

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Office Indian Agency,
Walla Walla Valley W.T.

March 26, 1859

Hon J.W. Nesmith

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, O.T.

Sir:

In my last communication I informed you of suspected disaffection amongst a portion of the Walla Wallas under Homily camped near the old fort. My suspicions ~~in~~ to this effect were not only confirmed but I found that Homily's camp had been the rendezvous for renegades from different tribes for some time past. Through the agency of "Puh" and his band of Walla Wallas who are reliable ~~in~~ I succeeded in intimidating Homili and his advisors sufficiently to induce him (Homiliy) to come and see me and make fair promises for his future good behavior; and to use his influence with his band to prevent dissaffection and the harboring of bad Indians. I have but little faith in him and if he violates his promises nothing but summary measures toward him and his band will answer.

Spokane Mary has come down to see me and says the Spokans are all friendly. He desires information in regard to money due him from the Ind. Dept. for past services as interpreter. I will request any information that can be furnished from your office on the subject.

The past severe winter and the late opening of spring has caused great suffering amongst all the tribes of Indians in this region of country.

I have been advised by the commissioner of Indian Affairs of the confirmation of ~~the~~ my appointment by the U.S. Senate and that I am required to turn over all funds over to you and give a new bond. I shall proceed to Salem as soon as I can complete my quarterly papers which will be in the early part of next month. My duties have been of that arduous character that I am unable to complete my accounts at the termination of the quarter. I have etc. A.J. Cain, Ind. Agent, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Office Indian Agency, Walla Walla Valley W.T.

March 12, 1859

Hon J.W. Nesmith

Suptd. Ind. Affairs O and W

Salem, O.T.

Sir:

Shortly after the date of my last communication reporting the Walla Wallas friendly I received information that led me to suspect dissatisfaction amongst those under Homily,, camped near old Fort Walla Walla and upon visiting them my suspicions were not only confirmed but I am of the opinion that Homily's camp is a rendezvous for all the renegades from tribes on both sides of the Columbia. This camp numbers about 150 men.

I am as yet unable to determine as to how much importance to attach to this dissatisfaction but will in a few days have sufficient information to ~~make~~ enable me to determine . (Tieas?)

There about 50 Walla Wallas under "Puse" (?) camped 10 miles from there whom I regard as perfectly reliable.

Rumors have reached me to the effect that the Colvilles and Okinagans are very saucy.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt.

A J. Cain, Ind. Agent, W.T.

Wash^ttn Suptcy. No. 5, ⁿoll 21

Office Indian Agency

Walla Walla Valley, W.T.

Feb. 28, 1859

Sir:

I herewith enclose you copies of correspondence with the U.S. Commissioner in this valley in regard to violations of the Intercourse Law.

Recently Major Greer, commanding officer of Fort Walla Walla informed me he had received instructions from General Harney to treat citizens of this valley in the same manner as citizens west of the Cascade Mountains.

I will respectfully ask for any instructions that may be necessary for my guidance in these matters.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servant

A.J. Cain

Ind. Agent W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21.

Office Indian Agency, Walla Walla Valley,
W.T. February 28, 1859

Hon. J.W. Nesmith

Superintendent of Indian Affairs

Salem, O.T.

Sir:

A few days since Sa-luk-al-che a chief of the Spokan tribe came to the commanding officer of Fort Walla Walla with a paper for General Harney signed by nearly all of the principal men of the tribe stating that their hearts were for peace and that they wished to be the friends of the whites.

I told Sa-luk-at-che I would write to you what their feelings and wishes were as expressed in this paper, and explained to him the policy of the government towards them.

The Nez Perce are anxiously looking forward for the news of the action of the great father in regard to heir treaty and fearing they would be down in large number for information upon hearing of my arrival and subject to Dept. the unnecessary expense. I have sent them that as soon as you informed me of the action of the great-father I would either go up to see them or send them word to come down for a talk.

The Indians of this valley are very much subdued and much suffering mortality has been experienced amongst the Walla Wallas during the winter for want of subsistence; about fifty have died and many are seriously ill. I have rendered them such assistance as will relieve them temporarily. The complaints of these Indians of their cultivated grounds being occupied and their horses stolen by whites have been ... which I have remedied to the extent of my ... Since my arrival no less than twelve horses have been stolen by sojourners of the valley and I have succeeded in recovering but one.

I have the honor to be very respectfully your

obedient servant A.J. Cain. Ind. Agent W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Copy

Fort Walla Walla, W.T. February 19, 1859

A. J. Cain, Esq. Indian Agent, Walla Walla Valley

Sir:

In answer to your communication of this date I would state that in December last the question recurred to my mind whether the country east of the Cascade Mountains was or was not Indian country within the meaning of the act of Congress of 1834. Not being able to satisfy myself clearly on the subject I wrote to the Hon O. B. McFadden, chief justice of Washington Territory for his opinion in the matter. I received a letter from him a few days ago from which the following is extract.

"The country east of the Cascades is not Indian country in the sense used in the Act of Congress of 1834. So far as relates to the sale, exchange, barter or gift of wine or liquors to an Indian, the act of 1834 is in force and you have full and complete jurisdiction for the purpose of examination and binding over, but I do not think you have anything to do with the introduction of liquor by settlers. If they make sale to white men they must have their license in conformity with the laws of the territory ; to this whole subject I will write you at length in a few days."

The above is all the information I am at present able to give you but as I will probably hear from Judge McFadden in a short time I will be more happy to communicate to you any information I may receive on the subject.

Very Respectfully, your obt. servt.

Sig. Sam D. Smith

U.S. Commissioner for Walla Walla county.

"ash'tn Suptcy. Roll 21.

"alla Walla, May 20th, 1858

Col. J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Ind. Affairs, O and W. T.

Sir:

I drop you a line to let you know how things are going on in these parts. On the 6th inst. Col. Steptoe moved after the Indians who have been committing depredations on people and property.

He crossed Snake river at the same place that we crossed in the Cayuse war and on beyond where we turned back.

On the 16th he fell in with a large body of Indians, Say Spokanes, Coeur d'Alenes, Palouses, Yakimas, Rock Islands and some of the Walla Wallas and some of the Cayuses about 9 hundred so report says.

When I heard from Col. Steptoe he had been fighting three days and was very much out up had lost his pack train and all his pack animals. He has sent only one express in and that was before he commenced fighting.

Another express man was killed and he is on the ~~train~~ retreat. There have been about 85 men sent to his relief. This is the last account I hear from that quarter.

Report says that the Nez Perces have taken some beef cattle to the command. How true it is I cannot say but I believe the Nez Perces are still friendly.

It is expected the Umatillas and Cayuses have an idea of attacking this place as there is very few troops left to guard the post.

~~xxxxxx~~ When I learn more I will write you.

Y^e am sir, your most obt.

"m. Craig. Sub. Ind. Agent

Washington Ferry.

Office Indian Agency

Walla Walla Valley April 16, 57

Hon J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem, Oregon.

Sir: Within the last three weeks Spokane Gary and several of the chiefs of the Spokans have visited me and expressed a great desire to be at peace and to make a treaty for the sale of their lands, that they may go upon a reservation. They say there has been much suffering amongst the people during the past winter for want of food, and that they are in a destitution; this statement is true, but the spring is now opening and they will be able to get their summer supply of roots and fish.

All the chiefs and head men of the Nez Perce tribe have either been or sent delegations to see me to ~~XXXX~~ learn the intentions of the government towards them. They are anxious that their treaty should be ratified and carried out. They have experienced a severe winter and lost a great deal of stock.

There is much evident dissatisfaction amongst the Indians of this valley, but I have been able to induce them to proceed as usual in the cultivation of their gardens and the collection of their summer supply of roots and fish promising them protection for their gardens and stock.

The minds of all the Indians in this interior country are much agitated as to the policy that will be pursued towards them. There is an impression rife amongst them all that agents are sent out to pacify them with kind words until such time as there will be soldiers and citizens in the country to drive them off their lands without paying them for them. And unless the action of the present Congress will warrant the adoption of some decisive policy by which the Indians can be convinced of the objects of the government toward them, the management of them will be a very precarious and arduous duty.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully your

Obt. servt. A. J. Cain, U.S. Ind. Agt. W.

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21 letters from agts. and employees
of Suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan 24, 1856-May 15, 1864

Walla Walla Valley

February 6, 1857

His excellency, Gov. I.I. Stevens

On receiving your instructions I visited the Nez Perces in their
country.

I left this place on the 24 of January. I met Joseph, Looking Glass
and some more of the principal men of the tribe, I told them my
instructions from you. Those that have always professed friendship
appeared to think strange of it as the war party had no influence over
them.

I found some of them entirely out of provisions and issued the
remainder I had on hand since last summer at that place and some 20
(or 24?) bushels of corn and wheat..

The winter has been very severe and a great many Indians are
suffering for provisions and clothing....

I am your obedient servant

Wm. Craig, sub Indian agent

Walla Walla

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21 letters from agts. and employees
of Suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1864

Walla Walla Valley 16 January 1857

His Excellency Gov. I.I. Stevens:

On my arrival at this place I sent up to the Nez Perce country to get
some of my stock...

(2) ...supplies are very short at this place. There is not more
provisions in this garrison than will do ten days. And as there is some
Nez Perce and some Cayuses that are friendly come here since my last
letter to you and being out of provisions I furnished them beef. The
Department is very short. I sent to the Dalles for a small train but
I hear the snow is very deep ~~at this time~~ and the (sic) cannot return.
The snow is about one foot deep at this place and has been so for some
time also very cold.

Your obedient servant

Wm . Craig

Sub Indian agent W.T.

Walla Walla Valley, 16 January 1857

His excellency, Gov. I.I. Stevens:

On my arrival at this place I sent up to the Nez Perce country to get some of my stock but there was a part of it could not be found, also some of the Washington Territory and two Indian Department stock that could not be found.

I have not heard if they have been taken or not by the hostiles. I now start my son up again as the Indians that are friendly advise me not to go up myself as the hostile Cayuses that are in the country are at my place. The Looking Glass is starting this day for the upper country. He has been to see Col. Steptoe and as usual talking every way he says in the spring the Nez Percés will send all the hostile Indians out of their country.

The news ~~came~~ came here yesterday that the hostiles say Esca-lou and brother have taken the stock at the Simcoe and one man (a soldier) prisoner and this man hired an Indian to go to the fort and get some flour and other articles which the commanding officer sent to him. And also said if they wanted any more flour he had plenty just send and get it.

I think things are just as far from being settled as they were last summer. Supplies are very short at this place. There is not now provisions in the garrison that will do ten days. And as there is some Nez Percés and some Cayuses that are friendly come here since my last letter to you and being out of provisions I furnished them beef. The department is very short. I sent to the Dalles for a small train but I hear the snow is very deep and they cannot return. The snow is about one foot deep at this place and has been so for some time also very cold.

Your obedient servant

Wm. Craig. Sub. Indian Agent, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Walla Walla Valley 19 Dec. 1856

His excellency, Gov. Isaac I. Stevens, Sir:

From the appearance of things in this country there is no chance to return to my place in the Nez Perce country.

And as I wish to do something to support my family as there is a heavy expense accrued living at this place.

I must do something and have come to the conclusion to put in some grain in this valley. As Col. Steptoe says he thinks it not safe to return. It will not interfere with any of my time that may be devoted to the Indians.

I am in hopes that my views may meet your approbation.

Your friend and well wisher,

Wm. Craig

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21 letters from agts. and employees of Suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1864

Amount of freight bills paid by William Craig sub Indian agent on goods for friendly Indians.

Date	To whom paid	
1856 Oct 15	Peoples Line. L H Co.	\$75.00
" " 27th	" " "	48.75

		123.75

Amount of Expenses by William Craig Sub Indian Agent at Portland and Dalles

1856 Oct 9	Remarks
" " " 7 Indians \$42.00	Transportation from Dalles to Portland
" " " 11 Indians 42.00	For board at Portland
" " " 15 1 passage 3.00	For Nez Perce chief Lawyer to Portland
" Nov. 8th 1 whip and 1 doz straps \$7.50	for Ind. Dept. Team
" " " 19th Pa W.D. Bigelow 25.00	Oats and use of corral
" " " for repairs wagon etc.	
shoeing mules 47.50	

167.00	

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21, letters from agts. and employees of Suptcy, Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1864

Walla Walla Valley W.T.

Dec. 5, 1856

Sir:

I have ~~recently~~ arrived here at Col. Steptoe's camp and as the express leaves for the Dalles immediately I have no time to write a full report for the last month. I will send it by the next express.

You will see by Wm. Simpson's return that we are nearly out of flour but have a good quantity of sugar, coffee etc. I have furnished all the Indians who went to the Dalles with us in September, also some others who went down afterward numbering in all about seventy-five. I gave them each a full suit of clothes and a pair of blankets and paying for all the express services during the council has caused me to be rather short for blankets. I understand from the Indians that Camaspelloo with others of the Cayuses, the Walla Walla chief's (?) are in Joseph's country. Quillta and Kamiakin are together at Lapway. The Nez Perces are about the same as when you left them, although it does not agree with Col. Wright's opinion of the Indians, yet it is nevertheless true. I have it from the Nezperces themselves. I met some thirty or forty of them at this place (2)

Col. Steptoe's instructions to the Nez Perces are that the hostile Indians must leave their country or they will be considered as one people. Stockwhitley is here with about twenty families. I will give him no provisions until he delivers up his arms.

I would like very much to have a pack train sent up here this winter with flour. I will send my wagon down with the government train for some flour and about fifteen pairs blankets. Write to me often.

I remain as ever

Your obt. Servant

William Craig

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21, letters from 'agts. and employees of suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1864.

Dalles Nov. 2nd 1856

Isaac I. Stevens esq.

Gov. & Supt. Ind. Affr's.

Sir: I have furnished all the Nez Perces who came down with us, with a good fit-out of clothing, towit coat, pants, vest, shirt and one pair of blankets and nearly all of them with hats & shoes and have the same on hand for those of the volunteers who are at this time at my place. I am awaiting the return of the government train to the Walla Walla valley. (Col. Steptoe's camp) I understand that all of the Nez Perces wish to be friendly with the whites. I have also learned that the Looking Glass has ordered all of the War party out of his country and wishes me to come back. I was down at Vancouver a few days since and saw the Doctor and the Lawyer. I think the Lawyer is getting better. I will take up one wagon with a few supplies. I have engaged Whitman as interpreter he is here now. I cannot write you fully until I get back. Col. Steptoe has established his winter quarters at the place you held the Council last year and has moved the block house and the Indian Department property to that place. Unless the Indians come in and talk very fair I shall pass the winter in the Walla Walla Valley. The report is that Five Crows with his party have gone to the Mormons. I will report to you in full from Walla Walla when I get there. Your most obedient servant

William Craig

Sub Indian Agent W. Ty.

From Sub Agt. Wm. Craig, Dalles O.T. Nov. 2, 1856.

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21, letters from agts. and employees of suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1864.

Camp Mill Creek July 11, 56

Head Quarters 2nd R. W.T. Vol.

Gov. Isaac I. Stevens

Supt. Ind. Affairs W.T. Dear Sir:

Yours of June 2nd and 3rd came to hand by Capt. W.H. Pierson on the 7 July also of June 22nd by Capt. John (Nez Perce) ; on examining them I cannot find any instructions concerning the way in which the supplies for the Nez Perces are to be distributed. In your letter by Capt. John you say that I will receive full instructions by Capt. Pierson from what Capt. Robie tells me I suppose they were mislaid. You speak of Mr. Alexander going to the Spokans as local agent; Capt. Robie tells me there has been other arrangements made. I learn through Col. Shaw that George Montoux is appointed special sub agent for the Spokans. I shall do the best I can until I hear from you.

I remain your most obt.

William Craig

Special Agent for Nez Perces

[endorsement] From Lt. Col Wm. Craig July 11th, 1856 ask'g. letters of 2 & 3 ; ~~xxxxxxx~~ June & asking instructions as to distribution of Indian goods.

Correspond with McDonald as agent in reference to the message he sent and direct him to all the facts.

Send your messages also to the Coeur d'Alene mission and get from Father Ravalli a report on the state of the Coeur d'Alenes.

Get from George Montoux a report in reference to the Spokanes.

Also write to Father Doset and ask of him a full report of the condition of the Indians in the neighborhood and Colville.

Very Truly Yours

Isaac I. Stevens

Gov. Ter. Wash.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Executive ~~Ministry~~ Office, Ter. "ash
Olympia, April 9, 1856

Lieut. Col. Wm. Craig, aid de camp, Lapwai, W.T.

My dear sir:

I am under many obligations to you both official and personal for your promptness in arresting all communication between the hostile and friendly Cayuses in the Nez Perce country (preventing all communication between the hostile and friendly Cayuses) Continue in the same course on the receipt of these instructions and have at all times ready for action a force of volunteers adequate to maintaining peace and friendship in the Nez Perce country.

In view of the interference of Oregon agents in the affairs of the Nez Perces it may become necessary for you to ~~expressly~~ acquaint the Nez Perce in decided terms that the Oregon agents have no control whatever over them and that they ~~must look to their~~ must look to their agent and to him only for their directions and for the directions of the Washington Supt.

Express to the Nez Perces my satisfaction at the firm course they have taken. It will show to all whites that they can always be relied on.

If you can get hold of Umh-how-lish, hang him.

The last advice from the Spokans ... they are entirely friendly. I had not before heard of McDonald's message and if it be true, I know not who authorized him to send the message unless he had authority upon some irresponsible source. He has been guilty of an interference with our Indian Affairs, which cannot be tolerated.

You must act as the agent, at least for a time, of all the friendly Indians between the Cascades and Bitter Root. Col. Shaw is now on the sound in command of a portion of the troops.

C_o

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5; roll 21 letters from agts. and employees of suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan 24, 1856- May 15, 1864

Lapwai Nez Perce Country

Gen. Isaac I. Stevens , Supt. Ind. Affairs, Wash. Territory

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of my operations and the condition of Indian Affairs in the district assigned to me during the months of December 1855 and January, February, March, April , May and June 1856

Dec. 4, 1855 On my arrival in the Nez Perce country I found the Indians at my place and according to instructions I called a council and found them friendly disposed towards the whites and that they did not wish to go to war. I told them not to let the Indians who were at war mix at all with their people, to which they answered they would not. On the 12th Gov. Stevens and party came in. The governor called a council of the Nez Perce chiefs at which all the principal men were present. He spoke to them about the war then existing between the Cayuses, Walla Wallas and other tribes , and the whites. They told the governor what Indians were the leaders in the war and said that the Nez Percés did not wish to have anything to do with it.

~~The~~ Gov. Stevens advised them to keep the hostile Indians out of their country. He also asked that some of the Nez Percés would accompany him on the road to the Dalles which they agreed to do and there were seventy in all including twelve chiefs who started down with him. I also accompanied the governor to the (2) Walla Walla Valley.

... .. In August the Indians went to their hunting and fishing grounds where they remained until I received instructions to call the Indians to a council to be held in the Walla Walla valley. I told the Indians that Gov. Stevens was on his way to that point and wished to see all the friendly Indians and those of the Hostile Party who would come in and submit themselves unconditionally . I left my

place for the council on the 28th August in company with the Nez Percés

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21 letters from agts. and employees of suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1864

Head Quarters Co. I 1 Regt. W.T. Vols.

Lapwai, March 22, 1856

Isaac I. Stevens, Gov. and Commander in Chief

Sir:

On my return to the Nez Perce country I discharged the two Nez Perce Volunteers according to your orders and for some time after that the chiefs had trouble in keeping the War Party out of this country. About the time Col. Cornelius was about to move after them I found it necessary to organize a company of volunteers at this place of the settlers and Nez Perce Indians for the purpose of keeping them out of the country; and since the company was organized they have been busy. When the Red Wolf came back from below he said he had orders from Supt. Palmer and Agent Olney to move the friendly Cayuses into this country which he done; and from that time there has been a regular communication kept up between their camp and that of the war party. On the 11 March I heard that a Pelouse Indian by name Ume-taquitat had come into the Nez Perce camp at the forks of Clear Water and Snake River. I immediately ordered Capt. Chase to the place for the purpose of giving him a trial, after (2) examining him, said Pelouse Indian Ume tquitat according to his own confession and the testimony of several witnesses, he was found guilty of murder and also as acting as a spy for the war party. As the penalty in both cases is death, he was condemned to be hung by the neck until dead, which sentence was approved by me and executed on the prisoner ... (3)

Respecty. William Craig Lt. Col. Rgt. W.T. M. Vol.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Lapwai, March 22nd, 1856

Gov. Isaac I. Stevens, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Sir:

I have anxiously been expecting supplies and instructions from you, as I am out of both, as you told me there would be such things forwarded to me at the first convenient season. The Indians in my charge are doing very well as a majority, but there has been some trouble among them caused by news which the Red Wolf brought from Agent Olney and Supt., who, he says, ordered him to move the friendly Cayuses to this country which was done. I do not whether (sic) they had a right to do so without informing me of their intentions.

As soon as they moved into this country they commenced passing to and from the war party which I was compelled to stop by rather harsh means. I have no late news from the Spokans I cannot say how they are at present. I understand that some of the war party have gone into that country and Indian report says that McDonald sent some tobacco to the Cayuse chief and invited him to come to Fort Dolville. Gary was the bearer of the message. I am anxious to hear from you.

I am sir, your obdt Servt

William Craig, Special Indian Agent

Nez Perces.

N.B. Perhaps you may think I have been negligent in keeping you posted up about the Indians but there has been nothing urgent, and I am out of paper and everything ~~exxx~~ else. I am now in debt to all my express men, they find it hard and so do I. I am out of all the comforts of life such as sugar, coffee and ---

W.C.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

~~W.H.H.~~

Columbia River, W.T., Monday, March 3rd, 56

Gov. I.I. Stevens: Supt. of Indian Affairs,

Sir:

Having determined to visit the States during the approaching summer, I have resolved to resign the office of Indian Agent and shall by the next steamer forward my resignation to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington.

Yours respectfully

W.H. Tappan.