

p. 129

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, Oregon, May 6, 1862

Sir: Massee or Louis the chief of the Umpqua Indians informs me that he had a farm in the Umpqua Country consisting of ten thousand six hundred rails built into a fence with a framed house and some hogs, all of which he abandoned at your request to move with the Indians to the Grand Ronde Agency. You being supt. Indian Affairs at that time promised said Louis that he should be paid for his property but up to the present time he has never received any compensation. As nothing of this contract is mentioned in the Treaty or any of the Records I should not have paid any attention to the claims if I had not known of his farm and property myself. Will you ~~be~~ have the goodness to give me what information you may be in possession of ~~xxx~~ on the subject.

Your Obt. Servt.

W. H. Rector, Supt. Indian Affairs, Ogn.

Gen. Joel Palmer,

Dayton, Oregon.

Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Portland, Oregon May 7, 1862

General:

In April, 1858 the Indian Chief John was taken in charge by the military and conveyed to the headquarters of the Department of the Pacific then at Benicia I think where he has since remained. Three of his daughters have recently called on me and made very earnest appeals for him to be returned in order that he might live with them the few remaining days of his life. His tribe are now nearly all dead. And I am of the opinion that it would not be detrimental to the public good to return him to his family while perhaps the knowledge he has obtained during his exile of the power of the whites he may turn to good account by imparting it to his brethren, who have not had the like opportunity to derive such information. Should you concur in this opinion I would be glad if you will take measures to have him and his son returned to the superintendency consigned to me. I have the honor general to be,

very respectfully

your obt. servt. W.H. Rector.

Brig. General Wright

Commanding Dept of the Pacific

San Francisco, Calif.

Supt. Indian Affairs, Oregon.



[Paragraphs added for readability] Salem, Oregon, July 11th [1862]

Sir: Your favor of the 8th instant soliciting information from the files of this office concerning the outrages committed by the Snake Indians upon the Emigrants near Salmon Falls in the fall of 1860 was received yesterday. In reply I have to say that the records of this office do not furnish the information which you desire on which would materially assist you in your expedition. There is however residing in this city Mr. Joseph Myers one of the survivors of that terrible tragedy. I have had a personal interview with Mr. Myers and he feels confident of his ability to identify some of the Indians engaged in the massacre wherever he should see them.

One in particular he describes as being of medium size rather slim, blind in one eye with his hair generally pulled down over the blind eye with considerable beard especially on the upper lip, another one of rather low stature and very fleshy. The Indian first described came to their camp in Rock Creek beyond Salmon Falls and followed the train until the attack was made and remained during the entire fight.

Mr. Myers and family were present during the entire attack travelling in the night and fighting in the day time. He is well prepared to give you full information on many points and I am confident ~~much~~ would be of great service to the expedition. He expresses a willingness to accompany the military provided arrangements can be made for the support of his family during his absence.

He is in indigent circumstances (having lost his all on that occasion with a wife and six children to support five of whom were with him when the outrage was perpetrated. He refers me to two other young men Jacob and Samuel <sup>(?)</sup> Smith who are now somewhere in the Salmon River mines. They were also of the party.

In connection with this subject I desire to say that an appropriation has been made for negotiating some treaty of friendship with the Snake Indians and measures are now on foot to secure the the Indians consent to a meeting with an agent of the government for this purpose. It is my earnest desire as soon as instructions are received from the Department to proceed at once. This work and if possible prevent any similar occurrence. Should the instructions be received during the time this expedition will remain and I desire to avail myself of their protection. I will start within a week to visit the

p. 158

agencies east of east (sic) of the mountains and will be pleased to call upon you and have a further interview concerning the matter.

I am sir, etc.

W.H. Rector, supt. Ind. Affairs

Oregon

Brig. Gen. B. Alvord

Comdy. Dist. Oregon,

Fort Vancouver, W.T.



Office Supt. Indian Affairs, Salem, Oregon, Sept. 2nd, 1862

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report accompanied with those of several agents relative to Indian affairs within this superintendency hoping that you may be able to glean therefrom such information as your department may require.

I have the gratifying intelligence to communicate that no trouble or difficulties of a serious character have occurred since my last annual report and I have no reason to found(?) any apprehension of any serious trouble in the future. The military of this district have acted with commendable promptness and have rendered very material aid to the agents in keeping the Indians on the Indians on the Indians on the (sic) reservations in subordination. Without their assistance we could have done but little with them so great has been their desire to return to their old haunts that I believe two thirds of them would have abandoned the reservations and prowled the country over committing petty thefts and making themselves otherwise offensive to the citizens.

...We have now a small but sufficient detachment of troops stationed at each reservation and one full company of cavalry at Camp Baker in Southern Oregon for the protection of that portion of our frontier against the Klamaths and other tribes and bands of Indians inhabiting the Lake country east of the mountains. With this state of things I have but little to fear from Indian outbreaks unless it should be in the Snake country. Of this I will speak in another place.

I have but recently returned from a visit to the Warm Springs Agency and Umatilla Reservation having spent a considerable portion of the summer in this occupation. I am therefore better prepared to speak of the several reservations as to their present condition

than I would have been without a personal inspection.

Grand Round Agency...

... p 200 Siletz Agency

...p. 201 Alsea Sub Agency

...p. 202

Warm Springs Agency The Indians East of the Cascade Mountains in Middle Oregon are quite a different race of people from those living on the coast. They are generally regarded as being a superior race but of this I am in doubt. The apparant superiority is only a matter of circumstances. The country inhabited by them affords greater natural advantages for grazing and by the means they have acquired some wealth without knowing or realizing how it came p 203

This wealth is confined comparatively to but a few of them and as wealth is all there is of a man in their estimation it is very natural that they should assume that proud imp.. manner which is so often mistaken for genuine superiority.

My recent visit to Warm Springs impressed me fully with the belief that little or no good can be reasonably expected from the present generation on this agency.

There was not fifty Indians at the agency at the time of my visit and the patches of corn, potatoes etc which they had been induced to put in had been abandoned or wholly neglected I was informed by the agent that the Indians were visiting the fisheries from fifty to eighty miles distant. This privilege is guaranteed to them by treaty and they avail themselves of its provisions to the fullest extent frequently remaining away during the entire summer.

During their absence they do not remain at the fisheries and devote themselves to fishing with a view of obtaining a sufficiency for winter use, but seek the opportunity to prowl the country over, visiting such places as they would be most likely to obtain whiskey and indulging



in such practices as tend to degrade and demoralize.

In view of these facts I cannot view this provision of their treaty guaranteeing exclusive privilege to fish et otherwise than being very prejudicial to their true interests. The agent has used every exertion to induce the Indians to remain upon the Agency and cultivate their crops but all to no purposes.

I am not very favorably impressed with the location of this reservation. There is but little land susceptible of cultivation upon it and that little is difficult of access lying in narrow strips between towering mountains destitute of timber or anything else that could be turned to account for man or beast. What few improvements have been made prior to the present agent taking charge were of such temporary character that they are now delapidated and fast going to decay.

The saw and grist mill are new having been erected this summer and the best I have seen on any of the reservations, but unfortunately located upon an agency where there is no use for them. One very serious drawback to the prosperity of this agency is its locality its close proximity to the Snake country renders it liable at any moment to be invaded by some roving bands of these Indians p. 294

and the property either burnt or stolen. These Indians have suffered so severely in times of past from the forays made upon them that they are unwilling to remain upon the reservation except in the immediate vicinity of the Agency buildings where they can be protected.

There is but little grain being raised not more than enough to seed next season. Ample provision was made by Agent Logan early last fall for putting in a considerable quantity of grain. The seed was obtained and transported to the agency but owing to the unprecedented severe winter and the great destitution among the Indians he was compelled to issue it to the Indians to keep them from starving.

For further information more in detail I would respectfully refer



you to the report of Agent Logan with accompanying papers.

Umatilla Agency p. 207

The Indians parties to this treaty are now mostly residing on the Reservation. Two small bands of the Walla Walla have not as yet come onto it. One principal reason for not moving on is that divided among themselves about the chieftainship. (sic) This feud has continued ever since the death of Peo Peo Mox Mox and it is not unlike (sic) that of the house of York and Lancaster.

The band that is on the reservation had no acknowledged chief. At their request I appointed one, conditional however that whenever the others came onto the reservation and submitted the matter to an election and a chief fairly elected then my appointment was to be null and void.

This arrangement was entirely satisfactory to those present. In the course of my talk with chiefs and head men of these tribes they alluded to the Treaty and said that they did not sell Grand Ronde Valley in the Blue Mountains while the treaty defining the boundary is so clear that there could not have been any misunderstanding. The treaty was produced, read and interpreted to them. I told them that I was not present at the council when it was made and signed and only knew it as I found it on record. They said the record lied, but their ears did not lie. I learned also that some Indians parties to the treaty were then at Grand Ronde and had been ~~driven~~ driven off by some whites who had gone there to build houses with the view of becoming permanent settlers. Agent Barnhart made a request upon the military post at Walla Walla for a detachment of cavalry for the purpose of arresting the offenders and bringing them in. Col. Steinberger acted with commendable promptness in this affair and ordered a detachment to proceed forthwith p. 208 and I have no doubt but that their arrest ~~would~~ will settle the question of title to Grand Ronde Valley.



... Sho S ones or Snakes

Early in the month of March last a well authenticated post reached this office that a party of miners numbering some twelve or more had been massacred by the Snake Indians while exploring and mining on the head waters of John Day's River under the following circumstances.

Last fall a party of men ascended John Day's River in search of gold. Their success was such as to induce them to remain during the winter. During the latter part of February they detailed some twelve of their number to return to the Dalles to procure an additional supply of provisions, taking with them all the horses belonging to the company. Some few days after these men had started one of the party returned to the camp and reported that they had been attacked by Indians and that the entire party save himself had been murdered. Upon receiving this intelligence those remaining in camp started immediately for the Dalles where they arrived in due time without any molestation from the Indians or even seeing any sign of any. On the route they saw what they supposed to be the camp where ~~these~~ their comrades had been murdered and at other places saw evidence which satisfied them that their comrades had met with a sad fate. The prevailing opinion at the time was that the depredation had been committed by some roving band of Snake Indians who had come this side of the Blue Mountains for the purpose of murder and robbery and to harass the Warm Springs Reservation. As soon as the intelligence reached me I appointed Joshua M. Kirkpatrick a man of commendable courage and constitution to proceed at once to the scene of the disaster and if possible ferret out the mysterious affair. A copy of my instructions to him may be found accompanying this report marked A. Notwithstanding the inclemency of the season Mr. Kirkpatrick proceeded at once to the discharge of the duty assigned him and after much fruitless research came to the conclusion that there were no Snake Indians on this side of the Blue Mountains and that the lost

party ~~hxxx~~ had in all probability vanished from the effects of the ~~severe~~ severe cold weather which prevailed at that time. Some of the horses belonging to the party have since come into the settlement which is another evidence that the affair was not the work of Indians but remains a mystery yet to be solved.

For further information in details concerning the expedition I would refer to the report of Mr. Kirmpatrick herewith accompanying.

and  
Klamath Lake Modock Indians ...

p. 210<sup>I</sup>n order that I may be better understood I will give you some account of their peculiarities and laws with which we have to contend. One is the time honored custom of making medicines. This done (sic) by assembling in large gatherings where they perform mysterious rites, dances and beat upon drums until they make night hideous with their unearthly noise. This exercise is continue until they all become exhausted from fatigue and adjourn. The same performance is renewed the next night and so on for five nights or until some unfortunate victim is stupified by a kind of magnetism. This then is the person whom the medicine has taken effect....

estimates, schools..

p. 213-- Respectfully submitted W.H. Rector, Supt. Indian Affairs

00 Office Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, Sept. 00 19, 1862

(Enclosures referred to in foregoing not found following in microfilm)



Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs 1848-73 Roll 9, microcopy 2

p. 219-

Office Supt. Indian Affairs  
Salem Oregon, Sept. 15, 1862

Sir:

You have been ~~appointed~~ appointed by this office  
to be special Indian agent for the Indians in Oregon located on Umatilla  
reservation. You are directed to execute a bond (the form of which is  
herewith enclosed etc. etc...

p. 220

Respectfully etc. Wm H. Rector

Supt. Indian Affairs Oregon

(J)

I.W. P. Huntington esq.

Special Ind: Agent

Walla Walla

Suptcy. Oregon, Indian Affairs, 1848-73 roll 00 9, microcopy 2

p. 228

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem Oregon, Sept. 30, 1862

Sir:

Mr. J.W. Perit Huntington having declined the appointment tendered him as special Indian agent on account of matters which require his presence in Umpqua county I have to inform you that I have this day appointed Timothy W. Davenport of this county as your successor.

He has executed his bond and taken the oath of office and is duly authorized to receive from you such monies etc. etc.

Very respectfully etc.

Supt. Ind. Affairs Wm H. Rector

W.H. Barnhart esq.

Ind. Agent, Umatilla.



p. 271

Portland, Oregon, Nov. 26th, 1862

Col:

I started from home on the 23d inst and am now here on my way to San Francisco. Since my arrival here I have met General Alvord and through him learn that you have Howlis Wampoo Chief of the Confederated band of Walla Walla Cayuse and Umatilla Indians in custody; under arrest for refusing to take and deliver over to you some Indian of enders.

I am truly sorry to hear of this, and have to request that you will treat him with as much kindness as the nature of the case will admit of. I am confident that his offence is more from ignorance of his duty than a wilful intent to do wrong.

I would also recommend a careful examination of all the facts in the case between the Indians ~~the~~ and the packer.

There have been several cases come to my knowledge where Indians have been accused of stealing horses and when the cases were examined it was proved that they were only reclaiming horses that had been stolen from them which is the only writ of replevin they know anything

p 272

about. I am confident that any punishment inflicted upon Howlis Wampoo would be attended with serious difficulties as he is <sup>closely</sup> ~~deeply~~ connected with the Nez Perce and it would give great offence to that people.

Hoping that you will give the affair a careful investigation before any person is punished, I remain.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. servt.

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Col. J. Steinberger

1st U.S. Vols. U.S.A. Ft. Walla Walla

Office Superintendent Indian Affairs

Salem Oregon, Mar. 31st 1863

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that I have received yours of 28th Jany last notifying me of my appointment as superintendent of Indian Affairs in Oregon and enclosing my commission and blank bond. I have executed the bond as directed and taken the oath of office before the Hon. M.P. Brady judge of the U.S. district court who also certifies to the sufficiency of my surieties and have this day assumed the duties of the superintendency. Mr. Rector has turned over as belonging to the Indian services. Cash, legal tender notes \$1442.42; sight check on asst. Treasurer W.Y \$14173.59 Total sixteen thousand six hundred and sixteen dollars (.01.)

I remain sir, very respectfully

your obt. servant

J.W. Perit Huntington,

Suptl of Indian Affairs, Oregon

Hon Wm. P. Dole

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.



Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, 1848-78, Roll 9, Microcopy 2

P 342

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem Oregon, May 22, 1863

Sir:

Having returned from Washington and reported to this office as ready for duty you are directed to proceed to the Umatilla Reservation and take charge of that agency. Mr. J.W. Davenport the special agent now in charge has been directed to turn over to you the money and property now in his hands belonging to the Indian service and it is expected that you will give him the receipts therefor necessary to enable him to settle his accounts.

Having relieved Mr. Davenport it is expected that you will forthwith furnish this office with a report of the general condition of the agency and such other information as in your judgment will be useful in regard to the funds remitted to this office through you for arrears of appropriation for "erection of buildings," etc and "wagon Road," you are directed to consider as to the method of expending the same and reporting to this office the plans which appear to you most judicious. When your plans have been examined and approved the funds will be placed in your hands to be expended. You are also directed to send forward to this office estimates of the funds required for fulfilling treaty stipulations and for current expenses of that agency for the present quarter.

You will in all cases limit your expenditures to the funds placed in your hands and incur no liabilities in advance of appropriation

I am etc. J.W. P. Huntington, Supt.

Ind. Affairs

Wm H. Barnhart, U.S. Ind. Agent.



Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem, Oregon June 1st, 1863

Sir: Soon after entering upon the duties of this office I directed my attention to the Snake or Shoshone tribe of Indians and having collected such facts in relation to them as are obtainable I submit the following for your consideration. The word Snakes appears to be a general term applied to several bands or tribes of Indians quite distinct in language and characteristics and inhabiting different tracts of country, but so connected by relationship (having intermarried with each other for long periods and by long continued friendly intercourse that they are usually regarded both by whites and neighboring Indian tribes as one people. These bands are the Winas, Bannacks, Shoshones, Modocs, Klamaths and probably several other.

They own and inhabit the country lying south and south east of the lands purchased by the Confederated Tribes and Bands of Middle Oregon, the Walla Wallas, Cayuses, Umatillas and the Nez Percés, by the Treaties of June 25th, 1855, June 9th, 1855, June ? 1855, including the southern portion of Idaho, the south eastern part of Oregon and perhaps small portions of California and Nevada. On the map herewith enclosed I have delineated the tracts purchased by the treaties named and the lands owned by the different bands known as Snakes. These boundaries are on indeed that part of the map itself .. are not from actual surveys and therefore make no pretensions to mathematical accuracy. But for general purposes they will be found sufficiently correct. No exact statement of the numbers of these Indians can be made but the best information I have obtained leads me to estimate them at from 5,000 to 6,000 souls of which probably 1,500 are in Idaho Territory--the remainder in Oregon. They have had but little intercourse with whites and that little has been of a hostile character. The recent discoveries of gold in various parts



of their country, on the Snake, Powder, Boise, Barnt and Malheur rivers have attracted crowds of miners, who are pursuing their avocation with constant interruptions from the depredations of the Indians. Many murders and thefts have been committed by the latter which have of course been retaliated by the whites. In fact an actual state of war has existed there for twelve months past. The <sup>number</sup> ~~numbers~~ of miners in the country has been much increased since last year and is still rapidly increasing by emigration from the settled portions of Oregon and from California. The numbers ~~that~~ now probably exceed 10,000 men. In addition to this a very large emigration is now en route from the states east of the Rocky Mountains which will reach the Snake country in the autumn of the present year. I need now dwell on the importance of protecting the large population from the hostilities of the treacherous and warlike Snakes. Unless prompt measures are taken by the government to ~~protect?~~ ~~prevent~~ prevent the loss of life and property will be immense

p. 348

At the request of Brig. Gen. Alvord commanding district of Oregon I visited Fort Vancouver about the middle of April for the purpose of conferring with him in regard to Indian Affairs east of the Cascade range and particularly in the Snake country and as to the best methods of restoring and maintaining Peace. The general concurred with me in regarding a war with the Indians inevitable and regretted his inability to send troops to that region sooner than midsummer, he deeming it ~~advisable~~ advisable to employ the whole or available force in the Nez Perce region until the treaty now negotiating with those Indians was concluded. Much good might be accomplished ~~would be accomplished~~ in my opinion by the Ind. Dept. by holding a council or council with those tribes making them a few presents and negotiating the purchase of their lands.

An appropriation of \$20,000 was made by act of Congress approved July

5th , 1862, for defraying expenses of negotiating treaty with  
" Shoshone or Snake Indians" and in my opinion the public interests  
urgently demand that an effort be made to accomplish this object.  
I regard this appropriation as amply sufficient to enable commissioner  
to treat for the purchase of all lands in Oregon east of the Cascade  
Mountains not already alienated by the Indians and I trust after  
giving this matter your attention you will concur with me as to the  
necessity and direct such steps to be taken as the circumstances call  
for

I have the honor etc.

J.W.P. Huntington

Supt. Ind. AffairsOgn.

Hon Wm. P. Dole,  
Commissioner,  
Washington, D.C.