

Valles, August 13, 1857

J.W. Nesmith, Esq. Dear Sir:

On the 30th of July Col. Wright notified the parties living on the opposite side of the river to move. Mr. Morse immediately complied with his request sold out his effects and left. Mr. OConnel refused to move, stating that he held his claim under the donation law--things stood this way until the 5th of August when the Col. sent a force of men over the river took down O Connells house and moved it and all his traps on this side of the river. Since then I have heard nothing said.

There is no news from the interior worth relating. The Indians are all quiet so far as I know.

Respectfully etc.

A.P. Dennison

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857 No. 202

Office Indian Agent

Dalles O.T. Aug. 13, 1857

Sir:

Enclosed please find my annual report. I should have made it earlier but my time has been so much occupied settling difficulties between Indians and whites that it has been impossible, I regret not being able to give a more full and detailed report, if there is any other fact or thing connected with this agency that I have not spoken of which you desire me to report, please write me and I will try and supply the deficiency.

Respectfully etc.

A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent

J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs.

Salem, Oregon.

[Dennison's annual report, together with the annual reports of other agents and sub-agents, was sent to Washington to accompany Superintendent Nesmith's annual report, and is to be found in the incoming files of the Washington office under Oregon and Washington, N336/1857, enclosure 14. It was printed in the annual report of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for 1857 (Serial ~~219xx~~ 919), p. 659-883.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857- No. 204

Fort Walla Walla,

July 18, 1857

Sir:

Under existing orders I have believed it to be my duty to prevent the Indian traders, although licensed, from building houses in this valley.

This is, however regarded by them as a hardship and I desire to refer the matter to ~~the~~ Dept. Hd. Qrs. Be pleased to inform me what are the views of the general respecting this class of persons. Shall they be permitted or not to establish themselves anywhere in the Indian country.

Very Respectfully

E. J. Steptoe,

Bvt. Lt. Col. U.S. A.

Comdy. post

Major W. W. Mackall

A. A. G. U. S. A.

San Francisco

----- Head qrts Dept of the Pacific

San Francisco Cal. Aug 10, 1857

Sir: Your letter of July 18th asking for instructions in relation to Indian traders has been submitted to Brigadier General Clarke. He directs that those licensed be permitted to trade and build for the convenience of trading, but that the prohibition to introduce or trade in liquor be rigidly enforced. I am sir, etc. W. W. Mackall,

To Lt. Col. Steptoe, 9th Infantry, Comdy, Fort Walla Walla, W. T.

Fort Simcoe, W.T., August 15, 1857

Colonel:

I enclose you herewith a copy of a communication addressed by Mr. A. H. Robie, special Indian agent at the Dalles to Mr. Geer under date of the 11th ulto informing the latter that the Indians of the district are to be considered hostile and turning them over to the military authorities. I do this for the purpose of ascertaining from you 1st whether it was intended to withdraw the appointment of Mr. Geer as local Indian agent here, as he represents himself to be; and 2nd; whether under the operation of Mr. Robie's letter all licenses to trade with these Indians previously given by Indian agents do not become null and void. This is my own belief and opinion and that the military authorities while this state of things exists have the right to ^{warn} ~~002~~ out of the country all traders who entered it under such permits or licenses and to ^{enforce} ~~000000~~ their warnings; but I prefer first to ascertain from the proper source what rules and regulations have been established by the Indian Dept. in Washington in relation to the matters.

The object of these enquiries relate particularly to the case of a Mr. Bonner (?) from the Dalles; who under the authority (The enclosure mentioned in the following letter has not been found in the files of the Oregon superintendency)

of a permit to trade with Indians provid... in establishing himself in close proximity to my post and carry on a trade with my command and in contempt of my wishes repeatedly given him. To a bonafide and legitimate trader with the Indians in this country I, of course, have no least of objection. Indeed I would prefer to encourage and protect such traders, but when a man under the license and guise of trading with Indians enters the country with a determine not only to trade with a military post ~~whixatxta~~ which the government has deemed it proper to establish in that country and to which he has not been invited or desired but is .. of its police regulations it presents a case in my judgment which ought to be brought to the notice of

of the highest officer of the Indian department in the country.

I therefore report the case to you with the request that Mr. Bonner license may be withdrawn if it has not already become null and void under Mr. Robies letter, or that he may be warned by your authority not to establish himself in the immediate vicinity of this post--say three miles, nor trade with the command thereof.

I should esteem it as a favor if such a condition would be afforded to all licenses which it may be thought proper to give in future to traders entering this country.

I beg to be informed of your action in ~~this~~ the case of Mr. Bonner at your earliest convenience.

I am sir, very respectfully
Yours etc.

R.S. Garnett, Major 9th Infy.

Comdy Post

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

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857 No. 212

Office Indian Agent, Dalles, O.T. August 18, 1857

Sir: Enclosed please find estimate of expenses for the 4th quarter ending 1st December, 1857.

There is an item in my estimate of four thousand dollars for the moving of the Wasco Indians to the Reservation. It is my opinion that it will require the above mentioned sum for the moving of these families, which are unable to move themselves, such is the old and infirm, their property and the property of those who have no horses.

Respectfully etc.

A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent

J.W. Nesmith,

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, Ore.

No. 1857 No. 216

Office Indian Agent, Dalles, O.T. Aug 18th, 1857

Estimates of expenses for the quarter ending December 31st, 1857 North Eastern District Oregon.

For Salary of agent and one local agent	\$625
" " physician	250
" " Interpreter	125
Incidental expenses	400
Restoring and maintaining peace	\$8,000
Moving Wasco Indians to Reservation	4,000
	13,400,90

A. P. Dennison, Indian Agent

N.E. District Oregon

J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, Oregon.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857 No. 226

Office Special Ind. Agent, Dalles, Sept. 2, 185

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

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of August 24th with enclosed copy of letter from Major R.S. Garnett, Comdy. Fort Ximcoe and your reply to same.

In reference to Mr. J.C. Geer I would state that I never knew of his being an agent or employee of the Department.

About the 20th of March last I authorized Mr. Geer (as he was living in the Yakama and acquainted with the Indians) to temporarily take charge of the friendly Indians in that portion of the district and report to me their number, condition etc together with any other information he could obtain in reference to Indian affairs which he very kindly done without compensation.

I never considered him an employe of the Department although in my report to the superintendent of the 31st of March last I reported the fact of having made the above arrangement with him as a facility for gathering reliable information.

A few days previous to addressing the letter of which Maj. Garnett has sent you a copy I was informed that Mr. Geer was representing himself as local agent. I would not believe at the time that such was the fact however I thought it best to annul the authority given him last March.

The cause of making the statement that I did in reference to the Indians in the Yakama being considered hostile was from a misunderstanding by which I had understood that Col. Wright considered all the Indians in Yakama as such and under the direction of the military. Shortly after I learned that Col. Wright had reference to a few particular bands. I did not correct the mistake with Mr. Geer for the reason that I did not think he would have any occasion to exhibit the letter.

As regards Mr. Donner I would state that he made a verbal application to me about the first of last May for a license to trade with the Indians in

I informed him that I was not authorized to grant such a license and referred him to Col. Dennison as being the only agent in the vicinity having the authority .

He made an application to Col. Dennison and got a permit to trade after filing his bond etc. Col. Dennison ~~will~~ will write and give the particulars.

I believe Mr. Bonner and his ... Partners to be honest, upright and law abiding men and so far as I have been able to learn the only charge Maj. Garnett makes against him is that they are interfering with the trade of the sutler.

I regret very much to learn that my report did not reach you in time to be of service in making up your annual report,

I wrote you on the 19th in reply to yours of the 11th and stated that I had made my report in the evening previous. I afterwards found that the mail would not leave the Dalles for several days so I withdrew it from the office and as I was going to Portland took it with me and mailed it on the morning of the 24th at the office at Portland.

It will certainly reach you before that if it does not please inform me and I will send you another copy.

Most respectfully etc.

S.H. Robie,

Special Indian Agent,

Wash. Territory

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857 No. 228

Olympia, Aug. 21st, 1857

Friend Nesmith:

I have sent an account of the murder of Col. Ebey to Mr. Dash(?) and Mr. Armstrong writes to you today concerning the same. But I wish to add a few words concerning the action of the army forces placed here by our old "much" ? for our protection.

The next morning after the murder of Col. Ebey the citizens of Port Townsend sent to Maj. Haller for assistance in trying to capture or chastize the murderers. The maj. sent back word that he had orders to complete his barracks, that he could not therefore send such assistance.

Now the Major may be tied down by instructions, but ~~there~~ certainly is a great wrong somewhere and one that ought to be corrected.

The master of the "Active" thought he ~~xxxl~~ could not leave his legitimate business to pursue the Indians as he cannot discharge again from her without injuring or perhaps destroying the instruments and he did not arrive at Port Townsend till Thursday after the murder which took place on Tuesday night so the Indians would have a long start.

But there is no such excuse for Maj. Haller . He falls back on the cut throat instructions . It is supposed this murder was one of those threatened by the northern Indians in revenge of those killed at Port Gamble by Uncle Tom's Massachusetts. Thus one of Mile Sam's (?) war steamers makes an assault then ^{leaves?} learns (under instructions of course) and the ~~proper~~ people unprotected must pay the penalty. with death.

But there is no use I suppose in urging our complaints at Washington any longer. We must be content in telling them to one another and in pitying (sic) each other.

We have not, it is true, made the best use in every instance of the means of defense that came to us by the authority of Uncle Sam--and we have not been in every instance the law abiding people that we ought to be for we have demolished his courts of justice, kidnaped his judges and clerks

without rhyme or reason. These things have weaned our old uncle's affections from us and will therefore leave us to pay the penalty of our own folly. If we are more ever in the position perhaps Uncle Sam will relent and give us what we most need, a war steamer on the sound.

I think of no other news

All are well , Very respectfully

~~George~~ Geo W. Corliss

J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Salem, O.T.

Office Indian Agent, Dalles, Sept. 1st, 1857

Sir:

I have been informed that Major Garnett has has (sic) made complaint to you in reference to a Mr. Bonner trading in the Indian country asking to have this license annulled etc. Perhaps I have neglected my duty in not informing you at an earlier day that I had granted or given Bonner & Co. permit to trade in the Indian country near Fort Simcoe. My apology is I have been so busy in and out of the office for the last month that I have not had time to complete and forward the papers.

I will endeavor to give you a brief history of this matter as I understand it. About the first of last July Edwin L. Bonner, Apperson Bonner and Richard A. Eddy made application to me for license to trade with the Indians in Simcoe Valley. I being the only agent in this vicinity authorized to grant licenses, The above named parties under the first name of Bonner and Co filed their bond with sureties and I supposed it had gave them a permit to trade until this bond and license ~~was~~ should be approved by the proper authority or annulled. Since which time said Bonner & Co have faithfully observed all the regulations of the Indian Dept. so far as I have any knowledge and have been well behaved. After receiving their permit said Bonner and Co established their trading house about one mile from Fort Simcoe outside of what they supposed to be the limits of the military reservation and ~~there~~ where they could receive protection from the Fort in case of an emergency. Shortly after they had established their house, Major Garnett requested them to move their house off from the reservation or some five miles from the fort. Mr. E. L. Bonner who was in charge of the store informed the major that if he would show him the lines of their reservation he would move his house outside of them, which the major declined to do and Mr. Bonner refused to move. The major then issued an order to have Bonner arrested his house torn down and his goods seized which order was executed. The major soon found

he had gone to (sic) far and released Mr. Bonner and restored to him his property, he then run the lines of the reservation and Mr. Bonner moved back to his old place or near it. The major then issued another order that all soldiers and employees should not trade with said Bonner & Co. and stationed a guard in front of their store door. I never heard that Major Garnett made any charges against Bonner & Co or that ~~there was~~ they had committed any offense except to sell goods to ~~the~~ soldiers and govt. employees. This is a simple narrative of this matter as I understand it.

If I have done wrong in giving Bonner & Co. permit to trade in the Simcoe Valley it being out of my district, please inform me and I will try and undo what I have done and they will make application to you. I granted them a permit at the time thinking that if the application had been made to you it would have been ranted, from the conversation I had with you when you was here.

Enclosed please find Bonner & Co's application. Bond ~~and~~ and license which I hope will meet your approbation. I believe they are in accordance with the regulation of the Department. I shall be glad to hear from you in relation to this matter as soon as convenient.

Respectfully etc.

A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent.

J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, Oregon.

P.S. You will please find enclosed Bonner & Co invoices of merchandise.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, microcopy 2 1857 No. 253

Fort Walla Walla, Nov. 7th, 1857

Sir: I rec'd your letter respecting DWolff but delayed to answer it till I could see what turn matters would take with him and now although he certainly did bring liquor in his train most of which I seized and have now in store here, it is a question with me whether the offense might not be overlooked this time. I feel confident that he at least will behave himself in future, One Indian drank of DWolff's liquor untill (sic) he died; if such a thing should occur again I have not the least doubt that the Indians would tear the trader in pieces.

Tin-tin-met-sa visits the Dalles in hopes to hear something of his ten horses lost there a few months ago. I told him that there is no question of your doing all in your power to recover them or to aid him in the matter.

Very Respct. etc.

E. J. Steptoe

Mr. Dennison, Dalles.

[Francis I. DWolff, Indian trader in Colville Valley W.T., licensed by A.P. Dennison who sent orders or request to Steptoe to apprehend him, seize bond, goods etc.]

Suptcy. Oregon, Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857 No. 256

Office Indian Agent, Dalles, Oct. 12, '5

Sir:

Last week I called the Wasco Indians together for the purpose of notifying them that they must remove to the reserve. Upon their assembling and ~~making~~ talking the subject over I found there was so many poor families that would require me to assist them in removing and those that were ~~not~~ poor told me that they would require me to move their crops or they would have to abandon them, such as potatoes and corn of which they have a considerable quantity, that I determined to have them remain in their present location the coming. They can be subsisted here at little or less expense this winter than they could be upon the reservation owing to the large expense of transporting their supplies. I have told them that they must go to reserve early in the spring.

I desire you will if possible make and forward to me at your earliest convenience a copy of that part of the treaty of the 25th of June, 1855 which refers to the purchase of the houses and other improvements which the Wasco Indians now occupy, so I can inform them what they may expect if the treaty should be ratified.

Respectfully etc.

A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent.

To J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Supt. Indian Affairs, Salem, O.T.

Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Oregon, Roll 15, microcopy 2 1857- No. 259

Fort Vancouver, W.T. October 13, 1857

To Col. James W. Nesmith, Superintendent, Indian Affairs O.T. , W.T.

Sir:

I herewith transmit to you for your special consideration and endorsement statements and affidavits exhibiting the claim of Messrs Brooke, Boomford and Co for loss of cattle etc. in the Walla Walla country by hostile Indians at the commencement of the Indian war in the autumn of 1855.

^{We}
~~We~~ desire that this claim should pass through your office with such recommendation in the premises as you may feel authorized to make to the Com. of Indian Affairs at Washington.

Very truly

Your obt. servant

Brooke, Boomford & Co.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857 No. 268

Department of the Interior, Office Indian Affairs

September 19th, 1857

Sir:

Authentic intelligence has been received of the unfortunate loss of the steamer "Central America" formerly called the "George Law" with her passengers and mails connected with the Pacific line of steamers to California and Oregon.

It is supposed that some official communications from yourself and the agents under your superintendency have failed to reach this office by reason of the unfortunate disaster.

If this should be the case, you are requested to forward by the next steamer after the receipt of this letter a duplicate of any communication to the department which might probably have been in the mail so lost--and to direct your agents to send duplicates of any reports that they may have forwarded by the last Pacific steamer having reference to this date.

Very respectfully etc.

Charles E. Mix

acting commissioner

J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem, Oregon Ter.

Fort Simcoe W.T.

September 30, 1857

Major: (extract)

* * In this connection it is proper to say that last fall the Indian Department deposited at this post 16000 pounds of flour for issue to the friendly Indians in this vicinity during the winter, this fall they have made no deposit at all, nor do I hear of any intentions to make one. the friendly Indians who occupied the Topinish lastwinter have already made anxious enquiries as to whether they can get any flour ~~xxxx~~ here this winter and state that the salmon fishing upon which they chiefly depend for food during the winter has been unusually poor during the past summer.

I am Sir, Very Respectfully

Your Obt Svt.

(Signed R.S. Garnett)

Major 9th Infy.

Condy Post.

Major W.W. Mackall
Asst. Adjt. General
San Francisco, Cal.

Jacksonville, O.T. October 31, 1857

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Washington T.

Sir: I write to you for the purpose of ascertaining some information in regard to the payment of the claim against your department of Boyd & Blakely of \$66 I believe for "the publication of the notice of the Yakima Treaty etc. in the "Umpqua Gazette," On the 6th March last I signed and enclosed to Gov. Stevens, then superintendent, a voucher for the amount and afterwards received a letter, dated March 27th, 1857, from the superintendent stating that our account had "been received, and the account approved" and he says "I have no funds on hand at the present time applicable to the payment of this account but expect a remittance shortly. As soon as the necessary funds are placed at my disposal you will be apprised of the fact and the account settled."

You will please inform me how soon the claim can ~~be~~ probably be paid. Mr. Boyd has gone to the states and I am authorized to collect all claims of Boyd & Blakely.

I also wish to make the same inquiries in relation to the claim of K. Vault (?) and Blakely for publishing same treaties in the "Table Rock Sentinel" amounting to \$150. 62. The account was approved by Supt. Stevens and vouchers were enclosed to us by him in a letter dated March 27, 1857. We signed the vouchers and returned them to him. Please inform us when we may ~~expect~~ expect the claim paid.

Respectfully etc.

Alex Blakely.

land opening

land opening

The Puget Sound Courier of July 12, 1855 carried an official notice that lands of the interior were open to settlement.

Curtis, "North American Indian, VII, p 21. Also Snowden, Clinton, A History of Washington, Vol III, pps 328-29.

Alex Blakely, wrote from Jacksonville, O.T. Oct. 31, 1857 inquiring as to status of payment for a claim of \$66 submitted for publication of the Treaty Notice in the Umpqua Gazette on March 6, 1857, and for publication of the same treaties in the Table Rock Sentinel for \$150 for which vouchers were submitted in March, 27 1857

Oregon Suptcy of Indian Affairs, Microfil roll 15 No. 02d Microcopy 2, 1857, Letter No. 276.

Office Indian Agent

Dalles, Nov. 4th, 1857

Sir:

Since taking charge of the Yakama District Washington Territory which was formerly in charge of Special Agent Robie I have made myself somewhat acquainted with the wants and necessities of the Indians in that district and not being informed whether or no Mr. Robie has made an estimate of expenses for the present quarter I beg to submit the following.

For purchase of provisions etc \$2,500

" " Clothing etc 2,000

If in your power to furnish me with the amount of fund above mentioned I desire you will do so at the earliest possible moment. I am of the opinion that the above amount will be actually necessary to supply the Indians in that District so as to prevent any unusual amount of suffering the coming winter.

Etc.

A.P. Dennison, Indian Agent

to J.W. Nesmith, esq.

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

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs. Roll 15 , No. 2 1857 No. 282

Head Quarters Dept of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. Nov. 3, 1857

Sir:

Brigadier General Clarke , comdy. directs me to transmit the enclosed copy of a letter from the commanding officer at Walla Walla.

The opinions expressed to the Indians by Mr. J. Ross Brown (sic) as therein given are entirely at variance with the views taken by you in the interview lately with the ~~Indian~~ general and by him communicated thro' the commanders of posts to the Indians.

He is confident you have not changed your policy without communicating this change to him; and thinks it probable that you are not aware of the course pursued by Mr. Brown.

I am sir, etc.

W.W. Mackall,

Col. J.W. Newsmith

Supt. Indian Affairs

Oregon and Washington,

Salem, O.T.

1857 No. (enclosure to 282)

(copy)

Fort Walla Walla, Oct. 19, 1857

Sir:

It is my duty to inform the general that Mr. J. Ross Brown (sic) acting I believe as agent of the Indian Bureau did in a recent conversation with "Lawyer" the Nez Perces Chief , assert that Governor Stevens Treaty of Walla Walla could "certainly be ratified and enforced.

Mr. William Craig, who acted as interpreter on the occasion gives me this information.

Considering that this statement is in direct opposition to what the

Indians have been told by us and to what as I believe nearly all of them
 desire, it seems to me in very bad taste to say ^{the} ~~that~~ least of it.

Mr. Brown could not possibly have known that the treaty will be
 ratified, and even if he had, the proper time to enlighten the Indians
 on the subject is obviously, after it shall have become a law, of the land;
 he had no right to unsettle the Indian minds on a point respecting which
 his convictions are probably no stronger than the opposite belief of many
 others in daily intercourse with them.

I will simply add that in my opinion any attempt to enforce that
 treaty will be followed by immediate hostilities, with most of the Tribes
 in this part of the country--for which reason it does appear to me
 greatly desirable that a new commission be appointed and a new treaty made
 thoroughly digested and accepted by both sides.

Very Respectfully etc.

E. J. Steptoe, Bvt. Lt. Col U.S.A.

Comdy Post.

Major W. W. Mackall,
 Asst. Adjt. Genl, USA,
 San Francisco

offered
 W. W. Mackall,
 Asst. Adjt. Genl.