

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, "ash. Ter May 31st, 1880

Hon R.E. Trowbridge,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "ash. D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report operations at this agency for the month of May as follows-Like April the month has been unusually cold and our crops are much less forward than is usual for this date.

Early in the month I made arrangements to push the work at the steam mill to its utmost capacity and have had a large force including two white employes busy cutting and hauling logs and material for turning lumber and shingles. It has also kept a number of teams of employed hauling lumber while the carpenter and supt. of farming, with a force of our Indian mechanics, have for the past two weeks been busily occupied in erecting houses for the Indians.

From the above sketch of the work carried on it will be seen that neither agent or employees have pg. 481 had much unoccupied time in their hands.

Both schools, the boarding school at the agency and the Piute day school 6 miles below have been carried on with fine attendance and good results. The more particular information as to progress and results, I refer to the report of the supt. of instruction herewith forwarded.

I am glad to be able to report that the health of the Reservation has been much better during this month than last. The diseases that have prevailed so extensively for several months seem to about have spent their force and no unusual amount of sickness appears to prevail.

About the middle of May Sarah Winnemucca arrived from Nevada

via Camp Harney with the rumored intention escorting the
Piutes at Yakima back to the Malheur Reservation.

Almost simultaneously with her arrival I received letters from prominent citizens of Eastern Oregon and from Gen. Howard protesting against her intended movements, and declaring that from the state of public feeling in Eastern Oregon the contemplated return of the Piutes would be the signal for bloodshed and murder. My own observation satisfied me of the correctness of their conclusions, and though Sarah produced a somewhat indefinite written promise from the Department, I declined to permit them to leave the Yakima Reservation without definite instructions. I regret to say that Sarah appears to be using her influence with her people rather to create discontent, than otherwise. From her efforts to create in her people a sentiment favorable to removal, in the face of the solemn warnings of all those who are at all acquainted with public feeling, I am forced to the opinion that she has some personal motive for their removal, not as yet avowed. I believe nearly every one of the Piutes would be well content to remain here, could they be assured that such was the desire of the government. Many have declared their intention to remain under any circumstances, and others are only anxious to go from the desire for changes inherent in all savage natures.

I have kept many of them steadily employed, p 483
during the month and am making arrangements to increase the number as rapidly as possible. With the amount earned by their labor they have been able to subsist themselves in part, and as soon as I complete the purchases authorized by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior, in office letter of April 19th, it is my intention to discontinue rations, except to such of the old, infirm, or women and children as have no able-bodied mate, friend or dependent. I have caused a large number of canvas irons to be made and distributed

among them so that with the amount earned by their labor the burden of their subsistence has been gradually lightened. I trust I may soon be in receipt of definite information touching the intentions of the Department relative to this people. With feelings of profound gratitude to the Providence that has permitted me to witness the gradual progress of the people committed to my charge, from a state of degraded barbarism to comparative civilization, from the gross blackness of heathen corruption to the glorious light ;p 484 and liberty of the gospel of the Son of God I can realize that from month to month and from year to year, solid progress and improvement is being made, progress ~~and~~ in the direction so much desired towards self support and progress in building up character and bringing the people to the point where, with credit to themselves and advantage to the country they may take their places as free and equal citizens of this great and glorious nation.

Your Obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe W.T. June 30th

Hon R.E. Trowbridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir:

I have the honor to report operations at this agency for the month of June as follows.

An immense amount of labor has been performed on account of the Department in the way of digging and repairing irrigating ditches, building houses for the Indians, cutting and hauling saw logs and manufacturing lumber, besides attending to plowing and hoeing our crops of corn, potatoes etc. At least 10 miles of irrigating ditches have been dug and a great amount of labor expended on clearing and repairing others, so that we are now able to carry water wherever needed to the growing crops. During the month I have had a force of Indian mechanics under the direction of the Agency Carpenter employed in building 496

houses for the Indians. So far we have completed some five or six neat comfortable farm cottages worth at least \$500 estimating labor and material at cost. I have so organized the force that they are now able to complete one each week, and it is my intention to continue them all this week for some time to come.

At the steam saw mill a large force has been steadily employed, cutting and hauling logs, manufacturing and dressing lumber and making shingles while still another party has been employed burning coal. When to the oversight of all this labor is added the proper care of the growing crops and a 10 days trip to the Dalles to purchase supplies it will be seen that the agent has but little leisure time on his hands. For information relative to the health of the Reservation I refer you to the accompanying report of the Agency physician. The boarding school has been in constant operation

and though the number of children boarding has been less than I could have wished, yet the addition of some 40 Piute day scholars has furnished sufficient employment p 497 for the teachers.

Our Yakima Indians have been hard at work during the month attending to their crops, preparing lumber for future buildings, fanning and breaking group and during the latter part of the month preparing for haying and harvest. I wish I could add that the Piutes have been equally industrious and equally successful, but ~~disregard for the~~ regard for the truth compels me to say that with the exception of some twenty under the leadership of ~~Old~~ Oitz, who have determined to make this Reservation their future home and who are steadily laboring with that end in mind, the Piutes have accomplished worse than nothing during the month. Till Sarah Winnemucca arrived with that unfortunate permit for her people to return to Malheur they were contented and interested in my plans and preparation for their future. If more than one or two cherished the expectation of returning to Malheur I do not know ~~it~~. ~~Certainly~~ Certainly they manifested no such desire and seemed well pleased with the location I intended for them cheerfully performing such labors as I directed and p 498 men women and children taking hold of the work of planting a crop for their winter subsistence with alacrity and vigor. I could ask no better or more cheerful laborers and I looked forward to a speedy development into self support (should they remain here), as soon as their status should be definitely settled by the department.

They are no longer the same people--Within one week after her return to they began manifest a sullen, discontented spirit. What representations she made them I do not know, but their demeanor completely changed I have endeavored to reason with them and her both to no purpose. Knowing as I do the temper of the people of Eastern Oregon it seemed to me that I would be false to my duty if I permitted them

to leave without instructions to that effect from Washington, but I assured them that my opposition was solely because I feared for their safety and that as soon as instructions to that effect reached me I would facilitate their departure by every means in my power. All this was useless. p 499. Each day their discontent increased. Sarah, unknown to myself, went with some of the Piute head men to Yakima City and endeavored to by the most outrageous misstatements to create a state of public feeling among the more disreputable of the white population, as should bring them sympathy and assistance if required.

It became absolutely necessary to remove Sarah from her people, and I sent her to the Dalles, seeing of course that she was properly provided for with necessary funds. Indeed so critical did the situation become at one time that the Capt. of Police organized a large force of the Yakimas and patrolled the country armed and each night watched the agency in force to prevent the Piutes from carrying out their reported threat of firing the agency, and taking their departure by the light of the burning buildings. As soon as I became aware of the extent of the excitement I took measures to allay the angry feelings on both sides fearing that the excitement might increase and a collision occur which might produce serious results p 500 I called some of the leading men of the Piutes together and represented to them the folly of their wild talk while I impressed on the Yakimas the fact that there could be no real danger from the Piutes and that their attitude of armed watchfulness might bring on the very collision they dreaded. About the same time the Piutes received a message from Sarah to the effect that the authorities in Washington deemed it inadvisable for them to leave Yakima at present.

If they had any serious intention of a forcible departure this intelligence seemed

to cause them to relinquish it and the relapsed into a despondent indifferent mood more hopeless if anything, than their previous one of defiance.

Such appears their attitude at present and as long as this mood lasts I cannot and do not expect anything from them. As long as they cherish the expectation of returning , or of being permitted to roam over the country at will, from one town or military post to another, prostituting their women and so acquiring the means of a lazy worthless livelihood, I do not expect any thing p 501 from them. Whether an authorization from the Dept. that this must be their future home would cause them to relinquish the expectation of returning and take hold of work with their former resourcefulness I will not take it upon me to say. Undoubtedly had such a decision been made six months ago they would now be hopefully and cheerfully at work with every prospect of success and of soon being able to care for themselves. Should the present mood continue I can only hope that some other location may be speedily found for them than than the Yakima Reservation.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

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

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, W.T. July 8, 1880

Gen. O.O. Howard, Vancouver Barracks, W.T. Dear Sir:

Since the return of Sarah Winnemucca there has been a great change in the demeanor of the Piutes. She represented to them that she had authority to take her back to Malheur, induced them to quit their work and gathered them into a location near the station and told them to be ready and start in two weeks!! She represented to them that funds placed in my hands for their benefit had not been properly applied and took some of their leading men to Yakima City to consult with those who hold the opinion that "the only good Indian is a dead one," where they were advised to go where they pleased and in every way encouraged in their insubordination--as indeed was to be expected from such counsellors. A telegram from the commissioner of Indian Affairs directs me to hold them here. If they start I shall immediately inform you, and in my judgment it would be better to take them to Vancouver and hold them rather than suffer them to return unprotected.

Sarah is now at the Dalles and her people may possibly settle down again and go to work. I shall watch their movements carefully and report from time to time as it may be important for you to know.

Yours etc. J.H.W.

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General O.O. Howard:

Sir: I saw from the paper you had detailed a company of soldiers at the Dalles thinking possibly they might be needed in assisting the Piutes in returning to the Malheur Agency. They would They... and I am determined to return without protection..since the sect. of interior gave them permission and since Sarah returned here. It is a hundred times harder now to manage them than before this permit....

Captain John Smith

U.S. Indian Agent, Warm Springs.

Sir:

I have this day rec'd a letter from the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs stating he had June 28th written you that you were authorized to take charge of Oitz and the families belonging to the people General Howard sent you from Vancouver. I shall be pleased with any arrangement you make to remove them from this to your agency. I think you should furnish them protection in the transfer. Hoping you will find it convenient to make the transfer soon I remain,

Etc. Wilbur.

-- Piutes. Howard 508

Fort Simcoe, W.T. July 16th, 1886, General O.O. Howard

Dear Sir: Excuse the liberty I take in sending you a copy of Sarah Winnemucca's letter lately rece'd. that you may judge of her doings and spirit. Before she went to Washington for a time she seemed to be striving to live a new life and I had hope that she would continue and with the help and surroundings here would overcome and would be a good Christian woman. But since she came back it has been evil, only evil and that continuously. I forbear going into particulars of her doings here as I see she intends to go to Vancouver and be in your employ. If you can convert a sinner from the error of her way and save a soul from death you will hide a multitude of sins.

Yours very truly Wilbur.

Yakima Indian

Fort Simcoe W.T. July 23, 1880

Hon R.E. Trebridge

Commissioner: Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that Dr. Kuykendall the agency physician who has been here for a number of years and has become familiar with the Indians, their customs and languages is thinking of resigning on account of schooling his children. This is true of John Kuykendall, both excellent employes and hard to fill their places. I think both would stay if they could put their little children into the day school here at the station. I ask liberty to admit them. The number would not exceed eight. An early reply is solicited.

I am sir

Your obediant servant

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

Yakima ,Ft. Simcoe Wash. Ter Aug 3d, 80

Hon R.E. Trowbridge

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit the following report of operations at this agency for the month of July. An immense amount of work has been done in the harvest, and hay fields and in building houses for the Indians.

I have kept a large force of men under the foreman of the farm at work in the meadows while another force has been engaged in cutting and threshing grain. I am sorry to say that the yield of our grain fields will be less than last year, but I trust with the help of the large amount of potatoes planted, we shall be able to meet all requirements including subsistence of the Piutes. While the harvest and haying has been attended to I have by no means let the work on Indian houses drag, p 521

five neat comfortable cottages have been built for Indian farmers who highly appreciate them. Indeed I know nothing that more powerfully influences the Indian to follow the manners and customs of the whites than to install them in a good comfortable house with sufficient land allotted for their cultivation.

For information relative to the sanitary condition I refer to the report of Dr. Kuykendall, the agency physician.

The school was continued till the last of the month when it closed for the annual vacation. Many of the larger boys were required by their parents to assist in haying and harvest and the attendance has been light. Still good progress has been made. The good accomplishments of this school cannot be measured solely by the number attending. Each scholar on his return to his home becomes a center of influence. Others who have not enjoyed the advantages of school, copy from him and thus pick up many of the customs of

civilized life.

In my report for June I mentioned the unsatisfactory condition of the Piutes and the bad influence of Sarah Winnemucca through her intense p 522 desire to return to Malheur. About the last of June she left the Reservation, since which time her people have gradually quieted down, till now I am glad to say they seem in a good measure to have recovered their former cheerfulness and content.

Very many of them are industriously at work and should nothing again occur to excite them, I am not without hope that they may regain something of their former interest in plans exclusively for their benefit. Still it must be apparent to any who will give the subject a moment's thought how great an injury both to them and the Yakimas is their present unsettled status. The amount placed in my hands for their benefit \$3,000, has been expended in the purchase of clothing, groceries, implements etc. which have been distributed to such as are willing to labor, except a number of old and infirm and school children who have received necessary clothing gratis.

On the 26th of July three of the buildings here, used as dwelling houses for employes were unfortunately burned. This is quite a serious matter for us, as it will be necessary to replace, at least two of them before the commencement of the winter

I cannot close this report without again calling the attention of the Department to the simple justice of reimbursing the Yakimas for subsistence furnished the Piutes. From my knowledge of the circumstances I entertain no doubt but we shall have the Piutes on our hands for at least a year. As it seems the intention of the Department to eventually return them to Malheur it is altogether useless to make any plans or adopt any measures looking to their permanent benefit.

We have therefore only to look forward to feeding them another year, and as our stock of large beef steers is becoming exhausted must take younger cattle or purchase beef for them. May I venture to express the hope that if they are to remain with us another year the Department will furnish funds to supply them with beef.

Very respectfully etc.

Wilbur.

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Piutes

Ft. Simcoe Wash Ter. Aug 5, 1880

Hon R.E. Trowbridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash.D.C.

Sir: I respectfully ask approval of the enclosed reports of irregular employes for the months of Feb. and March, 1879. The services rendered under these reports were solely and exclusively for the benefit of the Piutes & Bannocks. These people arrived here in the winter and were left in a camp on the Topenish some 20 miles from the Agency, destitute of shelter, fire wood and subsistence. It was necessary to remove them to a point near the agency where subsistence might be issued to them and to provide them with a shelter from the inclement weather.

Our Yakima Indians who owned teams were employed for this purpose and paid at the usual rates from funds allotted for "support of Indians. recently located at Yakima Agency," under the head of civilization. Perhaps it would have been better to pay from funds allotted for the same purpose under the head of "incidental" but as a charge now would involve the entire reconstruction of my accounts for the first quarter of 1879 and as the civilization fund seems to be properly applicable to the payment of this account, I trust it may be approved. Very respectfully etc Wilb.r

Takima, Ft. Simcoe W.T. Aug 18, 1880

Capt. John Smith,

U.S. Indian Agent, Warm Springs Agency, Oregon, Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your favor of the 9th inst. which would have received earlier attention but for my temporary absent from the Agency. In his letter notifying me of the arrangement relative to the location of certain Piutes at Warm Springs, the Commissioner informs me that the "Agent at the Warm Springs" is authorized to take charge of said Indians and I have no funds in my account applicable to the transportation of these Indians and further than above noted have received no instructions relative to them and this I should hardly consider sufficient to authorize me to take the course you suggest.

Perhaps it might be well for you to ask the commissioner for more definite instructions P 533 and funds to carry out the purpose of the government.

Very respectfully etc. Wilbur.

Fort Simcoe, Oct. 4th, 1880

Hon R.E. Trowbridge, commissioner of Indian affairs,
Wash.D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of your telegram of the 24th ult inquiring if certain goods en route for Malheur can be used to advantage for the benefit of the Piutes at this agency and directing me to report for consultation on Indian affairs.

In reply I would say that, as telegraphed, you this morning, all goods of the character described can be used to the very great benefit of the Piutes, located here. I shall have the honor to report as directed as soon as I can arrange the affairs of the agency in a proper condition to leave which will require perhaps a week.

Very respectfully etc.

Mrs. Wilbur. Piutes

Monthly Report. Leggins, Piute
Snipes and cattle

Rev. James H. Wilbur

Dec. 2, 1880

U.S. Indian Agent, Wash.D.C.

My Dear Brother:

Enclosed please find report for November from which you will gather a fair idea of matters here. Your letter of Nov. 15th come to hand yesterday. All feel very anxious about Mrs. Wilbur's health. You did not mention particularly how she was but merely said she would remain in Washington till her health was better. All at the Agency are well except Mr. Miller and he feels so much better that in spite of my remonstrances he has been at work this week. Those who ought to now say that the school was never so prosperous as now. It is as full as we can accommodate. Most of the children, boys especially are small from 8 to 10 years old. Of course they cannot do much work more than to keep enough wood sawed for the school and boarding house and p. 652 pack in wood to the wood sheds, office, etc.

Knowing your anxiety about the school we have all did all we could to fill it up and make it a success. Mr. Cox seems to have secured the confidence of the people and the attachment of the children. He is intensely anxious to make the school a success and neglects no proper means to that end, and more important than all else is truly pious.

Thomas McKay was up yesterday with cattle. He reports a great many calves dying among our herd and Snipes and Huntingdon's. The Doctor who has examined into the matter pronounces it the pneumonia that has killed so many cattle in the east. This morning we ~~waked~~ ^{waked} and found the snow 10 inches deep at the time, 10 a.m. it is over a foot and still snowing. Of course we will look well after the stock.

Mr. Hadley has been very useful since you left. It is only simple justice to say that he has done his ~~duty~~ duty well. I am highly

pleased with the temper and demeanor of the Piutes.

Following your suggestions I have made it a point to try and conciliate them. I have given about 25 pairs of blankets, 30 shirts, 90 yds ticking and a 653 few kettles and axes to those who I saw with my own eyes were old and needy. I also gave Leggins a pair of blankets, shirt, overalls, boots and hat, and kept nearly all the able bodied men at work about 10 days.

This has given them an opportunity to provide themselves clothing, tents, a little sugar, coffee, etc. and all they are now asking for is a chance to go to work.

But we have absolutely nothing for them to do. The woodsheds are all full and great piles of pine and oak wood at every back door and nearly 100 cords get in the timber. I intend today if I get time to look up our cash accounts for the 4th qr. I sent to the Dalles for 1000 lbs sugar, 900 yds calico and 60 gal syrup. I think we have sufficient margin so that it will not be necessary to make any account of it in other words, receipts from annuities will more than cover it. All desire to be affectionately remembered to yourself and Mrs. Wilbur.

Very respectfully, J.H. Fairchild. clerk.

Hon. R.E. Treadbridge, Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington D.C. January 7, 1881

Sir: I have the honor to report operations at this agency for the month of December, 1880 as follows:

Our winter commenced somewhat earlier than usual, snow falling towards the last of November and remaining on the ground till the present time with no prospect of more favorable weather.

This has rendered the employment of quite a number of men necessary for gathering up the bands of cattle from their grazing grounds in various parts of the reservation and feeding them when gathered.

This service has been paid entirely from annuity funds. I fear the severity of the winter will cause the Indians to lose many of their cattle and horses and notwithstanding that the Department has a large supply of hay, yet many

of our cattle have probably escaped observation in the bushes along the creek bottoms and are lost.

Early in the fall I informed the Indians that if they would cut and haul to the mill the logs I would see that the same were manufactured into lumber and houses and barns erected for such as desired. In consequence of this promise several parties have been equipped and we now have men at work getting logs to the mill on their own account.

The school is remarkably prosperous. Several causes combined to give the Indians a better appreciation of the advantages of the education and the result has been that our accommodations have

been taxed to the utmost and even then we have been unable to take all the children that were offered. The boarding house and school rooms are only calculated for 60 children but this winter we have had as many as 90 at one time while the average has been over 80 for weeks. Of course this results in much inconvenience to teachers and matron and the utmost care is required to preserve the health and cleanliness

of the children. The present number of pupils taxes to the utmost the time of the two teachers to give the time to each pupil needed for his proper advancement but by constant labor they are able to accomplish it.

The sanitary condition of the agent is shown by the report of the physician.

The Piutes are quiet and apparently contented. They seldom give trouble or call for discipline. Nearly all are living in tents made after the pattern of the skin lodges of the tribes east of the Rocky Mountains, and notwithstanding the thinness of the materials a fire in the center renders them comfortable even in extreme cold weather.

Steps were taken in the fall to provide for them shelters made of lumber but they preferred the tents and have remained in them to the present p. 690

time. Some fifteen of their children are in the school and exhibit remarkable intelligence and quickness of apprehension.

Very r etc.

Your obedient servant

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U.S. Indian Agent.