

Oregon Suptoy. Indian Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 14, Microcopy 2

1856 No. 38

Executive Office,

Olympia, Jan. 23, 1856

Genl. Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Oregon.

Sir:

I intend being in the city of Portland as soon as the 5th proximo at which time and place I should be pleased to meet and confer with you relative to the Indian relations in our respective territories.

Very Respectfully

Ir obt. svt.

Isaac I. Stevens

Governor of Wash. Territory.

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs, 1848-73 Roll 14, microcopy 2

Copy:

Head Quarters Rgt. O.M.V.

1856 No. 42

Camp Mill Creek, Jany. 31, 1856

Special Orders No. 9

Lt. A. Hannan of Co. H ? will proceed tomorrow to camp Cornoyer and receive from him three Indians, "at-astee-me-nee or Painted Earth; Sta-how-ee or McKay and Tock or Potatoe Heap, prisoners of war and with as much expedition as possible safely conduct them to his Ectly. ~~George~~ Geo. L. Curry, governor of Oregon to whom you will surrender them. You will take with you as an escort Jacob Fill and seven others from company A and F.M. Ilphin (or Allison) and nine others from your command and John B. Hall from Company D.

Per order of

Thos. R. Cornelius

Col. Commdy. Rgt. O.M.V.

W.H. Farrar,

Adjtof rht

1856 No. 91

Dalles O.T. February 23, 1856

Sir: Upon the departure of Mr. R.R. Thompson Ind. Agent for the Wallamette Valley he requested me to take charge of the district during his absence. Since which I have thought best to desire the band of friendly Cayuses encamped in the Walla Wallah valley to remove to the Nez Perce country there to remain until peace is declared or until such period as some other disposition may be advised by yourself. My reasons for so doing are these: The friendly Cayuses have had their stock taken from them at different times by the Volunteers and there thence was danger that such action might lead to ~~serious~~ serious difficulty. Again as soon as the enemy came over into their country the Volunteer would be liable to make mistakes not distinguishing readily between friends and foes. Lastly thought not of the least importance the enemy could and probably would constantly receive intelligence as to the numbers and movements of our troops. The Nez Perce chief Red Wolf who came down with Gov. Stevens and who has been staying at my house informed me that it was the desire of his people that the friendly Cayuses should come up and remain with them until the conclusion of ~~hostilities~~ hostilities.

The bands of friendly Indians about the Dalles particularly those immediately under my charge are beginning to complain of a want of provisions. I would respectfully suggest that a supply of beef and flour should be immediately procured for their subsistence otherwise I ~~additionally~~ fear that as the spring advances they will become more and more dissatisfied and restless until they will attempt to join the enemy and in so doing cause loss of property and life. There is now on hand a quantity of flour but it is small in comparison with the amount required for their maintenance.

Very respectfully
Your obt. servant

To Genl. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind.
Affairs.

Nathan Olney, Indian Agent

1856 No. 103

Dalles Feby 18, 1856

Sir: I have the honor of acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 12th Dec. 1855(sic) and in reply I must say that I was somewhat surprised and extremely sorry that you have pronounced my official acts during my recent visit to the Cayuse country and that of the "alla Wallahs void and without force. I maybe mistaken in saying so, but I most certainly was under the impression that you desired me to act in conjunction with Agent Thompson and assist him in taking care of, and controlling the bands of friendly Indians in ~~that~~ that district. You must certainly recollect that I was anxious to resign my commission as Indian Agent and join the Volunteers service where my prospects were fair to be elected to the office of Lieut. Col. You insisted upon my remaining in the department as you needed my services during the present unsettled and uncertain state of our Indian relations and even intimated to me that you depended more upon me to keep quiet the Indians that then were friendly and prevent those that were uncertain from becoming hostile than any other person in the district. I hope you will pardon the error if the above statements are not correct for I certainly would not have presumed to exercise authority that I believed or knew to be an assumption. If so I have done wrong "it is my misfortune, not my fault." In reply to that part of your letter referring to the employing of persons now or heretofore in the service in the service of the Hudsons Bay Co. I must beg leave to say that I have not done so except ~~unwillingly~~ compelled by necessity and having the precedent furnished me by those higher in authority than myself, I did not suppose that I was acting in contradiction to the policy of our government.

If I am not mistaken all the interpreters employed by both yourself and Gov. at the council in the Walla Wallah country were formerly employees in the Hudson's Bay Co., your secretary at the same time Wm. C McKay esq had been a clerk in the same companies store, while the same objection can be urged to Tabu Felle, your interpreter, Matthew Dofer, that

of Agent Thompson and Tababoo that of my own, I do not for a moment suppose that these persons were engaged with a view of violating the policy. You mention but simply as a matter of necessity, none others possessing the requisite ~~man~~ qualifications.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. servt.

Nathan Olney, Ind. Agent

Genl. Joel Palmer, super. In Affairs

Office, Superintendent Ind. Affairs, Dayton O.T.

1856 No. 121

Private

Dalles March 18th, 1856

Dear Sir:

Will you please send me the date and amount of flour I receipted for last fall also any property returns I may have sent to your office.

Mr. Olney appears to be very anxious to have this district and now that he knows that I have resigned he expects it and will speak to you about it. He tells me that you assented to his stock going on the reserve, which is of itself a pretty good index of what he desires. He gives me to understand that he will endeavor by his action in the performance of the duty to which you have assigned him to ~~convince~~ convince you that he is deserving of the place he desires although he may find circumstances while below that will entirely change his present wishes.

The Indians are all pleased with the arrangements as now understood.

Col. Wright has set Monday or Tuesday as the day for his departure.

Yours Sincerely

R.R. Thompson

Joel Palmer Esq. Dayton Oregon

March 24 It is true as I told you when at Dayton that Olney was left in charge of the district during my absence.

The regulars leave on tomorrow. Send me a pit saw for the reserve. I think it probable that there may be some men and teams secured at this place should they be required. Let me hear from you as soon as possible.

R.R. Thompson

Received 2 April, '56 No. 21 Dalles, 18 March, 1856

R.R. Thompson. Private.

Oregon Supt. Ind. Affairs "oll 14, M crocopy 2

1856 No. ~~x143~~ 132

Headquarters Fort Vancouver W.T.

March ~~22nd~~ 30th ~~22~~ 1856

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that some time ago I received your letter of the 20th instant with one from col Wright and very recently your communication of the 25th inst. You are aware of the exposed situation of this post and the town adjoining the buildings scattered over a large extent of ground and but one company left to garrison and defend it in case of an attack. That company has just returned from the Cascades where I had sent it to endeavor to succor the inhabitants and relieve the Block House, the inhabitants in the vicinity of this place are much alarmed and many are moving in with their families. It would be imprudent and wrong for me to detach any of my force and I regret that I will not be able to send you the troops you require. I know full well the necessity of having a large force in the Grand Ronde reservation. At least one company ought to be there. I think Genl. Wool will come up on the next steamer when I will communicate with him on the subject, probably he send a company to the Reservation as soon as possible

I regret that I did not see you when you passed here from the Dalles.

I am etc.

T. Morris, Lt. Col. 4th Infy Co ndy.

Genl. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs etc. Dayton O.T.

1856 No. 151

Steamer Columbia, April 19th, 1856

Sir: When the steamer Columbia arrived opposite Port Orford on her way down from Portland to San Francisco the wind blew so hard and the sea was so rough that she could not land so I was compelled to remain on board and proceed to the latter place and remain until her return.

She will arrive at ~~Portland~~ Port Orford about 12 o'clock to night and will remain only long enough to discharge a small amount of freight and some half dozen passengers which will detain her perhaps two hours. The time being so short and in the night season I fear it will be impossible for me to acquaint you with the state of affairs at that place by this steamer.

I am very sorry that have been so (sic) long detained away from my field (sic) of duty and prevented from acquainting you fully with regard to the state of our Indian relations in Southern Oregon. I will however try and give you a full report by return steamer.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

Nathan Olney, Indian Agent.

Gen. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Supt. Office.

1856 No. 157

Head Quarters Fort Vancouver W.T. April 15, 1856

Sir:

Your express (Mr. Ewing) has just arrived with a communication for Genl. Wool and one for the Indian Agt. at Fort Dalles.

On the afternoon of the 13th the General accompanied by Col. Wright left here for the Cascades and Fort Dalles. I do not know when he will return but think he will be back on the 17th or 18th. Lieut. Colonel Norman of the artillery will leave on the Bell today for Fort Dalles and will take up the two communications and have them delivered as soon as possible.

I am etc.

T. Morris,

Lt. Col 4th Infy. Commandy.

General Joel Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Dayton O.T.

Oregon Suptcy. Ind. Affairs

Dalles, April 17th, 1856

Dear Sir: Your note of the 6th inst requesting receipt for goods was received this evening and will be attended to without delay. Will you send me the amount and date of the receipt I gave you for the first flour received last fall.

Cornelouses command are yet on the north side of the river opposite this place. On last night they lost 25 head of horses.

The opinion here is that as soon as the volunteers are withdrawn from the field, this place will be attacked by the Indians (clonas)

Everything comparatively quiet with the friendly bands in this vicinity. Through the press and otherwise I remain informed of the difficulties you are compelled to meet. ~~Odorous~~ If I can be of service to you in any way please inform me, for I assure you it will give me pleasure if I can in the remotest degree assist you.

Respectfully etc.

R. R. Thompson

Joel Palmer esq.

Dayton O.T.

In haste.

Suptcy. Indian Affairs, Ore. Ty. Roll 14, microcopy 2

Vancouver, 27th April 1856

(un-numbered)

My dear friend:

I have the most favorable news from southern Oregon.

Much has been done by the troops since I came here. Now is the time.

Can you not come down with me to meet Col. Buchanan at Fort Orford. Go with me if it is possible. Do not fail and I think we will put an end to the war in Southern Oregon.

Most truly Yours

John E. Wool

Major Genl.

To Joel Palmer,

Superintendency Indian Affairs in Oregon.

1856 Document [B] of No. 317

Agency Office, Dalles Oct. 8th, 1856

Sir:

In addition to the information given in my letter of the 24th ultimo I would inform you of the arrival of Sym-tes-tus, head chief of the Tiach band of ~~the~~ DeShutts, his followers who came with him will number about eighty souls. Stoke-ote-ly, chief of the Lower Band of DeShutts is on his way to this place, being tired of the war. Wen-nem-snoot, chief of the Umatillas is also reported coming in.

All those Indians who have been hostile and are now surrendering themselves are in a very destitute condition, being ~~xxxx~~ nearly naked and without provisions of any description and will have to be fed during the winter on their necessities will drive them to commit acts of depredation on the property of the whites. My course of policy with them would be as follows: to feed them as little as possible and thusly compell them to part with the horses they now possess this would secure their good conduct beyond all done as they would thusly be entirely dependent on the whites. This object will be accomplished in six or eight weeks from this time.

In event of the absolute necessity for issuing a large amount of subsistence during the coming winter as also the difficulties and risks attending the transportation of freight during the winter around the Cascades I would suggest the propriety of shipping at as early a day as possible all such articles as must come from the Willamette And in this connection I would remark that in my opinion the best way to supply the Indians of this district with flour is to purchase it in the market in the Willamette and ship to the agent at thisplace. Beef will be required but not much at present. The price of beef on foot at this place has ranged from ten to fourteen cents per pound. Estimate for the present quarter. Salary of agent \$375; interpreter \$125; two local agents \$500; incidental expenses \$500; salary of physician ~~\$500~~ \$250; clothing for

Indians \$4,000, carried forward \$575; brought forward \$575; beef during the month of Dec., \$1,000 , \$6,750.

Estimates for the first quarter \$1857; salary of agent \$375; two local agents \$500; interpreter \$125; physician \$250; incidental expenses \$500; clothing for Indians \$1,000; beef \$5,000 , \$7,750 , total for half year \$14,500,00

The above estimates do not include anything for flour or the transportation thereof but is made upon the presumption that the flour and transportation will be paid by the superintendent.

It is very difficult to make an estimate with any degree of accuracy as it is ~~xxx~~ uncertain how many Indians may come in during the winter. I am satisfied the above is not too large.

Very Respectfully etc.

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent

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

1856 No. 367

Agent's Office, Dalles, Dec 8, 1856

Sir: I would report to you the fact that a large number of the Indians under my charge residing in this vicinity are in a very destitute condition, having neither food nor the means with which to buy.

Many of them have sold or exchanged their horses for provisions, horses are daily offered at very low prices but purchases are becoming exceedingly scarce. Quite a number of horses have already been killed for food. And unless these people are relieved before long their necessities will drive them to acts of depredations which will result in our people declaring war upon them.

For seeing this state of things I brought the fact to your notice when you were here, and urged upon you the importance and propriety of at once forwarding to this agency at least 25 tons of flour, which you promised to forward immediately on your return to the superintendency. At the time of your visit you requested me to furnish you estimates for the present and succeeding year and you would promptly remit the necessary funds to meet the expenses of this agency. The estimates were made and forwarded to your office, but I am sorry to say that I have received no flour or funds not even an acknowledgement of the receipt of my communication.

The weather at present is very severe for this season of year, the snow at this place is now about six inches deep and still snowing from the indications it is probable the river will close in a few weeks.

Should I receive no assistance from your office I will purchase such supplies as I may be able to get at this place on the credit of the Department.

I have had an interview with Col. Wright in reference to obtaining a command to go to the Warm Spring reservation in the spring. The Col. informs me that he communicated the wish of this Dept.

]Communication ends here. Endorsement follows on
next page]