

War of the Rebellion, Series I, Vol. L, pt. 2 Wash D.C. 1890

Fort Dalles. Forts. Department of the Columbia Maps.
p. 1291

Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific
San Francisco Cal. Dec. 8, 1865

Lieut. General Grant

Commanding Armies of the United States, Wash. D.C.

General: In compliance with your directions I inclose herewith maps of the Departments of California and the Columbia, on which are marked the several posts at present occupied by troops of this military division. The following remarks are submitted by way of explanation:

Indian frontier

In regard to the protection of the Indian frontier on the east, the policy should be to keep the troops in advance, retain them in rear of the white settlements, and to make the posts as temporary and cheap as possible. These should be maintained as depots of supplies for expeditions against the Indians and the temporary camps which may be established in their country. As these camps will be continually changing they should be of the most temporary character. Tents and huts constructed by the troops will usually be sufficient.

Department of the Columbia

The most northerly post on this frontier line is Fort Colville; next is Fort Lapwai, near Lewiston. Probably it will be necessary to establish an intermediate temporary post in the vicinity of Coeur d'Alene Lake or Mission, and perhaps another pretty well up the Salmon River and between the Lapwai Mountains and Fort Boise. The latter post will serve as a center of operations to Fort Hall on the east and to near the southern boundary of

Idaho Territory. Camp Lyon serves as a temporary protection to the mining operations on the Owyhee River, but it will probably be necessary to establish a post near the head waters of that river, say somewhere near the northern boundary of Nevada or near Peto's Butte, so as to connect with Fort Ruby and the settlements on Humboldt River. "All Indians west of this line should be removed or placed on reservations, so as to prevent their marauding expeditions upon the white settlements. Much of this can be accomplished in the course of the coming year.

There is a belt of rather poor country extending from Fort Klamath to the Owyhee River, over which the Indians pass on their robbing expeditions into Southern Oregon and Northern California, and to receive and purchase horses stolen by the local tribes. In order to check these depredations Camps Polk, Watson, Currey, Wright and Alvord were established in Oregon and Fort Bidwell and Camps McDermitt, Summit Lake, Snake Creek and Dun Glen in California and Nevada. These are of a very temporary character and when the more advanced line is completed most of them can be dispensed with.

Fort Klamath must for the present, on account of the Indians in that vicinity, be retained. The expenses of its construction were entirely disproportionate to its importance. Forts Vanhill and Walla Walla can probably be dispensed with very soon, and Fort Dalles immediately.

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It is not possible to conceive any military necessity for the enormous expenditures at Fort Dalles. Fort Vancouver serves as the depot for the supply of the Department of the Columbia and then military establishment at The Dalles seems more like a private speculation than a public necessity.

Nevada

Nevada

✓ Fort^s Ruby will serve as a center of operation for the protection of the overland mail and emigrant roads to Salt Lake and the settlements on Humboldt River beyond Dun ^Glen. An inspecting officer has been sent to ~~exam~~ examine its condition, and will probably report in a few days. Fort Churchill is simply a depot. Some of the temporary camps near the boundary (northern) of the state must depend upon it for supplies.

California

Forts Crook, Wright, Humboldt and Gaston and the adjacent camps in the northern part of California must be maintained for the present winter, but it is probable that some of these posts may be dispensed with next season. Several artillery garrisons as already remarked, will be kept in the forts of the Bay of San Francisco simply as sea coast defenses. Monterey and Camp Union have been abandoned, and I can see no necessity for a garrison at ~~Bonanza~~ Benicia.

The construction of barracks, storehouses and stables at that place was most ill advised and the enormous sums of money expended there were of little or no benefit to the government, however advantageous they may have been to private speculations.

San Francisco always has been and always will be the depot of supplies for California and Nevada. V

Visalia is the only military post maintained at present in the San Joaquin Valley and General ~~McDonnell~~ M. Dowell is of the opinion that this camp may soon be dispensed with.

The mining settlements at Owen's River and Lake and in that vicinity will require military protection for some years. A substantial post must therefore be established in that district of country from which temporary camps may be thrown out as the population advances. Its maintenance will be very expensive and its garrison should therefore be kept as low as may be consistent with safety

and the proper protection of the district.

Camp Independence is probably the best ~~sixth road~~ location. Camp Gady was established and is kept up for the protection of the road from Cajon Pass to Fort Mohave. The discovery and development of valuable minerals between the Sierra Nevada and the Colorado and the numbers of Indians which inhabit or roam over that region of country will render it necessary to keep up a considerable military force for its security and protection. (Arizona--not copied)

P. 1293

Troops

I must again urge upon you the necessity of sending a cavalry force to this division. We have now no mounted troops in Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Nevada and in California and Arizona only the California volunteers who regard their term of enlistment as having expired and wish to be mustered out. These troops are made up of most excellent material, but men who regard themselves as unjustly retained in service will not be very efficient in the field. You will bear in mind that when your orders for mustering out the volunteers are completely carried out, the only forces in this entire division will be the Second Artillery and Ninth and Fourteenth Infantry. The Ninth is only a small regiment. The artillery will be required to garrison the forts on the coast and the Ninth Infantry in the interior of California and Nevada.

This leaves only one battalion of the Fourteenth infantry for the Department of the Columbia and two battalions for Arizona. The hostile character of the Indians in the latter Territory requires more posts and large garrisons than in Oregon, Washington and Idaho, but circumstances may render it necessary to reinforce troops in the latter department..... H.W. Halleck

Major General Commanding

Letter Record book Aug. 21, 1881 to Oct 1, 1882

P. 197

(starting P. 4 of monthly report
letter) Feb. 28 2

...

Wilbur to Hon H. Price.

As previously stated I have hauled several loads of lumber to the spot selected for the Piutes, and just as soon as the weather will permit, I intend to proceed with a force of carpenters and laborers to the ground, erect such buildings as are absolutely necessary and commence to clear, break and fence the ground.

The location selected is in a bend of the Topnish river where a fence, not more than two miles long will enclose from two to four thousand acres of excellent land, so situated that it can be cheaply and abundantly irrigated. In this work--for their sole use and benefit--I intend the Piutes shall render such service as they may be capable of. I intend to build a school house at the first, and organize a day school for the present. Whether the Piutes, excited by the promised return of Chapman for their deliverance in the spring, will consent to work without some pressure, remains to be seen. Sarah Winnemucca, the evil genius of her people, finds a means to communicate with them. She is a consummate actress, and seems to have gained the entire confidence

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of Gen. McDowell.

In this connection it may be well to remember that, if promises solemnly made to the Piutes have been broken, if pledges have been violated, it is the military alone, who is responsible. A death bed repentance is doubtless better than none, and the awakening of a long dormant conscience may be a good thing, but one cannot help sometimes wishing the repentance had come sooner. For many years I have been planning and laboring to secure for the Yakemas, a sure and certain resource. While they were still so little advanced the blankets, calico and clothing

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seemed to them highly desirable, I persuaded them to forgo their present gratification and permit me to use the money intended for blankets etc. to purchase a herd of cattle.

They consented, and year after year I saw the herd grow and increase and looked forward to no distant day when I should be able to present every young man who married and settled on a farm, with two or three cows and be able to give a few beefs every quarter to the poorer Indians without expense to the government. p 199.

~~disturbing~~ disturbing the funds intended for other purposes. No longer ago than 1873 I was asking from the Department permission to sell several hundred surplus beef steers and invest the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians.

The Piutes were brought here, and where are the Yakamas' cattle! While the prospect was that we all-agent and Indians- were to work together to try and elevate and help up a poor outcast race, we made no objection.

The Yakamas cheerfully gave up their cattle, and without a murmur saw their fat beefs slaughtered week after week, and fed to the Piutes, ~~deriving~~ deriving their satisfaction in the hope of seeing another tribe of Indians raised from the bottom of the ladder, and helped up into a civilized self-reliant people.

I repeat that it is unfortunate that the military conscience slumbered ~~until~~ till our herd of cattle were ~~lost~~ nearly exhausted.

The task we had set for ourselves was two years ago comparatively easy to ~~be~~ be accomplished. Now unwarranted interference from outside parties has wholly changed the conditions of the problem and where then the course was clear and the way plain, it has now become dark and uncertain, and time, firmness care and above all unlimited patience can alone render the realization of our hopes possible.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant, James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent

Dec. 1879-Feb. 1880

Washington P

W 2262-2427

] 1879

I 2396

Department of the Interior

Office of Indian Affairs, Wash. Nov. 29, 1879

James Wilbur, Indian Agency, Yakama Agency, Wash. Ter.

Sir:

The Hon. Secretary of the Interior has granted authority for you to insert an advertisement in the Oregonian of Portland, inviting proposals to furnish the supplies required for the support of the Piutes, ^Dannock and Snake Indians recently taken to your agency ~~for~~ and for the boarding school, and police force of your agency, and to enter into contract therefor with the lowest responsible bidders, in a total amount not to exceed \$10,000, payment therefore to be made from the Civilization Fund.

Enclosed herewith are blanks upon one of which the publishers must make an affidavit to accompany their account which must be presented at this office for settlement, accompanied by one copy of each issue of their paper containing the advertisement. I also inclose full instructions for the execution of contracts and bonds, which if strictly followed will obviate any delay in the approval thereof when they reach this office.

Very Respectfully

E.A. Hayt

Commissioner

(Push)

Miscellaneous Letter Records Book Feb. 1879-Dec. 1881

Washington F

W 203 /79

Department of the Interior

Office of Indian Affairs, Wash. Sept. 27, 1879

James H. Wilbur, Indian Agent, Yakama Agency, Washington Territory.

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter dated the 6th inst. in which you state that the Piute, Snake and Bannock Indians, who were brought to your agency last February, have been partially supplied with subsistence from that belonging to the Indians of your agency, and request that the Department reimburse them for the supplies consumed.

Before action can be taken with a view of granting your request, a statement must be furnished showing the quantities so used and the value thereof.

You will, also, please state what use was made of the \$4,000 placed at your disposal by requisition of February 21st last, for the purpose of subsisting etc. Indians then recently located upon your reservation; and further, whether the supplies which you claim were issued to said Indians were not actually purchased with this sum or that those which were issued were not replaced by purchase with the said funds.

Very respectfully

E.A. Hayt

Commissioner

(Pugh)

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From Dec. 1879 to Feb 8, 1881

Piutes--Otis--Transportation

Letters from Wash D.C. (Bound Book)

Civ. Washington Dept. of the Interior, Office of Indian Affairs

Washington Sept 18, 1880

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, Yakima Agency, Fort Simcoe, Washington Territory:

Sir:

Referring to office letter to you of June 28th last relative to giving permission to the families of Otis and his band to go to the Warm Springs Agency you are informed that the Department has, on the recommendation of this office, authorized the expenditure by you of a sum not to exceed \$200 in the transfer of the families belonging to said band to the Dalles where they will be received by U.S. Agent Smith and taken to his agency. He will be advised of this action by letter of this date and you will notify him of the time of your departure with these Indians for the point named.

Very respectfully

(Signature undecipherable)

Acting Commissioner

Stearns.

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Letter Record Book Aug 21-81/Oct 1-82.

Lakama, March 25 2

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "ashington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that according to the plan heretefore communicated to the Department I notified all the Piutes to be on the ground selected for their new camp on Monday, the 20th instant, informing them that the weekly issue of subsistence would be made from there.

On Monday therefore I proceeded to the spot but found that only Oits and his band had come. Thinking the others might come by Thursday (the regular issue day) I set my force of men at work and remained there overseeing them till that day, when no more of the Piutes having come, I issued the regular ration to those who were there, and returned to the Agency, sending Leggins and his band word to come in the next day for a talk. None came at the appointed time p 223.

and two policemen were dispatched after Leggins and Paddy, the leaders of the dissatisfied element. I was satisfied that their insubordination could no longer be safely borne and determined the question of obedience or disobedience should be settled. I was somewhat apprehensive that they might refuse to obey the summons of only two members of the police force but after a time both came in accompanied by from twenty to twenty five of their people.

A better idea of subsequent proceedings can be gained from the inclosed extract from the minutes by which it will be seen that the whole band with but one exception gave in, and promised to go to the new camp and faithfully obey my instructions.

I learn they have lately made frequent visits to Lakima City and declare that parties there have told them they had letters from Chapman saying he would be here with a large number of wagons in the early spring for their removal. That they are told such things at Lakima City

have no reason to doubt, but that 224 Chapman has written anything of the kind, I do not believe. All this agitation, all this circulation of false rumors these endeavors to create dissatisfaction and distrust among both Yakamas and Piutes, pretending to receive letters from "Washington, and telling the Indians that "Wilbur is lying to them," all proceeds from the same source. The same hand that pulls the strings that move Eneas in his efforts to sow disaffection that last season circulated through all this country a petition for my removal, carefully approaching none but those supposed to be unfriendly to me, and so well covering their backs that no friend of mine could ever get a sight of the papers--this is the influence that excites the Piutes by bogus letters and tries to drive them into open defiance of my authority.

As for these Piutes, I have frequently written to the "Department that if my personal wishes alone were consulted I should say let them go if they so desire; but when I reflect on what their life would undoubtedly be should they return, I cannot recommend that course or any others but leave the matter wholly to the p 225 decision of the Department. My experience has taught me too well the condition of a band of Indians located near a military post.

The women are prostituted to the lust of the soldiers, and the men live in lazy content of the wages of their shame--the children grow in idleness and vice, their whole systems become so impregnated and poisoned with loathsome disease that in a few years the last wretched survivor crawls to some lonely spot and there yields the life that has become a curse to himself and all around him. That this picture is not overdrawn, everyone who has lived in the vicinity of a frontier post can testify--it was the life these led at Camp McDermitt and to which only, I am ~~am~~ satisfied they and while their removal would be an inexpressible relief

me, I cannot conscientiously recommend it, believing as I do that their sole desire is to live in idleness and vice.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Milbur U.S. Indian Agent.

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Yakama, Fort Simcoe March 25, 1892, Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to request permission to make the changes hereinafter indicated in the force of employees at this agency. As will be seen by the accompanying letter the Piutes have agreed to cheerfully set at work on the lands selected for them.

It is my intention next week to erect a school house and house for the employee who shall have charge of them. The list of employees authorized by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior for the agency for the current fiscal year, includes one teacher for the Piutes.

p 227 at \$500 per annum and I am also allowed one farmer for Piutes at \$800 per annum.

The change I desire to make is this. Thos McKay, a halfbreed, borne on my papers as famer and placed in charge of the herd of cattle has latterly conducted himself in such a manner, that I should be compelled to ask his discharge, had he not determined to resign. I propose to place O.R. McDonald, farmer for the Piutes, in charge of the herd, and employ a competent man as teacher who will have full charge of the Piutes, who will keep the children in school a few hours each day, but who will principally devote his energies to teaching them to work.

I wish to secure a man whose character will command respect, whose piety will lead him to be watchful over their spiritual interests, who is a practical farmer, and not only knows how to labor himself but is

Piutes

Unfiled-Yakima Agency

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4924 (84)--1884?

Department of the Interior
Office of Indian Affairs
Washington, Mch 13th, 1884

R.H. Milroy, Esq. U.S. Indian Agent, Yakima Agency, W.T. Sir:

In reply to your letters of the 26th and 28th ultimo in regard to the Piute Indians, I have to say that considerable ~~correspondence~~ correspondence has passed between the War Department and this Department relative to the best disposition to be made of these Indians; and in the month of June last the Honorable Secretary of War was requested to issue the necessary orders to compel the fugitives to return to their reservation.

The necessary orders were issued to Genl. Schofield, directing him to comply with the request of this department. It was hoped that these instructions would be promptly complied with, but it does not appear that any further action has been taken in the matter, and temporary provision having been made for the support of the Piutes ~~where they~~ where they now are, I have concluded to make no further efforts for their return to the Yakima for ~~the~~ present.

Very Respectfully

H. Price

Commissioner

Yakama, August 15, 2

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "ahh D.C.

Sir: Respectfully referring to my letter of resignation and communication from the Honorable Secretary of the Interior accepting the same, I have the honor to state: My successor, Gen R.H. Milroy informs me that at the very earliest, it will not be possible for him to relieve me before October 1st next.

Desiring to close up everything and leave no liabilities I have carefully computed the amount required to meet all expenditures at this Agency for the current quarter and respectfully ask that funds may be immediately forwarded to liquidate the same, so that when I transfer to him and leave the service there may be no indebtedness remaining. I respectfully ask that funds may be placed to my credit to meet the following viz;

Pay of employees, 1 physician from July 1 to October 1 at \$1,200 per annum \$238.04; 1 clerk 1st quarter at \$1,000 \$250; 1 carpenter, 1 wagon and plow maker, 1 miller and 1 supt farming 1 quarter at \$900, each per an \$900: 1 carpenter temporarily employed \$1,000 \$250; 1 farmer at \$800 and 1 ditto at \$700 temporarily employed through haying and harvest time for two months during July and August \$200.86

Total pay of employees \$1898.90

Pay of teachers, 1 supt of teaching 1 quarter \$250

1 teacher 1 month July \$500 \$42.12

1 teacher and matron 1 quarter at \$600 \$150

1 teacher and supt. for Plutes 1 quarter at \$900 \$225

total for teachers \$667.12

Indian Employes 1 blacksmith at \$900 \$225; 1 engineer 1 quarter at \$700;

1 interpreter at \$500 \$125; 1 cook in boarding house \$200 \$50; 1

laundress at \$52 \$13..."e have nearly two thousand head of cattle

to provide for during the winter, nearly five hundred Plutes who must be fed

during the year and the cost of gathering and thrashing the harvest and putting up the hay is a very small fraction of what the Dept. would have to pay to buy flour for the Piutes and beef cattle for them and the school and if the harvest is not gathered nor hay put up for our cattle the Department will surely have to provide funds to purchase flour and beef. I have been led to these remarks by reading again circular 96 where I notice what before had escaped my attention that the agent @ here is positively prohibited from disbursing more than \$12000 for @ all employees white, Indian, regular, ~~1000000~~ irregular and school....

....I respectfully ask that in addition to the \$3154 .02 above noted a further sum of \$300 may be placed at my credit to pay irregular employees during the months of July and August for expenses incurred in arresting and returning fugitive Piutes to the Agency, including traveling expenses of J.H. Fairchild on said service \$175.44; for purchase of medicine for immediate use as per requisition of Dr. Whetzel, agency physician \$22.55, for payment of bills for storage of goods shipped from San Francisco...(etc) making a total of \$3680.51

...we have put up at the cattle ranch four hundred and fifty to six hundred tons of hay and about one hundred and fifty tons at the agency, nearly all of the work having been done by irregular employees with a white farmer to oversee and direct operations.

Very respectfully

J.H. Wilbur U.S. Indian agent.

Letter Record book 81-82

(Telegram, undated)

Official business

Lakima Agency July 31, 1882

Commissioner Indian Affairs

Washington

All fugitive Piutes captured and returned except some twenty who
I learn have gone to Warm Springs.

Wilbur,

Agent.