

Cattle

Yakima May 30th (1881)

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

Sir:

Referring to communication from Hon T. McNichol act. commissioner of Indian Affairs dated March 17 and marked A letter 4640-1881 directing me to count and brand all cattle belonging to the United States at this agency, I have the honor to remark in my reply to that communication I stated that it was my intention as soon as the season was sufficiently advanced, to gather up all the government cattle and carefully count them, that the loss during the past winter might be definitely known. I also stated in said reply, that all the cattle were already plainly branded ID (double lines on I and on straight edge of D) D typist's observation) and that it had been my ~~own~~ custom each year to brand all cattle that came into p 847 my hands whether by purchase or natural increase immediately. I am aware that a determined effort has lately been made to discover something in my management of the government herd at this agency, one which it would be possible to find some charge of mismanagement or something worse, but as such efforts have no ~~shadow~~ shadow of foundation, outside the wish of those engaged in them, I am satisfied they will ~~find~~ fail of their purpose. On the 25th of April I had all the cattle from the Upper Sattas and Topnish creeks gathered at the Agency where they were made to pass through a narrow lane in which three stands had been prepared at each of which were stationed two men, one familiar with the herd, and the brand to count, and the other to keep the tally. In this way a correct count was, ~~made~~ I am satisfied, obtained. From the ~~enclosed~~ enclosed affidavits it will be seen that the number as counted by Thomas McKay was slightly more than made by the other counters. At one time several head passed rapidly by the stand and 848 p. McKay was not sure but he had counted a few that did

not belong to the Department.

Immediately after the completion of the count at the Agency I directed all the cattle on that portion of the range not covered by the drive of the 25th to be gathered at the ranch where they were carefully counted, in a similar manner from two stands, the total number from the two counts being 987 as stated in the enclosed affidavits. Since that date the farmer in charge of the herd has gathered 21 head additional, which with any others that may be found, will be taken up on Abstract 2d quarter 1881

Very etc.

(Wilbur)

Ahtanum

853

wheat. Bland
Grist Mill

Yakima June 6, 1881

Mr. Bland, Ahtanum, sir:

Rev. Mr. Roe, the presiding elder of this district informs me that you have some wheat to sell. If you will deliver 50 bushels at the Reservation Grist Mill on Simcoe Creek at \$1.00 \$1 per bushel we will take it provided it is delivered immediately. We are about out of flour and must have it by Saturday at the latest.

If 40 or 50 bushels could be delivered this week the rest might remain till next week. The purchase has been authorized by the Department and requisition for funds for the payment made, but the money has not come yet, though expected every day. As soon as the funds arrive we shall be prepared to pay for the wheat. Please let us know if you can supply us on these terms, by Mr.

Hadley. We must have at p 854

least 40 or 50 bushels delivered this week in time to have it ground so that we can get the flour Saturday by noon.

Very respectfully etc.

James H. Wilbur etc.

by Fairchild

Clerk and ~~seccy~~ act.agent.

June 10, 1881

A. Bunnell, Esq. The Dalles

Sir: Homer James, one of our Indians who has one of the Osborne Reaper and Mowers wants me to write you, asking you to send him a thimble to go on the pole of his reaper.

The agent will be responsible for this payment. Please send the bill to this office.

(Fairchild for Wilbur)

867

June 17th, 1881

Messrs Knapp, Burrill and Co., Portland, Oregon.

Gentlemen: Please inform me by return mail the lowest figures for which you will furnish the following articles, viz:

1-Bain or Mitchell farm wagons with California brakes, 3 1-2 inch axel

10-Champion plows 12 inch cut.

2-Garden hoes crooked shank.
doz.

(doz) 1-1 Long cutter mattocks

1 California picks

1-2 brush scythes

2 axes handled

200 lbs Castile soap.

The articles to be delivered at The Dalles, freight included in the prices.

It is desirable that we receive your figures at the earliest practicable moment, P. 868 as the purchase must be completed before the 30th inst. and the articles delivered at the Dalles.

very etc.

(Fairchild)

P.S. The wagons may be either Bain, Mitchell, Schuttler or Studebaker, but the brake we desire to be California. Please state which make of wagon you propose to furnish.

Yakima June 11, 1881

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

Sir:

I have the honor to enclose receipt for circular no. 67 relative to the suppression of the traffic in intoxicating liquors. I regret to say that there is more drunkenness among these Indians than ever before, and desire to use every effort for its suppression and the punishment of offenders. It is difficult to secure evidence sufficient to convict of this offense, unless it is made the sole and particular business of some one of more than average intelligence and energy. I have recently organized a portion of the police force under an Indian in whom I have much ~~for~~ confidence, with special reference to suppression of this great evil, and if possible securing sufficient evidence to convict some of those engaged in the traffic.

p 861

(Fairchild for Wilbur.)

Malheur trip 865

(Letter marked cancelled)

Hon H. Price, commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash D.C. (No date)

Acknowledging the receipt of tabular statement of funds remitted for use of this agency for 4th quarter 1880 and 1st and 2d qrs 1881 and directing me to forward additional estimate of amount needed to cover additional authorized expenditure prior to June 30th.

I have the honor to remark--the only additional expenditure, not provided for in tabular statement will be the expense of transfer of goods from Malheur Agent Wilbur took with him sixteen four horse teams belonging to Indians besides two Department teams engaging to pay them at the rate of three dollars per day while going and five dollars per day returning loaded. At least one half the amount will be paid p 866

in supplies and each team will haul not less than two thousand five hundred to three thousand pounds. As each teamster could earn over ~~\$4.00~~ \$5.00 per day with his teams working for the Railroad company the terms are reasonable. Agent Wilbur supposed it would require about four and perhaps five weeks to make the trip, so that the expense in cash, including tolls, ferriages, expense of driving cattle etc. will probably amount to one thousand to twelve hundred dollars.

On reaching Malheur it is probable that he may deem it advisable to make another trip after harvest to transfer such articles as cannot be brought this trip, but will undoubtedly notify the Department while at Malheur. I have the honor to submit additional estimate as directed.

Very etc.

J.H. Fairchild, clerk and act agent.

Yakima, June 18, (1881)

Hon H. Price

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash.D.C.

Sir:

I respectfully ask permission to increase the police force at this agency by the addition of 1 lieutenant and six privates making the force consist of one captain, one lieutenant and fifteen privates.

This increase is necessary to enable them to deal effectively with parties engaged in selling liquor to the Indians off the Reservation. During the summer months a large proportion of these Indians spend more or less of their time at the fisheries along the Columbia river and gathering roots and berries in the mountains. ✓

These privileges are secured to them by treaty and as the fisheries are widely separated the Indians at such season are scattered up and down the Columbia River for more than p 877 ✓ one hundred and fifty miles. It is at these fisheries they procure liquor which they sometimes, though rarely, bring to the reservation. It is impossible for our small force of police-- one officer and nine men, to exercise a vigilant supervision over Indians so widely separated.

I also ask for the restoration of rations to the police at this Agency. It is asking too much of a man to be always ready to leave his business at a moment's notice to be absent from his family sometimes for days, constantly exposed to danger and paying his own expenses, for five dollars per month. It not frequently happens that our police are called to distant points to make arrests or settle disturbances where their unavoidable expenses amount to half their monthly salary. As a rule I think their travelling expenses average as much as they receive for their services. I ask therefore the restoration of their rations. (Fair child for Wilbur)

Cattle. David Powell
Malheur

p.878

Yakima June 18th (1881)

Hon. David Powell, East Portland, Oregon, Sir:

Agent Wilbur left some two weeks ago for Malheur agency in compliance with instructions received from Washington. He informed me that he had made arrangements with you for such beef cattle as we might require, to be applied on grazing account. Though I do not remember that he mentioned the precise figure, yet as he has been paying \$20 for 3 year old and \$25 for 4 year old, I presume that is the price. It is necessary for us to make up the papers for the 2d quarter and I enclose a set of vouchers (3 in the set) for your signature as also the invoice inclosed. Please do not date the receipt for the money as I am not certain whether the papers will have to show the 22d of June or later. I p 879
enclose receipt for \$145 on account of grazing and will enter that amount on the agency books as received from that source.

So far we have killed seven head of your cattle. Should we require more we will let it apply on the next quarter. If the price fixed in the vouchers is not right, Father Wilbur will arrange it to your satisfaction on his return. Please sign the receipt to all three vouchers and also the invoice enclose in the addressed envelope and mail

Very respect etc.

(Fairchild for Wilbur)

Yakima, July 7th

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

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of articles of agreement for the transportation of supplies to this .. between the Department and C.B. Stone, esq. Referring to said article I notice that freight from San Francisco to the Dalles, Oregon is fixed at \$2 per one hundred pounds and from San Francisco to Fort Simcoe at \$3 per hundred.

If I am correct in supposing it optional with the department to select either as the terminal point of the contract, I would respectfully suggest that the Dalles be made such terminal point as freight from that place to Fort Simcoe can be secured at \$1.50 p 894 or at most \$2 per one hundred pounds

(Fairchild for Milbur)

Piutes--Bannocks 900
supplies

June 30, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir:

Referring to Department communication dated 30th 1880,
authority ~~XXX~~ 1767 authorizing the expenditure of \$1,500 in open
market purchase of wagons, harness, plows, axes, mattocks, hoes, etc.
for the benefit of the Piutes and Bannocks located at this agency,
I respectfully ask permission to substitute one combined reaper
and mower for some of the articles enumerated which are not so
much needed at present.

Our grain this season is extraordinarily heavy and to secure
it, a ~~map~~ reaper and mower is a necessity, while its permanent
benefit to the Piutes will be at least equal to any of the implements
named in the authority.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Walbur

U.S. Indian agent.

By J.H. Fairchild

Clerk and Act. Agent.

Hides. Grazing
etc.

Yakima, Fort Simcoe, July 10, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir:

I have the honor to report miscellaneous receipts Class 2 at this agency for the 2d qr , 1881 as follows:

From sale of 187 hides	\$796.23
From Grazing cattle on the reservation	1,695
Toll in grist mill	1
Sale of subsistence to employes being subsistence on the reservation or derived from miscellaneous funds	174.76
total	\$2666,99

Provided the last item is admitted.

(Fairchild for Wilbur)

Malheur Agency

912

Hogs. Rinehart

Malheur City

Yakima, July 16, 1881

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

Sir:

I have the honor to report that I received from Mr. W.V. Rinehart, farmer in charge at Malheur Agency, forty (40) hogs which I sold at Malheur City for \$150..which sale I respectfully ask may be approved. It was not possible to take them to Yakima agency and the price obtained was all they were worth and fully as much as could have been obtained at auction.

Very etc.

(Wilbur)

Said hogs numbered 26 one and 2 years old, balance young pigs of little value.

Yakima, July 18, 1881

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

Sir:

Referring to Department communication dated May 27 marked A addressed to me at Malheur City and directing me to take charge of the property at said agency, also to give my views respecting several propositions made in said communication I have the honor to reply--July 1st I had the honor of making a partial answer to said communication from Malheur City, but had not at that time given the subject the attention since conferred upon it.

The reasons why it was at that time impracticable to comply wholly with the instructions of said letter of May 27th are more fully set forth in the accompanying letter marked A, report of transfer from Malheur

p 916

The accompanying list of property left at Malheur shows 13,200 lbs flour, six panel doors, 1250 pounds iron and quantity of lumber, fence posts, etc. the transfer of which of course out of the question.

All other property except the hogs which I sold and the buildings is either wholly useless or of but little value. Adopt (189 cattle listed in previous reference) If proper steps are taken I think \$5 per bbl can be obtained at the agency. It would cost at least \$12 to \$16 per bbl to bring it here, and it can be bought at Yakima City for \$5.50 and at Dallas for \$3.50. The iron should also be sold at the Agency. If brought to Yakima it would not be worth the cost of transportation. The lumber can also be disposed of there at fairly good advantage. Other articles that are worn, or partly useless must be sold for what they can be made to bring. I recommend therefore that Mr. Rhinehart be instructed to take immediate steps for the sale of all moveable property remaining at Malheur.

"Referring to the suggestion of Special Agt. Smith that proper persons may be inducted p 917 to take charge of, and care for the government buildings at Malheur and Harney, without other compensation than the privilege of cultivating a reasonable amount of land for his own benefit, I have the honor to remark I think it extremely doubtful if any responsible person can be found on such terms.

"The season is too far advanced for any crop to be planted this year and certainly no person of sufficient care and good prudence to be entrusted with care of government property will be likely to consent to look after the buildings, residing on the property for the chance of putting in a crop next year.

I certainly do not know of any such person and cannot give any hope that he may be found.

"With regard to the persons suggested by Agent Smith I cannot speak positively. Mr. Hedges would undoubtedly be a proper man to have in charge but he is a skillful mechanic and his services will be required at good wages elsewhere. Mr. Johnson who is named as having been suggested by Agent Smith, p 918 is a person of whom I have no personal knowledge. My information however leads me to question his special fitness for any position involving responsibility.

My own impression is that the department will have to give some kind of compensation to the persons having charge of the buildings both at Malheur and Harney, but as agent Smith has suggested the course recommended, he has doubtless ascertained if the parties named will accept the position and I respectfully suggest that he be directed to communicate with Mr. Rhinehart on the subject.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian agent.

Wenatshapam
Pisco Names

Yakima, July 20, 1881

Hon H. Price,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Sir: Acknowledging the receipt of your communication dated June 23d marked L directing me to report on the present condition of the Wenatshapam on Wenatchee River, together with such further information as I may be able to obtain, I have the honor to observe--This reserve is located at the falls of the Wenatchee river and was reserved from cession at the time of the treaty on account of its excellent fishing.

This has long been famous among the Indians who in great numbers resort there in the fishing season and who have erected temporary structures for the purpose of drying. The Indians reside there at times. The land is worthless for agriculture
p 920 the country around is mountainous, the fishery being located in a narrow canon where the river leaves but a few feet between itself and the base of the mountains. As a fishery it is invaluable, for any other purpose it is worthless. Referring to that part of said communication directing me to identify the names used in the treaty with the later ones found in the land office maps I would say the stream called in the treaty the Pisco is that marked on the copy of the land office sent me as "Opnish". The Pisquise and Wenatshapam, are different sections of one and the same stream, now called the Wenatchee. I have complied as nearly as possible with the directions to "locate the Wenatshapam fishery as correctly as possible, etc.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent

Piutes
Warm Springs
refugees

Yakima, July 22

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

Sir:

Some time during the month of September, 1880, some twenty-six Piutes, men, women and children, who had been located at this agency, influenced by false representations and hoping by some means to find a way of returning to their old haunts; left this agency without my knowledge or permission, and before I was informed of the occurrence were at the Warm Springs Agency where they have since been. As the great body of the Piutes, including many relatives of the fugitives above referred to are permanently located here, as their goods and supplies are all here, and as this is their proper place, all of them being included

p 922

in my receipt given the military authorities for Piute prisoners in 1879; I respectfully ask that Agent Smith be instructed to deliver said fugitive Piutes to me for return to this agency.

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent