

Copy

[Found in 1871]

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20      Spokane Bridge, W.T. Sept. 24, 1840

Col. Samuel Ross, U.S.A., Superintendent Indian Affairs, Olympia W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit herewith a map of the country between the Columbia River and Cascade mountains north of Lake Chelan.

The arable land as represented on the map comprises the smallest part of the country, it lies along the streams and lakes and is estimated at seventy five thousand acres, the largest portion ~~lies~~ one body is on Nespelam Creek, the valley being about thirty miles long and from one to three miles wide, nearly all of which is susceptible of cultivation. There is also quite a body of tillable land north of Lake Chelan, also on the Okanagan, near Osoyoos lake and on Nettle river and its tributaries.

All along the Columbia are found benches of good land watered by small streams flowing from the mountains but it is generally in narrow strips and requires irrigation. There is a number of small streams and lakes between San Poel and Okanagan near the Columbia where the Indians have small enclosures in which they cultivate corn and potatoes.

The grazing land is very extensive. It is covered with bunch and mountain grasses, part of it with scattering pine.

For grazing purposes alone San Poel and Nespelam valley are as good if not the best in Washington Territory. Snow seldom falls and when it does it lays on the ground but a short time. There seems to be a current of air that passes up and down these valleys that makes the temperature much warmer/ and ~~add~~ agreeable not being so

or changeable as the Okanagan/

There is swampy places on the Lakes and streams wherethe tall grasses grow that could be cut for winter use but the Indians on the San Poel and Nespelem who have a large number of horses and cattle ~~xxxx~~ have no trouble in wintering them without making such provisions.

As a rule it will hold good that the hills or mountains sides facing the south are covered with grass or grass and scattered pines so that ~~the~~ the grazing land is much more extensive than what the map would indicate.

The mountains, especially their sides facing the north are heavily timbered with pine, fir, cedar and tamarac and cotton wood.. Cedar, willow and birch in the marshy places the altitude of the mountains between the Columbia and Okanagan is such that the snow goes off every summer but the Cascade range is more abrupt, rugged and heavily timbered. The Indians follow up the Methowe, Chelan and their tributaries hunting and trapping but they prefer to reside near the Columbia.

There is a trail ~~next~~ over the Cascades from Lake Chelan to the stream that feed into Puget Sound.

The Indians during the salmon season build weirs across the Okanagan, Methowe, San Poel and the smaller streams catching a good many salmon, sucker and salmon trout.

Earlier in the season and before they collect to catch their winter supply at Kettle Falls.

The animals abounding in this region are the bear, deer and elk, the fur bearing beaver, martin, badger, otter, fox and fisher.

There are many natural water powers on all the streams except the Okanagan which is a sluggish stream for a mountain country.

Take the whole section together it would make a good Indian reservation there is tillable land enough to raise all the grain



and produce the Indians would require; grazing land enough for all their horses and cattle, mountains clothed with timber in which game abounds where they could hunt and trap; streams in which there is plenty of the finest water power to run more machinery than would be needed with natural boundaries of river and mountains.

Your obedient servant

M. P. Winans

Farmer.

Washn't Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T., May 27, 1872

Gen. T.J. McKenny, Supt. Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T. Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of the 6th inst. informing me of the Indian reservation set apart by Executive order.

On this reservation there are now nearly one hundred farms between five and six hundred settlers, who have fenced and cultivated a large portion of the tillable land, built houses and made other permanent improvements. Some are homesteaded and pre-emption settlers, but the most are squatters on the public domain who have resided here for ten years or more and were induced to come by invitation of Goe. Harvey to settle up the country, the promise of military protection, the fertility of its soil and healthy climate.

As a large portion of the tillable land is now occupied by the whites, it will be impossible to place the surrounding tribes on the reservation until the people shall have been removed and in any event it will be a great hardship to compel them to leave their homes which they have made in good faith under a surance of government protection.

There are now on the reserve three four mills, two saw mills, six stores, two small villages with shops etc. besides court house, jail and other public improvements made by the people. The value of the improvements on the reserve is probably not less than two hundred thousand dollars.

If this were the only place in this quarter suitable for a reservation it might be well to remove the settlers, paying them for their improvements but as the region already recommended in my letter of Sept 24th, 1870 to Col. Samuel Ross (a copy of which is herewith enclosed) is much better adapted to the wants of the Indians from the facts of its milder winters, climate enabling the Indians to



their stock without fodder, its greater quantity of grazing land , its ample tillable area, its greater abundance of game and fish, and besides it is , the country preferred by the Indians themselves, on this whole tract, there is only two white settlers, the value of whose improvements is inconsiderable.

From the facts above submitted that the Indians prefer the lands described in my letter of Sept. 24, 1870, that these lands are better adapted to a reservation, and that nearly all the present reservation is occupied by whites. I respectfully beg leave to suggest the propriety of asking the president to place the reservation within the following boundaries, viz: The Columbia river, the eastern and southern, the Okanagan river the western and the 49th parallel the northern.

I am fully persuaded that if the government shall be made aware of all the facts in the case that the boundaries of the reservation will be changed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant

Wm. P. Winans,

Farmer in charge

Fort Colville, W.T.

June 3rd, 1872

Gen T.J. McKenny, superintendent of Indian affairs, Olympia, W.T. Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter dated May 16th informing me that you are authorized to establish a school at Fort Colville, also a copy of a letter from Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs relative to schools among the Coeur d'Alene Indians.

There has been no school in this agency to teach the Indians to read and write since the Presbyterian Mission at Walkers Prairie was burned in 1848.

The Catholics now have three missions in this valley; two of which are now occupied--the third at Nettie Falls is only used during salmon catching.

The Fathers teach the Indians orally the prayer and catechism of the church.

Walkers Prairie would be a good place for a school, also the ~~Hudson Bay Co.'s Fort~~ Hudson Bay Co.'s Fort now occupied by Angus McDonald who is understood is ready to turn over the buildings when an agent presents himself authorized to receive them.

The Indians in the vicinity of Walkers' Prairie are the Spokans and are Protestants. Those living near the Hudson Bay Co's Fort are Colvilles Catholics and Lakes and are Catholics. If two schools are to be established it would be well to have one at each place in charge of the teachers of the faith preferred by the Indians--by so doing harmony and good feeling among the Indians would be maintained.

The Coeur d'Alene Mission is in Idaho and situated on the Coeur d'Alene river about forty miles east of the boundary line of this Territory.

From all the information I can obtain at this time without a visit to



Mission which is one hundred and fifty miles distant. I am led to believe that the Catholic Fathers have taught the Indians orally the Catechism and prayers, but that no effort has been made to teach them to read and write.

The country claimed by the Coeur d'Alenes is all of Idaho between We-na-ne-she or South Fork of the Palouse River and the Pend d'Orielle river--and all of the Territory between Hangman Creek and the Spokane River.

There are 100 to 150 of these Indians on the tract claimed by them in this Territory but the greater part of them live in Idaho and many properly be considered as belonging to that Superintendency.

They are the most independent, haughty and arrogant of any Indians in the vicinity.

I enclose a copy of a letter from the Spokane Bridge relating to the matter by having the Indians that did the shooting confined in jail.

Very respectfully

Your obedient Servant

Wm. P. Winans

Farmer in charge.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No 20

Report of Employees of the Colville Agency for the 3rd quarter, 1872.

John A. Simms, special Ind. Agent, Wash Territory, born in Maryland, commencement of service, August ~~17~~ 17, 1872, where employed Fort Colville;; tribes for which employed, Colville and other Indians parties of no treaty; compensation \$1,500.

W.P. Winans, farmer in charge, place appointed, Washington Terrty.; place where born, New Jersey; commencement of service; Jan'y 1, 1870; resignation or discharge, Sept. 30, 1872; where employed, Fort Colville; tribes, Colville etc.; compensation \$1,200.

J.F. Sherwood, assistant farmer; place where ~~appointed~~ appointed, Washington Territory; place where born, New York; commencement of service, Jan'y. 1st, 1871; where employed, Fort Colville; tribes for which employed, Colville, etc.; compensation \$1,000.

A.W. Wiggins, physician; place from whence appointed, Washington Territory; place where born, Vermont; commencement of service, Nov. 1, 1870; where employed, Fort Colville; tribes, Colville etc; compensation, \$800.

George Herring, interpreter; place from whence appointed, Washington Territory; place where born, Colville Valley; commencement of service, May 1, 1868; where employed, Colville; tribes for which employed, Colvilles etc.; compensation \$500.



Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

Oct. 30th, 1872

Genl. R.H. Milroy,  
Supt. Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T.  
Sir:

I have the honor to report that during the past month this Agency has been visited by the chiefs and head men of the following tribes, viz:

Colville, Coeur d'Alenes, Spokanes and Pen d'Oriettes.

The report their people in good health and peaceable with their white neighbors and with each other. The catch of salmon this season has been unusually large and the Indians express themselves as pretty well provided with supplies for the winter.

They are manifest considerable interest in regards to the new reservation set apart for them and I may add that they are generally opposed to it with its present boundaries.

I expect to forward to you my special report upon that subject in the next mail.

I have the honor to remain

Very Respectfully yours

Obedient servant

John A. Simms,

Spec. Ind. Agent.

Wash'tn Territory. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

November 4, 1872

Genl. R.H. Milroy,  
Supt. Indian Affairs,  
Olympia W.T.

Sir:

In answer to your communication of Oct. 5 I have the honor to inform you that the Paluse Indians were included in the Treaty made by Gov. I.I. Stevens, June 9th, 1855 and ratified by the Senate March 8th, 1859.

Respectfully your  
obedient Servant,  
John A. Simms,  
Special Indian Agent.



Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, Nov. 25, 1872

Genl. R.H. Wilroy,  
Superintendent of Indian Affairs,  
Olympia, W.T. Sir:

Yours of the 22d ult. with statement of funds placed to my official credit in the 1st National Bank Portland Oregon, viz \$2,500 was duly received.

The saw mill purchased for this agency and shipped by you reached here on the 20th inst. and was received in good order, with the exception of a small wheel which Mr. Winans will have forwarded in the spring or duplicated.

The winter being so near, and the weather unfavorable here for building, I have deferred erecting the mill until spring. More especially I wished to confer with you in regard to the selection of a site for the agency, for the reasons referred to in my report. If the boundaries of the reservation remain as they are at present, the Nespelem Valley will probably be the most favorable point but if the eastern boundary should be extended to the south side of the Columbia I regard old Fort Colville as the most eligible site as it is within one mile of the Kettle Falls where most of the Indians of all the tribes belonging to this agency come to catch their fish in summer and many of them remain there all winter. There is no other point where they would be so much under the eye of the agent.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

John A. Simms,

Spec. Ind. Agt.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20      Fort Colville, W.T. Dec 19, 1872

To General Milroy,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs,

for Washington Territory, Olympia, W.T.

Dear Sir:

On or about the 15th of last June I was engaged in freighting  
goods . from the Yakima valley to the mouth of the Okanagain river  
for parties engaged in mining pursuits in the vicinity and on my trip up,  
at the mouth of the Grand Coulee, was attacked by a band of Indians known  
as the Moses tribe and Moses their chief leading them who demanded what  
liquor I had on my train, 2 five gallon kegs ordered by the miners  
for their own special and private use. I told them that I was alone and  
that if they overpowered me and took the liquor I would return and  
lay my complaint before the agent at Simcoe. On telling them this  
they went off and I proceeded on my way without further molestation  
until I arrived at home. Two days after my arrival about thirty  
Indians came to my house and demanded that I turn over the liquor  
to them and on my refusal to do so they attacked the house, broke the  
door in and made an attack on Mr. Schaffer and myself who were in  
the house, the former being very low with consumption, they seized and  
packed him out and a portion of them stood over him with an axe  
threatening to kill him if he did not give up the liquor or attempted  
any resistance. The balance of the Indians not engaged in attacking Mr  
Schaffer attacked me in the house and I tried , in defending my life  
and property to shoot them but one of them that was near who I thought  
to be friendly knocked up the gun and the contents went into the  
roof. I then dropped the gun and seized an axe and cut one in  
the arm, wounding him rather seriously. They then overpowered me and beat  
and cut me with knives until I was entirely exhausted. They , whilst



I lay insensible, went through the store and took shirts, blankets, clothing and other goods to the amount of five or six hundred dollars. I applied to the civil authorities for redress but was told that the proper place to apply would be to the superintendent of Indian affairs.

Trusting that you may give the matter your early attention and order your agents here to investigate the matter with a view of the Department compensating for the losses I have sustained and having the Indians punished, etc. etc.

I remain,

Very respectfully et . etc.

Charles Schnieder.

Fort Colville, W.T. Dec. 31, 1872

Gen. R.H. Milroy, Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that nothing worthy of particular notice occurred at this agency during the past month until the evening of the 14th inst. at half past ten o'clock when we were startled by quite a severe shock of an earthquake which was followed by four or five other distinct shocks at intervals during the night, slight vibrations having been felt nearly every ~~day~~ day since and on the morning of the 28th about half past ten, ~~others~~ there was a very precipitable shock.

Most of the Indians that I have heard from ~~are~~ are all very much frightened and in some instances fatal results have followed. One woman of the Lower Spokans lost her mind and wandered off to the mountains and was found dead a day or two afterwards. Several others are quite ill from the effect.

The earthquake was particularly severe in the vicinity of Okanagan and Osoyoos Lake. Two Indians who came over from there report that a point of land projecting into the lake has disappeared and that the earth has opened from eighteen inches to two feet in several places. They state that the country was full of smoke to the north and that a noise resembling thunder comes from the same direction.

There is great consternation among the Okanagan Indians and I have determined to send over the interpreter to endeavor to ~~pacify~~ pacify them and to report upon the results of the earthquake.

I have the satisfaction of reporting a marked improvement in the moral condition of the Indians of this agency since my arrival here. Most of the Colvilles and Spokans have abandoned the evil habit of gambling



and ~~disappointment~~ disipation. The chiefs and head men seem much encouraged and full of hope for the future. They are anxiously ~~aw~~ waiting for news concerning the reservation and believe that some satisfactory arraignment will be made in the spring and that work at the agency will be commenced in earnest.

Very respectfully

Your Obt. Svt.

John A. Sims,

Spl. Ind. Agt.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, Nov. 30, 1873

Mr. John A. Simms, Special Indian Agent

Sir:

I have the honor to report that during the past month, these Indians, following the pursuit of agriculture, have been engaged in thrashing their grain, repairing and fixing up their winter quarters, making them as comfortable as possible.

Others have gone to the mountains to pursue their regular nomadic wanderings in search of game, hunting and trapping fur bearing animals.

Peace and quietness reigns among them, no ~~disparities~~ depredations have been committed by them that I am aware of.

Very respectfully,

George W. Avery (?)

Farmer



Wash'tn Suptcy. Volville. Roll No. 20

Fort Volville, W.T. Jany. 25, 1874

Hon Marshall Blinn,

Act. Supt. Indian Affairs, Olympia, W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that the late superintendent, General R.H. Milroy during his visit here last summer directed me to make arrangements for the opening of a boarding & industrial school at this agency for Indian children. It was known at the time that there were no suitable buildings at the agency, but the Catholic fathers proffered the use of their mission for temporary purposes.

As Father Giorda(?) the superior was expected daily the father in charge did not like to say what compensation would be expected for the use of said mission buildings but thought it would be some inconsiderable sum. In the meantime I made arrangements for the commencing the school, hired the teachers and purchased the necessary supplies. Father Giorda did not arrive however until about the first of October and the next day thereafter I inquired of him, upon what terms ~~he~~ I could have the mission buildings for the purposes of opening the boarding school for the Indian children. He thought \$30 dollars a month would be a very moderate compensation for the use of the buildings. I was not authorized to pay that sum or any other amount but as I could do no better I told him I would take the buildings and report the matter to you for your approval.

I have so far paid the amount out of my own means, expecting to be ~~reimbursed~~ reimbursed if my action is approved. I have made some other necessary expenditures, in all about two hundred dollars, in making

tables, benches, bedsteads and some little repairs about the building, which I have paid out of the school fund.

You will please inform me if the rent of the building will be allowed, also if the expenditures out of the school fund were proper. I am happy to state in this connection that the school is progressing very satisfactorily and the advancement of the scholars exceed my most sanguine expectations.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

John A. Simms

Special Indian Agent.

(action approved for the present

but think the rent too high) footnote..

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Fort Colville, W.T. Jan. 25, 1874

Hon Marshall Blinn, Act. Supt. Ind. Affairs.

Olympia, W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that Pascal Losi and Louis Vanzina, teachers at this agency have resigned. I would respectfully recommend that Sister John of the Cross and Sister Aurelia, both Sisters of Charity, be appointed to fill said vacancies to take effect from the first instant.

Very respectfully

Your obt. Servt.

John A. Simms,

Spec. Ind. Agent.



Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

February 28, 1874

Hon Marshall Blinn,  
Act. Superintendent Ind. Affairs,  
Olympia, W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that nothing of special interest has occurred at this agency ~~latter~~ since my last monthly report. The Indians are peaceable and well disposed and are beginning to inquire concerning their spring work. The school is progressing very satisfactorily. There are forty three boarders and from eight to ten day scholars in regular attendance and are making very commendable advancement. I herewith enclose the monthly report of Mr. George W. Harvey, farmer.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

John Simms,

Special Ind. Agent.

Wash'tn Suptcy. Colville. Roll No. 20

Fort Colville, W.T.

March 31, 1874

General R.H. Milroy,  
Superintendent Ind. Affairs,  
Olympia, W.T.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that during the past month many of the Indians of this agency have been engaged in fencing their little farms and preparing ~~xxx~~ generally to put in their crops as soon as the season will permit.

The news of the failure of the bill to establish a reservation here has had a very depressing effect upon them. And I am afraid they will not now farm to the extent they otherwise would have done. They are all peaceable and well disposed, and there is much less sickness among them than during the winter months. The school is progressing very satisfactorily. I herewith enclose the monthly report of the farmer, Mr. Geo. W. Harvey.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

John Simms,

Special Ind. Agent.