

COPY,

CAMP SPOKANE, W. T.
December 19, 1881.

Genl. Nelson A. Miles, U.S.A.
Comdg. Dept. Columbia.

Sir :

Your telegram of the 16th instant in regard to the
Piute Indians received to-day.

In answer I would state that those now on the Yakima Res-
ervation stated to me last October that they wished to return to
the Malheur Reservation, but in case of any objection they would
join their people at or near Camp McDermit. And further about
the Piutes, I will state that I met a Piute man at the Dalles on
the 12th instant and he told me there were 200 Piutes on the Warm
Springs Reservation about sixty miles south of the Dalles and
that they with those upon the Yakima Reservation intended to make
a start for their own country in Salmon time next summer, which
would be about the month of June.

I leave here on my trip to Moses and other Indians in a day
or two.

Your most obedient servant,

(sd) A.J. Chapman.

(Inclosure)

Vancouver, W.T. Dec. 6, 1881.

To Genl. N.A. Miles,
Commanding Dept. Columbia,
Vancouver Barracks, W.T.

Sir:

In compliance with orders and special instructions from

Headquarters Department of the Columbia of Oct. 18, 1881, I visited the Piute Indians on the Yakima Reservation to ascertain when they would be ready to move and join their people in Eastern Oregon, (as permitted by the Hon. Sec. of the Interior), and to accompany them &c. I found the whole number of the Piutes on the Reservation to be four hundred and forty. Leggins' band, numbering something over three hundred, were very anxious to return to their own country and would have started had not the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs telegraphed the Indian Agent at Yakima to stop the movement until further orders (which I reported in a former communication).

I would suggest that when these Indians are allowed to move they should be assisted by the government in order to keep them from depredating upon the whites while en route, as they are almost destitute of transportation and supplies. Chief Leggins claims their horses have been stolen from them by the Yakima Indians and sold to white men off the Reservation (which the agent admits to some extent), and thinks the government has violated its obligation with them in bringing them away from their own country against their will as they were not upon the war-path; and also complains bitterly at the treatment he receives at the hands of the government and alleges that a week's rations consists of ^{two} (2) lbs. of flour and two (2) lbs. of beef for each person; that they have no houses, no blankets and no shoes, and are treated worse than those who went on the war-path. He said "my people are put here to die with cold and hunger"; (and from my own observation I would judge him half right in regard to houses and clothing, for

a more destitute people I never met).

In conversation with the Indian Agent, Mr. J.H. Wilbur, he said that it was wrong that these people were ever brought there and that they would do no good and hoped the government would send them back; that there had been no provision made by the government for their care and that he had expended twenty thousand dollars belonging to the other Indians on them, and if something was not done soon in their case, that it would require a military force to keep them another year upon the Reservation. Leggins said to me that his young men wanted to break this summer and try and reach their country the best they could; but he prevailed on them to stay together and with him, fearing they might make trouble with the whites through the country and in hopes the government would send them back as agreed to, when they were brought away.

Oits' Band who was on the war-path in 1878, numbering about one hundred have been told if they go back they will be sent to the Indian Territory where the small-pox and all other diseases originate, and probably they will stay where they are.

Very respectfully,
Your most obedient servant,
(sgd) A.J. Chapman.
Interpreter.

(Endorsement on foregoing.)

Headqrs. Dept. of the Col.
Vancouver Bks. Dec. 7, 1881.

Official copy respectfully forwarded to Division Headquarters inviting attention to the wretched condition of this band of Indians which is reliably reported never to have been hostile to the government.

In my opinion, it would be more humane and just to allow them to rejoin their own people in the early spring, and I strongly recommend that course be taken.

(sd) Nelson A. Miles,
Brigadier General Commanding.

1st Endorsement.

Headquarters Dept. Columbia.
Vancouver Bks. January 7, 1882.

Respectfully forwarded to Division Headquarters.

I would respectfully invite attention to within copy of report of Department Interpreter Chapman, as it refers to a matter that, in my judgment, should receive attention and definite action at an early day.

About 510 Piutes were, January 2, 1879, taken from Malheur Agency by the Military and placed on the Yakima Reservation. Many of these Indians were always loyal to the Government. Since they have been on that reservation they have been living in a wretched condition with very insufficient food and clothing. I doubt the wisdom or legality of this course on the part of the Government officials and as I understand their reservation has been or is to be given up, it would, in my opinion, be an act of justice and good policy to promptly restore these peaceable Indians to their people - those known as the Winnemucca Indians near Camp McDermitt - or to the Warm Spring Reservation where they have friends. This action, if prompt, may prevent an outbreak in the spring.

In this connection I enclose copy of recent communication from the Interior Department on the subject.

(sd) Nelson A. Miles, Brigadier General Comdg.

(The letters omitted, of the Honorable Secretary of the Interior to the War Department, and of the Commissioner to the Secretary wherein he recommends that the Piutes be given to understand distinctly that they are to remain permanently at Yakima, and that the War Department must be so informed, and non interference on the part of Chapman, and also letter of Agent Wilbur, dated Oct. 27, 1881, to the Commissioner.)

COPY

1st Indorsement,

HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
Adjutant General's Office,
Washington, Nov. 30, 1881.

Official copy respectfully referred to the Commanding General Military Div. of the Pacific, in connection with previous correspondence on the subject.

By command of
General Sherman,
(sgd) R.C. Drum,
Adjutant General.

Headqrs. Mil. Div. Pacific and
Dept. of California.
Presidio San Francisco, December 8, 1881.

Official copy respectfully furnished the Commanding General Department of the Columbia.

By command of
Maj. Genl. McDowell,
(sgd) J.C. Kelton,
Colonel A.A.G.

2d Endorsement,

Headqrs. Mil.Div.of the Pacific and
Dept. of California.
Presidio of S.F. Cal., January 20, 1882.

Respectfully forwarded to the Adjutant General of the
Army.

Of the Piutes who were on the Malheur reservation at the outbreak in 1878, 502 were sent to the Yakima Agency. How many of these took part in the outbreak cannot be stated, but Leggins band of 150 were not considered as prisoners of war and were sent with those supposed to have taken part in hostilities as it would have been necessary to have kept a large military force at the Malheur Agency to allay the fears of both the whites and Indians.

Most of those considered as hostiles, surrendered to the military authorities either at Fort Harney or McDermit in fear of the troops then in the field and on the representations of the military authorities sent by Indian couriers, that should they come in at military posts they would be protected, but should they remain away they would be treated as hostile.

Since their arrival at Yakima the chiefs Winnemucca, Natches and others, have been requesting permission "for some of those who did not take part in hostilities" to return to their homes.

On January 24, 1880, permission was given by Secretary Schurz to those who wished to return, to do so. (Copy of which was furnished by the Adjutant General Feb. 19-1880), and on which my instructions to the Commanding General Dept. of the Columbia of Oct. 5, 1881, "that whenever the movement of a command is ordered from

their neighborhood toward Ft. Boise you notify these Indians and they that, be safely conducted there" were issued ; the order of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs of June 30, '80, directing the Agent at Yakima to "hold them there for the present" not having been received here before Nov. 3, 1881.

Enclosed herewith is a list of Piutes which chief Natches wishes returned to their homes.

I concur in the remark of the Commanding General that all of these Indians who took no part in the Bannock outbreak in 1878, and it is well known that the Band of Leggins did not, be allowed and assisted to return to their people at some one of the Piute Indian reservations, preferably those at Pyramid Lake and Walker River, Nev.

As the Indians of Leggins' band were not hostile, were taken to Yakima for the convenience of the government and are held there without cause and against their often repeated and earnest protest I think good faith and every consideration of good policy requires their wishes, respectfully urged, be complied with.

(sd) Irvin McDowell,
Major General
Commanding Div. & Dept.

(Inclosure to foregoing Endorsement)

Names of good Indians at Yakima, Pyramid Lake and Walker River Reservation.

Kennedy & Family,

Frank & "

George & "

George & "

Tom Kinney & family,

South Sam & "

Sam Springer & "

Jim " "

Big Jim & family,	One Stick Jim & family,
Ochos " "	Sheepman " "
Chinaman " "	Henry " "
Five six " "	Kelly " "
George " (blind man)	Willet " "
Deaf Joe, "	Mrs. Hill (half-breed) and family,
George Henry "	Harry Eagan & family,
Josephine "	Louis " "
Mary "	Old Hatch " "
Eagle Eyes' Daughter & fam.	Ochas George " "
Leggin & family,	Susan We-War " "
Sam Paris " "	Dick Stanton " "
Big Dick " "	Fall Dick " "
Paddy Caps "	Toby " "
Charley Demon "	Toby Boss " "
Cap, "	Cut-Sah " "

Names of Indians at Fort Hall to be sent to Winnemucca.

Mrs. Eagan & family,	Deaf George,
Mrs. Frank Winnemucca,	Long Petes' Son,
Boss,	

Enclosure, Feb. 9, 1882

(COPY)

Jan'y. 20, 1882. Comdg.
Genl. Mil. Div. of the
Pacific forwards with
his opinion and that
of the Comdg. Genl. Dept.
Columbia endorsed there-
on communication from
A. J. Chapman, Interpreter,
reporting that it is
the wish of the PIUTES
on Yakima Reserve to re-
turn to Malheur Reserve
and in case of any objec-
tion they would join their
people near Camp McDermitt
Reports about 200 PIUTES
on Warm Spring Reserve.

WAR DEPARTMENT,
Wash. D. C. Feb. 7, 1882.

Respectfully transmit-
ted to the Hon. the Sec.
of the Interior for his
information.

Robert Lincoln,
Secretary of War.

DEPT OF THE INTERIOR.
Feb. 8, 1882.

Respectfully referred
to the Commr. Indian Af-
fairs,

Geo. W. Lockwood,
Chief Clk.