

File Microcopies of Records in the National Archives: No. 2, Roll 15

Records of the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, Letters Received,
January 5--December 31, 1857. National Archives 1944.

Introductory

On this roll are microcopied the unbound letters received by the Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs between January 4 and June 1, 1857 and by its successor the Oregon and Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs between June 3 and December 31, 1857. The numbers provided for letters, on targets provided by the National Archives correspond to those under which the letters are entered in the register (reproduced on Roll 12) the numbers usually appear on the backs of the letters. The targets bear not only numbers but information relating to any irregularities or problems affecting the filing of particular letters.

The following is suggested as an appropriate method of citing a particular letter: Oregon Superintendency of Indian Affairs, letters received 1857, no. 1- or Oregon SIA, letters received, 1857. In strict accuracy all citations after June 2, 1857, should refer to the Oregon and Washington Superintendency of Indian Affairs; but, as explained in the introduction to Roll 12, good reason appears to exist for ignoring this distinction.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2

1857 No. 31

Department of the Interior

Office Indian Affairs, December 17, 1856

Sir:

A letter from Joel Palmer, late Supt. Ind. Affairs dated 29th Oct., enclosing the accounts of Late Indian Agent Nathan Olney for the 2nd quarter of 1856 consisting of account current, abstracts etc vouchers with statements of persons employed and property return etc. for the same period has been received.

So soon as the accounts etc. are examined in this office, Mr. Olney will be notified of the result.

You will inform Mr. Palmer of the reception of the accounts etc.

Very Respectfully, your obt. servt
Geo Manypenny, commissioner

A.F. Hedges, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affrs.

Oregon City, O.T.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, microcopy 2

1857 No. 59

Agency Office, Dallas March 5th, 1857

Sir: Your note by the hand of W.W. Raymond has been duly received and affords me much gratification to be relieved from the duties of this office.

Upon consultation with Mr. Raymond I have consented to retain the office untill he may go to the Willamette and return.

He will make known to you the urgent reasons for our giving assistance to the Indians who this day start for the reservation. Their head man is Kuck-Kup they number 23 lodges and will probably reach 250 souls. I have issued to them a quantity of goods in consideration of their removing. I wrote you in reference to seeds for these Indians and would be glad if you could authorize the purchase of potatoes for seed or rather furnish funds for the purchase of the same.

One object I wish to attain by Mr. Raymond giving below is to get if possible a team and and (sic) man to drive the same to the reservation and there ^{assist} ~~request~~ the Indians in breaking some land for spring crops. Please give all the assistance you can.

Respectfully etc

R.R. Thompson Indian Agent

A.F. Hedges, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Oregon.

1857 No. 94(Enclosure to)

3

Office Special Ind. Agent W.T.

Dalles, O.T. March 28, 1857

J.C. Geer, esq, sir:

On your arrival at the Simcoe you are hereby authorized to temporarily take charge of the friendly Indians in that section.

You will examine into their condition as to whether any of them are actually suffering for want of food or clothing and report to this office at the earliest practicable period.

You will also ascertain as near as practicable the names of the chiefs of the different bands which have remained friendly the past winter, the number of persons belonging to each band; the location of each band etc. and report the same as early as convenient.

It will be your duty to keep me advised in reference to the general condition and the deportment of the Indians in the Yakama. And you are especially requested to communicate freely your views and suggestions in reference to the policy that in your judgment will best secure the peace of the country.

Very Respectfully

Your Most Obedt. (servant implied)

A.H. Robie,

Special Indian Agt. W.T.

Department of the Interior, Office Indian Affairs

March 18, 1857

Sir:

You have been appointed by the president, by and with the advise and consent of the Senate to be superintendent of Indian Affairs for the Territories of Washington and Oregon, and I herewith enclose your commission and the form of an official bond and oath.

The bond will be executed by yourself with three or more surities in the presence of witnesses in the penal sum of seventy thousand dollars and the sufficiency of your surities for the amount of the penalty of the bond must be certified to by an U.S. district judge or an U.S. Attorney.

The oath of office must be taken before a judge of a United States Court or a justice of Peace and if taken before a justice, his official character must be certified to under seal of the proper court or office.

The section of the act of March 3rd, 1857 by which the office to which you have been appointed was created in the following words:

"And be it further enacted that in lieu of the provisions ~~of~~ for the exercise of the duties of the superintendents of Indian Affairs in the Territories of Oregon, Washington, Utah and New Mexico as now provided by law, the president be and he is hereby authorized to appoint by and with the advice and consent of the senate, one superintendent of Indian (Affairs) for the Territories of Washington at Oregon at the annual salary of twenty five hundred dollars, one superintendent of Indian affairs for the territory of New Mexico and one for the Territory of Utah, each at the annual salary two thousand dollars, and that and from and after such separation of the duties of said offices, the governor of Washington shall receive the same salary as that paid to the governor of Oregon and the Governors of Utah and New Mexico shall each receive the salary of twenty five hundred dollars. The superintendents of Indian affairs in the Territories of Oregon, Washington Utah and New Mexico shall negotiate no treaties with any Indian tribes within

such territories unless instructed thereto by the President of the United States,....

..... Geo Mannypenny, commissioner

to Jame W. Nesmith , esq. Dallas, Polk county, Oregon.

Indian Agency, Dalles, April 25, 1857

Sir:

Since my arrival at this place I have made myself acquainted with most of the chiefs and principalmen belonging to the Deshutes, Wasco and Dalles tribes of Indians. The other tribes in my district I have not been able to learn much about. The tribes with whom I have become acquainted are all well disposed towards our people with the exception of Stockwhitley and a few of his people and I do not apprehend any difficulty with them.

The Dalles and ~~xxx~~ a large part of the Deshutes Indians are now upon the Warm Springs Reservation, numbering about five hundred. They are contented and well pleased with their location.

The Wascos are still in the vicinity of the Dalles. This tribe is cultivating about 15 acres of land and have very comfortable cabins ~~e~~ to live in. They are willing to go upon the reserve whenever requested ~~xxxx~~ so to do. They understand however that the treaty guarantees to them the same or improvements upon the reserve and they do not expect to be required to remove until the government makes or commences to make such improvement. My opinion is that it would be impolitic to remove them until this fall. after harvest as they have all their planting and sowing done and in the meantime make the ~~improvements~~ improvements upon the ~~xxxxxx~~ reserve. It will be greatly to the advantage of these Indians to be removed as soon as possible also to people living in the neighborhood of the Dalles.

Stockwhitley and a portion of his tribe are camped on Fifteen Mile creek. I believe they will be willing to go upon the reserve as soon as the season for catching salmon is over. They are very poor.

The Dog River Indians are camped on Dog River and are under the charge of Local Agent Benton. I am told they are decidedly opposed to going on the Warm Springs Reservation but are willing and anxious to go on the White Salmon Reserve which is directly opposite to where they now live. I believe it would be better both for the government and the Indians that

this change should be made

The Indians upon the reserve are very willing to labor and are making very laudible efforts to subsist themselves, but they will not be able to do much towards that this year. I shall do all in my power to encourage them. Yesterday I dispatched two waggons to the reserve loaded with seeds for planting, agricultural implements and ~~provisions~~ provisions for the laborers. One of these teams I purchased (a wagon and four good oxen) to be used upon the reserve and the other I hired for the occasion.

I have at present six men employed upon the reserve. They are engaged ploughing and making rails. I have directed them as soon as done ploughing to commence the erection of an agency building. I have deemed these improvements actually necessary for the maintenance of peace. I also think it necessary that cabins should be built for the Indians before the winter season.

The Indians in my district are settled over so large a section of country and at so many different places and no sub agent provided by the government I have deemed it actually and absolutely necessary to appoint (sic) a local agent to live upon the reserve at the Warm Springs and have appointed Mr. J.W. Knight to act in that capacity subject to your approval. Mr. Knight was highly recommended by Mr. Thompson, Gates, Simms and Hamanson and from what I have seen of the man I believe he is well qualified for the place. I hope my action will meet ~~with~~ your approbation.

I shall leave here about the 1st of May for the Reserve. After my return I shall be prepared to make up my estimates for this and the ensuing quarters.

I desire you will instruct me as to what kind and to what extent improvements are to be made upon the reservation and the policy to be pursued towards the different tribes of Indians. This will enable me to make up correct estimates of expenses.

operations
My ~~operations~~ operations are very much embarrassed for want of money. I trust therefore you will supply me as soon as possible. I want for immediate use at least thirty thousand dollars, a large of this (sic) to pay off present indebtedness. I shall be pleased at all times to

? instructions and suggestions in regard to my duty.

I am etc.

A.P. Dennison, Ind. Agent

to J.W. Nesmith, esq. Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, O.T.

[1857 N . 77]

Dept. of the Interior, Office Indian Affairs

February 10th, 1857

Sir:

Amie P. Dennison esq. has been appointed by the president , by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to be U.S. Agent for the Indians in Oregon in place of Nathan Olney, resigned. His commission has today been transmitted to his address at Portland , Oregon with a form for the official bond and oath and instructions in all respects similar to those given to Robert B. Metcalf and John F. Miller, as my letter of 25th August last addressed to you. You will carry out in regard to Mr. Dennison and his entry upon the duties the same instructions given in cases of Messrs Metcalf and Miller

Very respectful yetc.

Geo. Manypenny , commissioner

A.F. Hedges, esq. Supt. Ind. Affairs,
Oregon City, Oregon.

Office Indian Agent

Dalles, O.T. July 10th, 1857

Sir:

The bearer, Jim desires to remove from the Grand Round to the Warm Spring Reserve. He says the Dalles is his native place. Mark, chief of the Wascoes has been to see me and says if you are willing Jim should remove with his family to the Warm Springs Reserve, he should be very glad to have him do so. There has been some talk here lately about the Mole Allays moving here, the Indians here are apposed to it, and I hope they will not be permitted to remove.

Oh-Hi is at White Salmon. He has sent for me to come and see him. I think I shall go tomorrow.

There is not much said about the order issued to Genl. Clark. Nothing new of importance .

Respectfully etc.

A.P. Dennison, Ind. Agent
to J.W. Nesmith, Esq. Supt. Indian Affairs, Salem O.T.

^a
[Ow-hi, Yakima chief and a signer of the Treaty Council of "alla "alla, was killed late the following summer (1858) in the Palouse country. This is the most distant point to the southward of ~~xxxxxxx~~ Oh-Hi, presumed to be Oh-Hi, that documentary evidence has been found. He is the chief the Yakimas claimed at Ceded lands Hearing 161 was the signer for the "anapums]

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, No. 2 1857 No. 179

Office Indian Agent, Dalles, O.T. July 11, 18

Sir:

The bearer, Thomas, desires to remove from the Grand Ronde to the Warm Spring Reservation, this is his native place and his relatives are anxious to have him return. I have told him if you were willing he should remove. I should be glad to have him come. I write this at his and his relatives request.

Respectfully etc.

A. P. Dennison, Ind. Agent

To J.W. Nesmith, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Salem, O.T.

P.S. There has been no effort yet to remove those persons living on the opposite side of the river. ..I saw Owhi (sic) yesterday at White Salmon. I will write you in a few days. A.P.D.

Fort Vancouver, W.T. July 9th, 1857

General:

I have a friend, an old gentleman who has a shanty on the north bank of the Columbia River opposite the Dalles, for the purpose of trading with the employes of the Quartermasters Department engaged in transporting supplies to Fort Simcoe and to pick up what little Indian trade there may be on that side of the river.

He informs me that he expects to be ordered off and desired me to write you for your consent to let him remain.

Knowing him to be an honest man and a good citizen, I do not hesitate to comply with his request--hoping that you will not think me impertinent in doing so. If this privilege can not be granted and it is not inconsistent with your duties or inclinations he would be under great obligation as well as the subscriber if you would permit him to go to Walla Walla as an Indian trader.

I have the honor to be sir,

Very Respectfully

Your obt. servt.

J.R. Daniel

To Genl. J.W. Nesmith,

Superintendent of Indian Affairs

Oregon and Washington Territories, Salem, Oregon.

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs. Roll 15, Microcopy 2 No. 1857 No. 192

Head Quarters Dept. of the Pacific

San Francisco, Cal. July 28, 1857

Colonel: Brigadier General Clarke, commanding, has received your letter of July 15th.

You will have seen by the order enclosed you that your wishes in relation to an increased force at Umpqua are being carried out.

The enclosed copy of a letter to Major Garnett will evince to you the desire of the General to meet your views, as to the surrender of the guilty Indians, and explain why he cannot make the preemptory demand you think should be made.

He hopes that a surrender, so much desired by both you and himself, may be obtained.

Orders will be given to the officers east of the Cascades to furnish guards, on your request, when it can be done.

Owing to previous complications the general regrets that he has not been in all things able to meet your views.

I am sir very respectfully

Your obt. servant

W.W. Mackall

Col. J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Oregon and Washington Territories, Salem, Oregon.

P.S. When reports are ~~recent~~ received from Major Garnett and Lt. Col. Steptoe the general will again communicate with you and if he can then comply with your request he will do so cheerfully.

Respy.

W.W. Mackall.

Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Roll 15, Microcopy 2 1857 No. 201

Valles, August 13, 1857

J. W. Nesmith, Esq. Dear Sir:

On the 30th of July Col. Wright notified the parties living on the opposite side of the river to move. Mr. Morse immediately complied with his request sold out his effects and left. Mr. OConnell refused to move, stating that he held his claim under the donation law--things stood this way until the 5th of August when the Col. sent a force of men over the river took down O Connells house and moved it and all his traps on this side of the river. Since then I have heard nothing said.

There is no news from the interior worth relating. The Indians are all quiet so far as I know.

Respectfully etc.

A. P. Dennison