his accountability as an Agent, he has virtually kept a store (since the trader left here in ^{September} 1872) where the annuities and supplies were the principal stock in trade, though for a time (the chief thinks about two years) the Agent kept some goods of his own in addition to the Government supplies which he sold to the Indians. To what extent, or for what length of time the Agent carried on this personal trade is not known. From this "store"

(6)

the Agent has sold for cash and paid
out for services of every conceivable
nature - such as farming, herding,
freighting, ferriage, traveling expenses,
salaries, &c, a large amount, some of
which is reported and officially
accounted for, and some is not.

Nearly all this vast fund has (it is
alleged) been expended - sold - , a very
small proportion has been issued in
the true sense of that word. It has been
"pro forma" issued on the Property
accounts, and at the same time
credit has been taken by the Agent
in his cash accounts for an unknown
quantity of it: see deposition of J. M.
Fairchild No 5. -

It is urged by Mr. Fairchild
the present clerk who claims to under-
stand Agent Wilbur's theory (see his
letter marked G.) that so long as
he (the Agent) paid out to the Indians
all annuities and supplies (or their

proceeds) he received, for what he considered the benefit of the service "that there the transaction ended".

By this "method" the Agent has been enabled to pay for much service that should have been reported as regular, or irregular and for many things which do not appear on his official accounts. It has enabled him to perform a great amount of Agency work (at the expense of the Indians) seemingly for a small outlay: See deposition J. H. Fairchild No. 5.

Every dollar of this fund may have been expended at some time, for something, to some one, for what Agent Wilbur considered the good of the service, but when, for what, and to whom are questions that at this late day, can never be definitely determined. However pure may have been the motives, and

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philanthropic the purpose that prompted the passage of the unconstitutional act of March 3, 1875 requiring Indians to earn by labor the annuities which in consideration of certain sessions of land and other valuable considerations had been solemnly promised ^{them} by treaty stipulations, the effect has been to require all Indian Agents since that time (not exempted therefrom by the Hon. Secy. of the Interior) to make false certificates to their vouchers to Abstract "D." - Moreover it afforded all dishonest Agents an opportunity to pay for employee's services, and other Agency Service in annuities and take credit in their accounts as though cash had been disbursed for such services.

This opportunity may not have been taken advantage of by any agent, though if it had, no human ingenuity could fully detect
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fraud, because the Indians have not sufficient intelligence to know whether they are signing a cash or property voucher, or both. They know that they have worked so long, or hauled so much freight, or furnished so much wood, and received their pay in annuities or cash, or both; but whether, by their signature, they enable the Agent to take credit in both Property and cash accounts, they do not know.

Agent Wilbur has paid out thousands of dollars worth of annuities for agency service, and has sold thousands of dollars worth of annuities and supplies for cash, some of this employe service has been reported to the Bureau, much of it has not; the expenditure of some of the cash so received has been reported to the Bureau, much of it has not.

The exact amount of such sales, and the uses to which the pro-

ceeds were applied, may be known to Agent Wilbur, but certainly can never be known to any one else from any date in his official accounts, or about his office at this date. The deposition of J. W. Fairchild No. 5. and the accounts of Elijah, Louis Simpson, and others, Nos 19. serve to illustrate a general principle that extends all through the accounts. They are submitted only as illustrative of that fact.

Since the sale of annuities for cash and the buying, selling, and trafficking by the Agent, there has been no Licensed Trader at the Agency, notwithstanding the nearest outside store is twenty five miles away.

Recently, however, there has been a Mr. Sillie trading on the Stattes, by permission of the Agent, without a license; Mr. Sillie appeared to be surprised on being notified by me to cease to do business without a

license, that he was violating the Statute.

Agent Wilburs peculiar manner of carrying a herd of cattle and horses without losing any by death or otherwise, and his general method of accounts, is fully illustrated in the deposition of J. H. Fairchild, No. 5. His method of issuing on paper, regardless of the facts, is illustrated in statement No. 15.

Of the fourteen (14) tribes specifically named in the Treaty as composing the "Yakima Nation", to wit: "The Yakima", "Palouse", "Pisquiose", "Wenatshepan", "Klickitat", "Kowwassayee", "Laiywas", "Skimpah", "Wisham", "Skyiks", "Ochecotes", "Kamhietpah", and "Seapcats", but four (4) tribes have any representatives living here now; and according to "Joe Stwire", the chief, an intelligent and good man, they are as follows: Yakimas two hundred, Skimpahs two

hundred, Kleck itats one hundred,
Wisham one, total five hundred and
one.

Mr. "Stwire", the chief, also estimates
that there are others living here, near
and remotely related to, and affiliated
with, but not clearly traceable to
any particular tribe, amounting to perhaps
three hundred, possibly three hundred and
fifty, aggregating not more than eight
hundred and fifty, all told exclusive of the
Pintes. - These he estimates according
to their precincts, or localities, as follows:
Simcoe and Klickitat one hundred, - Itanum
and Yakima two hundred, - Popnish two hun-
dred, Settas three hundred - total eight hundred.

Some of the employees place the num-
ber a little higher than the chief, but none
of them put it above fifteen hundred, and
hence it is difficult to understand why
three thousand nine hundred and fifty
should have been reported, three
thousand three hundred and

and twenty six citizens dress.

The census now being taken, when the wandering vagrant Columbia River Indians, are, by the rigors of winter, driven to the Reservation, to subsist upon their more prudent relations, will show more than can properly be called Reservation Indians:—Moreover I am informed that at the time of the last free distribution of annuities (in compliance with the Treaty) in November 1872, runners were sent out in all directions and a grand rally made to gather in as many Indians as possible, and the Agents official accounts show that at that time he issued to only five hundred and twelve persons, representatives of seventeen hundred and eighteen (1718) Indians as follows: Men four hundred and seventy eight; Women six hundred and thirty; Children six hundred and ten, total seventeen hundred and eighteen.

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And taking the Agents official accounts as a guide, it is not probable that number has ever been here since.

From the certified Abstracts it appears that the greater portion of the issues from 1871 to the last of 1875 were to the school, the sick and needy, and to the Agency Employees. The number of persons to whom these issues were made is not stated:—

There seems to have been but few vouchers or receipts taken in those days:— In fact the greatest number of receipts of "Heads of Families" and individual Indians appearing in any quarter of his accounts since 1872, is one hundred and sixty three, and in some quarters not a single receipt is taken for issues:— See statement compiled by Agency Clerk marked number "one".

Of the two hundred and eighty houses reported as being occupied by Indians, there appears after a careful enumeration to be but sixty seven so occupied.

(See list thereof by Olney the census enumerator No "two") And the entire number of buildings on the Reservation of all kinds, occupied and unoccupied, belonging to the Government and to the Indians, aggregates only one hundred and forty five. (See list prepared by Dr Key Kendall agency physician and E. K. Miller Agency Carpenter No "three")

Ninety three of these are put down by them as Indian houses.

Taking Olney's report, seventy occupied, from the ninety three Indian houses proper, leaves twenty three unoccupied, most of which are not properly habitable.

Of the twenty five apprentices reported last year, not over five could, in any sense, be classed as apprentices (see affidavit No 5.) And they:—under the Agents peculiar financial management—received thirty dollars per month, or more, notwithstanding

apprentices pay is fixed by the Bureau at five dollars per month. The remainder of the twenty five apprentices are said to be school boys, whose principal vocation, out of school hours has been cutting and preparing wood for the Agency, and the Agency Employees.

Which of the thirty eight boys in school are intended to complete the list of apprentices is not known.

Neither the number of acres cultivated, nor the amount of grain raised by the Government, or the Indians, is definitely known to any one; but the amount of grain reported to have been raised by the Indians last year is simply ridiculous.

The Agents annual Report states the amount of wheat at thirty five thousand, Oats three thousand, Barley two hundred: - "Abraham Lincoln" who had charge of the Thrasher for the

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Indians last season, says they thrashed
three thousand five hundred and forty five
bushels of wheat, two thousand two hundred
and ninety nine bushels of oats, and eighty
bushels of barley, and that the small
amount "trod out with horses" would
not amount to two thousand five hun-
dred bushels. - See his deposition No 8.

"John Hadley" who had charge of the
thrashing machine in 1877, states (in
affidavit No 10.) that the amount of
grain, of all kinds, raised by the Indians
that year, did not exceed five thousand
five hundred bushels. - A carefully
prepared list of those engaged, in any
degree, in agricultural industry,
(aggregating one hundred and forty eight)
is herewith submitted, marked No "4",
which illustrates the comparative
nothingness of Indian enterprise and in-
dustry in farming, hay cutting, and stock
raising, with the efforts of the Govern-
ment in that direction: - In

the necessity for his purchase was the loss, by death, of the other horse.

17. "Statement showing some 'Regular employees' who are to be paid out of the annuity goods."

18. "Statement of Elijah's account, showing that the Agent took credit in his official accounts for three hundred thirty nine ⁵⁹/₁₀₀ dollars, more money than he actually paid Elijah."

19. 19. 19. 19. "Statements of the accounts of Louis Simpson, Abe Lincoln, Lee Whinnemucca, and Willie Frank," in further illustration of the false credit system."

20. 21. 22. 23. "Transcripts from the Agents 'Cash books' and 'issue books' illustrating the peculiar manner in which they are kept. They are worthy of study."

A. "Statement of miscellaneous receipts \$28.663 ¹³/₁₀₀"

B. "Statement showing amount disbursed for freighting in October 1880, and not reported to the Department to be three hundred ²⁹/₁₀₀ dollars."

C. ^{and D.}

"Statements showing amount reported as being paid to the Putes, and the amount actually paid them, the latter being seven hundred seventy one and $\frac{46}{100}$ dollars more than the former."

E.

"Statement showing the amount of Cash disbursed, for services &c, from December 1879 to September 1880, that was not reported to nor approved by the Department to be one thousand five hundred and seventy and $\frac{00}{100}$ dollars."

F.

"Statement showing the payment for services - in cash and goods - during third quarter 1880 - which was not reported to nor approved by the Department to be three ~~thousand~~ ^{thousand} three hundred and eighteen and $\frac{12}{100}$ dollars."

G.

"Letter from J. H. Fairchild defending the management of Agent Wilbur."

It is urged that three Inspectors have preceded me at this Agency, that none of them have condemned, but that all of them have approved and commended Agent Wilbur, method and manage-

ment.

I have been met with similar statements so often at other Agencies that I am beginning to fear neither the Regulations nor the policy of the Indian Office are rightly understood by me. And hence the facts in this case are respectfully submitted without conclusions or recommendations. —

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

Wm J. Pollock

Indian Inspector

To

Hon Carl Schurz.

Secretary of the Interior
Washington
D. C.