



United States Indian Service,

Yakama Indian Agency,

~~Kern~~ September 5th 7 11, 1884

Gen. Nelson A Miles

Commanding Department of Columbia

Vancouver Barracks W. T.

General *

~~I am in the receipt of the answer of~~
~~under date of Aug. 25-84~~
~~Captain McMurray, to statements made by me in~~
~~my letter to you of the 18th of August last, respecting his~~
~~visit to this Agency in July.~~

But for the false impression produced on the ^{minds} of the ignorant Indians, the whole subject of his visit would be unworthy of the slightest consideration, and would receive no further attention from me - I ^{therefore to call attention to} desire ~~however to correct~~ some of the mistakes found in his ^{Sup Communication} letter of Aug 25th, - arising perhaps from having totally misapprehended his own position - Indeed, the whole tenor of his letter, shows that the gallant

Captain vastly overestimates himself, having entirely mistaken the object of his mission, (as stated in your letter to me of the 13th ~~Aug~~ ^{ultimo}), and fancied himself invested with a far higher authority than his instructions warranted -

~~The~~ The Captain states that "no formal Council was appointed by me" ^(him) ~~IC~~. ^{Can} Will he explain what he considers a "Council"? And what he calls the gathering at Roo-ti-ak-an's, near the Yakima Gap? - Also, ^{Can he} ~~will the~~ ^{by him} ~~Captain~~ tell why the Indians were notified, to assemble there to meet him? Or, if no Council was appointed by him, how does he explain his request, ^{sent} to Mr Goodwin of Yakima, to notify the Indians that he could not see them at the date appointed, and the meeting must be postponed ^{to another day named?}? However the Captain may regard it, such a gathering is called a Council here. - The Indians so considered the meeting at Roo-ti-ak-an's - ^{reporters present then} the News-papers, called it a "Council" - the Yakima

people all thought it so, and if not a "formal Council", it certainly had all the ear-marks, and was wonderfully like one. - At all events, when the Captain was at the Agency, he knew the gathering was to take place - he knew it was to be on the reservation, and that Reservation Indians were to be present, and take a part in it. - It seems to me - as stated in my letter to you of the 18th ultimo, that the ordinary courtesy, common among Gentlemen, to say nothing of Official Courtesy, should have prompted the Captain to let me know something of it

~~2^d Judging from the tenor of his letter, the Captain still seems to think a part of his mission was to investigate me. - He says, "I thought the General avoided me, " "partly from indifference, and partly, (as is common " "in Army inspections), to leave his subordinates unem- " "barrassed, and free to exhibit what they pleased. I " "regret that I was mistaken" - Again, "Gen Milroy "~~

" said there was nothing to Conceal. He invited me to "
 " look about anywhere. The Superintendent, and "
 " others did so also, and I spent all my time while at "
 " Fort Simcoe, with the Agency Officials "- and again
 " I was not blind to the fact that Gen Milroy's man-
 " agement, is on obsolete principles, ^{in my opinion} not at all in the "
 " interest of Modern Civilization" &c &c &c

Now when it is remembered, that Capt. McMurray
 had no shadow of right to be on the Reservation at
all-further than as a traveller on the Common road-
 that the Agent had the legal right to send him off
 the reservation at once, the above quotations from
 his letter, exhibit a degree of egotism, and impudence,
 almost incredible - No comments can do
 justice to them, and I leave them unanswered.

See over
 next page

I have not the slightest doubt, but Capt. McMurray
 is intirely Correct, when he says that, "Indians "
 in Kititass, Klickitat, and elsewhere complained "

+ He states that General Miboy was present when all that was important was said. If this was so why did he think it necessary to soon afterwards hold a three days Council on the Reservation at which General Miboy was not present & was not aware of? Did he hold said three days Council to talk of unimportant matters? — In his talk to the Capt. M. Murray said but little to the crowd of anti Civilization Indians who followed him to my Office. and in his talk he said nothing to them about his having comm^{ts} to investigate complaints of the Columbia River Indians. — I was present & heard all he said ^{to the Indians}. But he doubtless said this & much more at his Council where I was not present. It is plain General, that had you sent some officer of good sense & judgment like Mr. Jones instead of Capt. M. Murray, to attend to what you desired him to ^{do} everything would have moved along harmoniously & I would have been saved a vast amount of trouble & annoyance.

Gen Miles

"of the Tyranny of the Agency Government". These same Indians, are the "dreamers" - They have "Complained", ever since the Department discouraged polygamy, gambling, and drunkenness - They have long sought a sympathizing ear, into which to pour their troubles, and in Captain McMurray, they seem to have found one - In my letter, I distinctly stated that my knowledge of the subjects discussed at the Council, (at the Yakima Gap), was derived from Indians, and I would not vouch for its correctness - I stated that I complained that an officer, not connected with the Indian service, had come to my Reservation, and held a Council with the Indians under my charge, without my knowledge, - Captain McMurray does not attempt to answer this charge - unless his denial of having held a council, is so intended - and that is a quibble unworthy of notice. - In conclusion General,

6 Gen miles

let me ask, how would the Military Authorities
regard a similar interference ^{by an officer of the Interior Dept.} with the authority
of an Army Officer in charge of a Military
Post or Dist.?

~~Very Respectfully~~

~~P. H. Wilson.~~

~~U.S. Indian Agent~~

