

"pork" about ten to each company per year. All other supplies are shipped
...
in sacks or boxes.

Barrel heads cannot, therefore, be relied upon as targets to the extent
supposed by the General of the Army.

As to target practice becoming too costly, &c., I beg to say that the
cost is not to be estimated by the cartridges and the means used to make men
good marksmen, but by the loss of lives, material, and honor that falls upon
the Army and country in our numerous Indian wars, by our men not having enough
cartridges to practice with to learn how to fire their rifles as well as their
enemies do.

This was shown in our Modoc war.

When, in 1874, the present breech-loading Springfield rifle was issued
to the troops in this division, all possible efforts were made to bring up the
standard of rifle practice. But the limited amount of ammunition issued--
15 rounds per man per month--failed utterly to convince the men of the excellence
of their rifles and encourage them in its use, much less to make them expert
shots.

It was not until 1877, when, by long practice and the use of much ammunition,
some men of the national guard of San Francisco were enabled to appear with this
rifle as victorious competitors at Creedmoor, that even the Ordnance Department
knew the capability of this coarsely-sighted weapon. A great expenditure of
ammunition was, however, necessary to get good results from it at long ranges.

In August, 1876, appreciating the difficulty the command labored under in
learning how to use their rifle, application from these headquarters was made
for some inferior shell ammunition (on hand at posts in this division, but condemned
for war purposes), to be used in target practice. This was granted, but the
ammunition was soon exhausted, with little effect upon target practice, except
to show that an expenditure of much more ammunition than 15 cartridges per month

per man was necessary to produce good marksmen. ...

In July, 1877, when the Nez Perce campaign became inevitable, an application was made to place at least the recruits in the field with some knowledge of rifle practice and expenditure of 10 rounds per man was authorized.

For the want of sufficient ammunition--say 360,000 shell cartridges--with which to instruct the 1,200 old soldiers on that campaign in rifle practice, so as to render them confident in themselves and each other, and expert enough to make close shots at from ~~xxx~~ 200 to 500 yards, the Nez Perce war in this division was nearly a failure, costing many lives unnecessarily, leading to an immense expenditure of material, and a transportation account amounting in the aggregate to \$340,000. The indebtedness of the government due to this campaign, which perhaps the expenditure to \$10,000 for cartridges for previous rifle practice would have in a great measure obviated, is not yet settled by the Government. In March, 1878, when it became apparent the division was to be involved in another Indian campaign, application was made for an increase of ammunition for target practice. ...

Practice with muzzle-loading Springfield rifles was authorized in addition to limits prescribed in GO 95 Oct 4, 1877, and no time was lost in placing muzzle-loading Springfield rifles in the hands of the troops, and issuing to them such cartridges as were on hand. The ammunition was old, the cartridges unequally charged, the caps would not explode, ~~also the caps would not explode~~ ...

The troops of this division became discouraged and disgusted with the muzzle-loading ammunition, and went into the campaign of 1878 poorer shots than if the muzzle-loaders had not been issued to them, but nevertheless, and happily, better shots than they were the year previous, for many company commanders had bought reloading apparatus, and reloaded the Bridgeport shells, which had been issued to them, with powder and lead from the old paper cartridges.

In March 1878, the Ordnance Department was asked to issue reloading shell ammunition and reloading tools.

On October, 1878, Benicia Arsenal authorized the issue ~~of~~ to each company of one reloading apparatus, 40 rounds of Lowell cartridges per man, and 582 bullets, primers and extra changes of powder per man. This was expected to give each man 622 shots per year at the same cost to the government as the then authorized allowance of 240 cartridges. ...

The primers sent with the shells do not fit them, cannot be forced in in the manner laid down in the instructions, nor in the manner improvised by the troops, without frequently exploding the primer, and not at all so that the primer will not project too far to take the changer of the rifle freely.

Department of the Interior,

Office of Indian Affairs,

Washington, November 25, 1881.

Sir: Referring to recent correspondence relative to the Piutes at the

Yakima Agency, and the reports made to the commander of the Department of the Pacific relative to what is allowed to be "their deplorable condition,"

I have now the honor to inclose extracts from the monthly report of United States Agent Wilbur for the month of October last, from which it will be seen that there is no good ground for the reports referred to.

I respectfully recommend that the report of the agent herein be transmitted to the honorable Secretary of War for his information.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,

Commissioner.

The Hon. the Secretary of the Interior

United States Indian Service,

Yakima Agency, November 1, 1881.

Sir: * * * Oitz and twelve of his band of Piutes are in the timber, cutting wood for winter consumption in the office, school, &c.

I have already communicated to the department the facts connected with the visit of Interpreter Chapman to this agency, under orders from General McDowell to confer with the Piutes relative to their return to their old country, and it is unnecessary to refer to it here further than to say that what the Piutes might accomplish here is illustrated by Oitz and his band, who have definitely concluded to accept this as their future home, and gone to work like men. This band have near two thousand bushels of potatoes stored for the winter, a large amount of corn, squashes, &c., and wheat enough for their subsistence, all the product of their own labor. Next spring they will be placed on lands of their own, and I have no fear for the result. If five years does not show some of Oitz people fully abreast of the Yakimas, I shall be much dis-

appointed. Had it not been for the continued agitation relative to their return, the others would have done equally well and all would be much further advanced.

With regard to the Piutes other than Oitz band, there is no doubt but that they desire to return. Their hopes have been kept alive by their leaders, Leggins, Paddy, and others, who urge them to do not work, accept of no lands, and never consent to remain here. If these men were removed I have no doubt but the remainder would accept the situation and follow the example of Oitz and his band.

So long as the advice of Leggins and Paddy is re-enforced by the frequent visits of outside parties like Mr. Chapman, who comes to "confer with them and ascertain their wishes relative to return," they need not be expected to accomplish anything. My own personal desire would be for all who wish to return to go.

I do not believe it would be for their interest. I am sure it would not be for the interest of the department. Their atrocities, committed without the slightest provocation when they took up the hatchet, deserve no favor; but their departure would relieve me of inexpressible annoyance and vexation, and end the suspense and uncertainty under which for two years I have labored.

Surely a great government like ours should adopt some well-considered line of policy and adhere to it. If it is determined to permit them to return I shall joyfully acquiesce. If it is determined to hold them here--although this visit of Mr. Chapman has created so much expectation and excitement that the task of managing them will be enormously increased--I shall, as I have ever done in the past, strive loyally to carry out the desires of the department.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

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

JAMES H. WILBUR,
United States Indian Agent.

Headquarters of the Army,
Adjutant-General's Office,
Washington, December 1, 1881.

Official Copy. Respectfully referred to commanding general Military Division of the Pacific for his information, with the following remarks of the General of the Army:

If the Piutes by force or persuasion can be fixed at Yakima, it seems to me to be unwise and wrong to encourage them to hope for a change back to their old haunts.

By Command of General Sherman.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant General.

Department of the Interior,
Washington, November 21, 1881.

Sir: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for your information, a letter from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated the 18th instant, with inclosure from Agent Wilbur therein noted, in relation to the proposed removal of the Piutes from the Yakima Reservation.

The Commissioner states that the agent has been instructed to give these Indians to understand that as Malheur has been abandoned they cannot go there, but must remain permanently where they are.

Very respectfully,

S. J. KIRKWOOD,
Secretary.

The Hon. the Secretary of War.

Department of the Interior,
Office of Indian Affairs,
Washington, November 18, 1881.

Sir: Referring to office letter of the 8th instant, relative to Interpreter Chapman's visit at the Yakima Agency under military orders to conduct the Piutes to the Dalles with a view to their being taken to

their old home under military escort, I have now the honor to transmit copy of a letter, dated 27th ultimo, from United States Agent Wilbur for your information.

The agent gives a full account of these Indians and urges the necessity of a fixed policy in regard to them. He has therefore been advised by ~~the~~ letter of this date that Yakima is to be the permanent home of all the Piutes now at his agency, and that he must give these Indians directly to understand that as Malheur has been abandoned they cannot go there, but must remain permanently where they are.

I respectfully recommend that the War Department be furnished with this copy of the agent's letter and advised of the action taken upon the same,

Very respectfully,

The Hon. the Secretary of the Interior

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

United States Indian Service,
Yakima Agency, October 27, 1881..

Sir: I have the honor to report that Mr. Arthur Chapman, Indian interpreter (under the War Department, I presume), presented himself at this agency yesterday, with an order from General McDowell, indorsed by General Miles, directing him to visit this agency and ascertain the wishes of the Piutes located there relative to a return to their former country, and to escort such of them as wished to return to the Columbia river, where he was to report to General Miles, if further escort was needed, &c. Said order alleged that the consent of the Interior Department had been given to the proposed removal.

I have no personal wish in this matter. These Indians were brought here contrary to my judgment, and have latterly, owing to sinister influences, been a constant source of annoyance and anxiety. To be rid

of them would be an inexpressible relief to me, yet, notwithstanding the trouble, labor, and anxiety they have caused me, I have faithfully tried to have carried out what I understood to be the wishes of the department in relation to them, and placed them on a foundation that in a few years will enable them to care for themselves. but I respectfully suggest that unless some line of policy is adopted and adhered to, all effort to assist and improve them, either here or elsewhere, must result in failure.

Till Sarah Winnemucca visited Washington in 1879 and 1880, and obtained from the Hon. Secretary Schurz that unfortunate permission for her people to return to Malheur, they had no expectation of returning. They knew they had forfeited their reservation and expected to make this their future home. I do not include Leggins and his band, who claim to have been brought here under specific promises from General Howard that they should be returned to Malheur in the spring. Nothing was said to me of any such promise, and no authority ever given me to permit them to leave. If General Howard made such a promise, he should have taken measures to have it fulfilled. When the Piutes learned from Sarah that the department had given permission for all hostiles and peaceful who wished to return, and had promised to do more for them than before they took up the hatchet, they immediately commenced packing up. They were to return at their own expense, the government rendering no assistance till they reached Malheur. No greater folly than this project is conceivable. They numbered at that time something over one hundred men, of whom at last fifteen were blind or otherwise helpless, about one hundred and sixty women, many too infirm to travel, and probably two hundred children, many too young to travel. They had no horses or provisions, and expected to start on a journey of over 400 miles through a population so bitterly hostile that

each mail brought letters from the best men in the community declaring that it was the deliberate determination of the people to exterminate them if they returned. Certainly, without the most positive instructions, I should have been false to my duty to permit them to start on what must certainly be a raid of pillage. Since the department rescinded that permission, many of the Piutes are clinging to the hope that in some way they may yet be permitted to return.

In this feeling they are encouraged by Leggins and one or two others, who urge them to accept no land on this reservation. I am also informed that Sarah Winnemucca finds frequent means to communicate with them, urging them to take no steps, accept of nothing that can be construed into a prospect of ever accepting this reservation as their home. Could these influences be removed I have no doubt but the Piutes would cheerfully acquiesce in the desire of the department to remain here.

As it is, probably one-third if given the choice would elect to remain, the rest under the excitement of moving (or?) of traveling will probably decide to go. They are in somewhat better condition for travel than when Sarah proposed their exodus, but though they have more horses and are better prepared with subsistence, the military will have to furnish transportation and subsistence for at least two hundred and eighty to three hundred, which subsistence will have to be continued till some time next summer or fall. If Leggins and his band, who claim to have taken no part in the Bannock war, and to have been promised by General Howard permission to return in the spring of 1879, if they were permitted to leave, the disaffected element (and who, if their statement is true, are entitled to go) would be eliminated, and the remainder I have no doubt would soon reach the high state of improvement of the Yakimas.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JAMES H. WILBUR,

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

United States Indian Agent.

Headquarters of the Army,
Adjutant-General's Office,
Washington, November 30, 1881.

Official copy respectfully referred to the commanding general, Military Division of the Pacific, in connection with previous correspondence on the subject.

By command of General Sherman.

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General.

(Telegram)

Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific
and Department of California,
Presidio, San Francisco, November 17, 1881.

Commanding General Department of Columbia,
Vancouver, Wash.:

By direction of the division commander no further action regarding the escort of the Piutes to their home in Nevada will be taken this year. He desires you to present the question early next spring. You were ~~also~~ so notified by telegraph on the 16th instant.

KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Telegram)

Headquarters Department of the Columbia,
Vancouver Barracks, Wash., November 17, 1881.

The Assistant Adjutant-General,
Presidio, San Francisco:

The escort for the Piutes is held at Dalles for further instructions. Will any further action regarding them be taken this year? Please inform me at once, that, if not, I may order escort to station.

NELSON A. MILES,
Commanding.

(Telegram)---

Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific
and Department of California,
Presidio, San Francisco, November 16, 1881.

Adjutant-General,
Washington, D. C.

Referring to your telegram and letter November 2, in respect to
Piutes leaving Yakima, the department commander has just telegraphed
of
that these Indians did not leave as reported. The orders ~~for~~ the Inte-
rior Department reached the agent in time to stop their departure.

KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General

(Telegram)

Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific
and Department of California,
Presidio, San Francisco, November 16, 1881.

Commanding General Department Columbia,
Vancouver, Wash.:

The division commander concurs in your opinion that the Piutes at
Yakima should not leave there before next year, after their destination
and arrangements for the escort, food, &c., have been fully decided
upon by the Interior and War Departments.

--KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General.

(Telegram)

Headquarters Department of Columbia,
Vancouver Barracks, Wash., November 15, 1881

To Assistant Adjutant-General,
Presidio San Francisco:

Referring to your dispatch, 11th instant, I just learn that just as
Piutes were about to start from Yakima the agent notified the inter-
preter I had sent there to accompany Indians; he had received special
orders from Commissioner Indian Affairs to allow no move with Piutes

until further orders; accordingly movement suspended. What other action, if any, should be taken in this matter? In my opinion the move can be better made in the spring, and when suitable arrangements have been made as to food, &c., en route.

MILES,
Commanding.

(Telegram)

Headquarters Military Division of Pacific
and Department of California,
Presidio of San Francisco, November 11, 1881.

Commanding General Department Columbia,
Vancouver, Wash.

The division commander asks what progress the Piutes, who are supposed to have recently left Yakima Indian reservation, are making towards their country, how many left, and are they going to the Malheur or to McDermit with Winnemucca's people?

KELTON,
Assistant Adjutant-General

(Telegram)

Headquarters Military Division of the Pacific
and Department of California,
Presidio San Francisco, November 4, 1881.

Adjutant-General,
Washington, D. C.:

The Piutes at the Yakima Agency are leaving for their own country, in accordance with the following authority, dated Department of the Interior, January 24, 1880:

Those of the Piutes who, in consequence of the Bannock war, went to the Yakima reservation, and who may now desire to rejoin their relations, are at liberty to do so without expense to the government for transportation. Those who desire to stay upon the Yakima reservation and become permanently settled there, will not be disturbed. It is well understood that those who settle on the Malheur Reservation will not be supported by the government in idleness; they will be aided in starting their farms and promoting their civilization, but the support given them by the government will, according to the law,

depend upon their willingness and efficiency in working for themselves.

These Indians would long since have returned to their country under this authority had they not been afraid of mistreatment from whites en route. They have been waiting for a military escort to secure their safe passage, and authority for this, I sent out October 5, eighty-one, to General Commanding Department Columbia, in the following terms:

Division commander desires that whenever the movement of a command is ordered from their neighborhood towards Fort Boise you notify these Indians, and that they be safely conducted there.

The condition of these Piutes at Yakima is represented as very deplorable. Please inform me if this information will in any manner modify order of Secretary of War of the 2d instant.

MCDOWELL,
Major-General.

(Telegram)

War Department,
Adjutant-General's Office,
Washington, November 2, 1881.

Major-General McDowell,
Presidio San Francisco, Cal.:

The Secretary of War is informed by the Interior Department that

Mr. Chapman, interpreter in the military service, is at the Yakima

Agency with orders from the department commander to escort Piutes to

Dalles on return to their country, and that under excitement all will go.

The Interior Department has informed the agent that it has made no recent orders relative to the removal of the Piutes, and that no such action must be taken until further orders.

At request of Interior Department the Secretary directs that no action be taken at present touching the moving of these Indians; and desires report giving authority of the commanding officer under which Mr. Chapman is proceeding.

Please give necessary orders and report action taken.

Copies of papers by mail.

Official copy respectfully furnished by mail.
AG off, Nov 3, 1881

C. McKeever, A A G

R. C. DRUM,
Adjutant-General