

Olympia, Puget Sound

Washington Territory Jan 7, 1854

Sir:

I have to beg you to communicate such information as is in your office on certain points important to know in respect to the direction and management of such Indian tribes as inhabit the confines of the two territories and lie partially in either jurisdiction.

What do your returns exhibit as the total returns of the Wallas not including the Klickatats or Yakamas and of the Nez Perces and Cayuses? What do you understand to be the boundaries of their respective countries and what proportion of each lie on either side of the line separating Oregon from Washington Territory?

What suggestion would you make respecting the government of these tribes so as to prevent clashing and inconvenient interference between local agents? Would it be better to effect removal into one or another jurisdiction to unit with the authority of the department, in the selection of the agents, each being charged with half his salary or do you consider the different bands or any of them as sufficiently distinct to be treated separately?

Could not those of the Walla Wallas living north of the Columbia be placed under control of the Yakama chiefs, the Cayuses removed entirely into Oregon and the Nez Perces divided into two bands, one under the direction of each and separated say by the Snake and KoosKooskie river?

What arrangements for agencies do you maintain among these tribes, ~~and where~~ and where do they reside and what rank have you assigned them?

I will with great pleasure cooperate with you in arranging these matters in such a manner as will best suit the public interest and trust that you will favor me with a reply at your earliest convenience.

I have the honor etc.

Hon. Joel Palmer, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Dayton O.T.

I. T. Stevens
gov and supt.

Office Supt. of Indian Affairs

Dayton, O.T. January 16, 1854

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 7th instant requesting such information as may be in this office in respect to the management of the Indian tribes inhabiting the confines of the two districts and lying partially in both jurisdictions is this day received and I cheerfully comply with your request ~~in so far as~~ ~~as far as~~ ^{so} far as any statistical information derived from the records can be obtained.

The reports of General Lane and Dr. Dart late Supt. differ in their estimates so materially in regard to the numerical strength of the Walla Walla, Nez Perces and Cayuses as to leave the subject in much uncertainty and the agent in that district has not yet reported to this office his estimates of the numbers of these tribes.

General Lane estimates the Walla Wallas at one thousand, Dr. Dart at one hundred and thirty! I am at a loss to account for such a discrepancy since no fatal malady raged in this tribe during the interval between the two enumerations to have so greatly reduced it, and my impression is that while the estimate of General Lane is too high that of Dr. Dart is too low.

The boundary between the Walla Wallas and Cayuses is not at all definite, but it is thought that but a small part of the territory of the former, if any, is within the limits of this Territory. In General Lane's report the Walla Wallas are said to ~~possess~~ possess the country on the Columbia near Fort Walla Walla." Dr. Dart says they live "principally on the waters of the Walla Walla river.

My understanding of their boundary is derived from members of the tribe in 1848, ~~as~~ is as follows:

Commencing on the south side of the Columbia river a short distance above the mouth of the Uilla, it runs easterly so as to cross the

Walla Walla about ten or twelve miles above fort Walla Walla; thence north easterly to the Snake river about twenty or twenty five miles from its mouth, thence down said river and across the Columbia to a point about 20 miles west of the last named river, thence south westerly to the mouth of the first stream emptying into the Columbia on the north side, a little above the mouth of John Day's river.

In speaking of the Nez Perces, Gen. Lane states that they "inhabit a large portion of the country on the Snake, Clear Water and Salmon rivers, and he estimates their total number at fifteen hundred. Dr. Dart says "they occupy a large tract of country north and east of the Cayuses and Walla Walla and are divided into fifteen bands which number in all 1880 souls." Their boundaries as I have understood them commence on the south side of Snake river at the boundary of the Walla Walla, thence westerly with that boundary to the Toshe or Too-can i river, I am not certain which, thence by the stream to the Blue Mountains, thence crossing said mountains diagonally to Snake river about forty miles above the mouth of Salmon river, thence first in an easterly direction and then northerly crossing Salmon river and Clear Water or Koos-Koos-Kie river to the boundary of the Paloosies who inhabit the country in the fork of Snake and Columbia rivers; thence on the boundary of the last named tribe westerly to Snake river ten or twelve miles below the Red Wolf's ground which is about two miles below the Fluted Rocks. As to their numbers I think Gen. Lane's estimate sufficiently high. Their principal villages are south of Snake and Koos Koos Kie rivers. The largest ~~and perhaps~~ band perhaps known as Ellis Band, till his death their head chief, ~~is~~ reside on Salmon river. It is understood that the Nez Perces and Cayuses claim jointly the Grand Ronde but neither tribe has unless recently made any permanent settlement there. My knowledge of the country is not sufficient to warrant me in saying what ^{portion} ~~position~~ ^{of} ~~position~~, if any, the Nez Perces are within the limits of this territory, nor how much of the country

claimed by them lies within our boundary (sic)

In describing the country of the Cayuses General Lane says "the Cayuse Indians inhabit the country from the foot of ^{the} Blue Mountains to within twenty twenty five miles of Walla Walla (meaning I presume the Hudson's Bay Co.'s Fort) this band consists of about eight hundred " Dr. Dart says the Cayuses occupying the country south and east of the Walla Wallas number one hundred and twenty six."

I have understood their boundaries to be as follows: Commencing on the left bank of the Columbia river near the mouth of Willow Creek, thence up the river to the boundary of the Walla Wallas near the mouth of the Uilla river; thence easterly to the Tooshi or Too-Cannon (not certain which) the western boundary of the Nez Perces, thence easterly with the boundary of that tribe to the summit of the Blue Mountains; thence southerly along said range to the head waters of the northern branch of the John Day's river and thence in a direct line to the mouth of Willow Creek. Of the number of this tribe I cannot speak definitely as no return is yet received of the census. I have ordered to be made. The Cayuses and the lower bands of the Nez Perces are closely united by intermarriage and identity of interest, but ~~and~~ with the upper bands of that tribe they though at peace with them, are not on the most cordial terms.

In reply to your inquiry as to my views respecting the future government of these tribes I would suggest that in as much as they have heretofore been embraced in one agency and as their interests are so nearly identical, they continue under the supervision of one agent until the policy of the government be fully established in regard to the management of the Indian tribes inhabiting the western coast, and their permanent location fixed by treaty stipulations. An exception may however with propriety be made in case of those of the Walla Walla tribe ~~inhabiting~~ inhabiting the country in the immediate vicinity of the Yakamas, provided the consent of Yellow Serpent, their head chief can be obtained which is somewhat doubtful as he is a man

exceedingly tenacious of his rights and withal a man of influence and strongly attached to the Americans. In all the difficulties heretofore between the whites and Indians in that region he has uniformly been found acting as far as his position in relation to the Hudson's Bay Company would permit, on the side of the Americans. In all the difficulties heretofore between the whites and Indians in that region I refer to this as I am aware that interested parties have for this cause endeavored to lessen his strength and importance and ~~sk~~ transfer it to others less friendly and over whom influences adverse to American interests can be exerted.

I have recommended in my letters to the Indian Department the early extinguishment of Indian title to all the lands belonging to these three tribes within this territory, as a measure important to the preservation of peace.

The usually travelled emigrant roads from the Atlantic States to this Territory passes directly through the country occupied by the Cayuses, much of which is also that of the Nez Perces and Wallawallas possess such attraction as an agricultural and grazing country as to render it impracticable much longer to restrain our enterprising citizens from its occupation. I have also suggested that a strip of country on each side of the emigrant road be purchased at an early day and the Indians removed from it, sufficiently broad to place the emigrant effectually beyond range of annoyance from the savages and prepare the way for a continuous chain of settlements whenever the country is susceptible (sic) fit from the Rocky Mountains to this valley. As I confidently expect Congress at this session to authorize treaties for the extinguishment of title to their lands with the tribes in middle Oregon I would suggest it as best to make no change in the management of these tribes till the action of Congress is known.

The Nez Perces have long desired the residence of an agent among them; the distance from their extreme eastern settlement to the agency

on the Uilla is not less than two hundred miles, hence it may be necessary ultimately to establish an Agency or sub agency among the Upper Nez Perces.

The Nez Perces are at present without a head chief and it is probable they may be induced to divide so as to place all on the north side of the Snake and Koos Kooskie rivers in a separate agency embracing all the country between these streams, the Spokane and Columbia Rivers

The organization of Washington Territory and the great ~~advantages~~ advantages held out to settlers will undoubtedly induce emigrants to seek ~~an~~ a more and direct ~~route~~ better route to the settlements than the circuitous and tedious old wagon ~~road~~ road to Walla Walla. One of these routes will probably leave the old road at Fort Boise and continue down the north side of Snake River, through the settlement of the Nez Perces on Salmon river, cross to the Spokane or pass by a more direct route on the Spokane Plains to the Columbia, the former however would most likely be taken as settlement will I doubt not soon be found on the Spokane. And the route will provably ^{leave} ~~have~~ the old road as far back as Fort Hall and pass through Salmon River mountains arrive at the waters of Salmon River and thence to the Koos Kooskie and descending that stream to a convenient point pass to the head waters of the ~~Yakima~~ Yakama. Explorations in that country during the coming spring and summer might enable us to act more understandingly in the establishment of agencies and in determining the localities in which to colonize the Indian tribes, should that policy be adopted by the government.

The rank of the incumbent at Uilla is that of a full agent. The agency buildings erected by direction of my predecessor cost over three thousand dollars; it is a mere shell and the only advantage is in its location viz, it being on the thoroughfare of emigration.

Should the three tribes be assigned to one agency the agents residence should be as far east as the Tokannon or Tooshe.

I regard it of little consequence under which superintendency the agency is established may be placed; and as it is believed the larger part of these tribes reside in Washington Territory, it would probably be better to place it under your jurisdiction. It is proper to say that these tribes are sufficiently distinct to be treated with separately, if it ~~is~~ be found desirable to do so.

The agency at Uvilla is the only one in Middle and Upper Oregon.

I enclose you an extract from my letter to the Department the 8th July last on the subject of boundary between the two territories and that of entering into treaties with the Indians of Middle Oregon.

I am very respectfully etc.

Joel Palmer,

Supt. Ind. Affairs

His excellency

I.I. Stevens, Gov. W. Territory

Supt. Ind. Affairs, Olympia W.T.

p. 368.

Annual Report of R.R. Thompson, Ind. Agt.

(no date) -

Sir:

In conformity with the regulations of the Indian Department and in compliance with your circular of the 11th of last April, I have the honor to transmit the following as my first annual report.

The country embraced within this agency district lies on the south side of the Columbia River, between the 46th and 44 degrees of North Latitude and between the summit of the Rocky and Cascade Mountains, on the east and west respectively. It may be characterized as mountainous, having the heavy swells of the Rocky, the Blue and the Cascade mountains, the latter are apparently connected by the ridges of the Mutton Mountain (said to derive the name from the Bighorn which is occasionally seen there still) whose course is nearly east and west and therefore at right angles with the general direction of the other ranges.

The soil for the most part is undoubtedly fertile, and yields throughout a luxuriant growth of highly nutritious grass for which animals manifest a great fondness. It is commonly called bunchgrass. The country in consequence is well adapted to the raising of stock, and the Indians have accumulated large herds of horses and cattle. The former of a very superior breed to which they are much attached and devote a large portion of time to their attention.

The Cayuses, Nez Perces and Walla Walla tribes have immense numbers and may be considered wealthy. The horse represents wealth with them. They are virtually governed by an aristocracy as each one enjoys a relative position and influence among themselves in proportion to the numbers of horses ~~km~~ he possesses.

As a general thing the country is destitute of large quantities of timber, except on the mountains owing no doubt to the aridity of the climate, and custom of Indians to burn the grass annually setting fires

to and destroying much valuable timber.

The varieties are pines, fir and white oak on the uplands with cottonwood, willow, hack berry p. 269 birch and choke cherry on the lowlands bordering on the streams.

Portions of the country are well watered and on the margin of the streams generally is to be found an alluvial deposit furnishing a superior soil for gardening purposes while the hills are well adapted to the cultivation of cereal grains. The soil yields abundantly with very little labor, and on this account many Indians have commenced farming, producing wheat, corn and potatoes with many of the culinary vegetables, and are no mean cultivators. The Nez Perces, Cayuses, Wascos and Tyich tribes particularly are very good husbandmen.

The streams owing to the character of the country are not navigable with the exception of the Columbia from the Cascade Falls up to the Dalles which is navigable by a steamboat and several schooners of one hundred tons burden. But the streams notwithstanding are of great importance as they furnish during the running season of the salmon an inexhaustible supply of this delicious fish. The Indians in the western portion of this district rely principally upon the food, on account of the great abundance in which it is found, and the ease with which they are taken, but it is no longer deemed an indispensable article of food for them as they have beef, horseflesh and vegetables, wild berries, fruits and nuts, the three last are found in great quantities.

The Indians of the central and eastern portion of this district are active intelligent and warlike, rapid in their movements from their superior horsemanship and to be feared most on account of their ability to commit sudden depredations upon unsuspecting settlers who are widely scattered over the territory, and in the event of hostilities to protract the war. The western Indians are more indolent, sparsely supplied with horses and little inclined to warfare--they may safely be regarded as permanent friends of the whites.

I would here remark that there appears to be a marked distinction in the habits manners and pursuits of the Indians within this agency. They may properly be p. 270

divided into three classes, viz: The North Eastern, the North Western, and the Southern. Those on the N.E. are the Cayuses, Nez Perces, Flatheads and those of the Shoshones known as Mountain Snakes. Those on the N.W. are the John Day, the Des Chutez, Ty-ich, Wasco and Dog River or Cascade Indians. Those of the south are the Klamath and those Shoshones known as Diggers.

The mountain Snake Indians are a branch of the root diggers (who in the extreme south are presumed to be the lowest order of the aboriginal race and have a common language. They occupy the country on the north and east of Fort Hall and to the south to include Bear River Valley. These Indians gradually improve in their habits and intelligence as they approach the northern and eastern extremities of their country.

The Flatheads lie to the north of the Mountain Snakes, occupying the valleys between the Bitter Root and Rocky Mountains. From Mr. John Owen, a gentleman who has been trading with them for the past three years I learn that they have ever been on the most friendly terms with our people and make it their boast that they have never taken whiteman's blood.

They are gradually decreasing in numbers from the attacks of their much dreaded enemies, the Black Feet, who make frequent incursions into their country murthering and pillaging all who may be so unfortunate as to fall into their power. They complain that while other tribes entertaining hostile feeling toward the whites have received the attention of government they, notwithstanding their uniform good conduct have been entirely neglected, but wish to assure the United States of their continued friendship and hope some action will be taken to protect them from the Black Feet.

A few bands of the Nez Perces Indians occupy the Salmon River and the Clear Water within this district. The principal part lies in Washington Territory and therefore need no special description.

The Cayuse live on the west side of the Blue Mountains and south of the Columbia River. These with the Nez Perce are believed to be the most intelligent Indians west of the Rocky Mountains. All p 271
thesenorth eastern Indians go to the east side of the rocky mountains in quest of Buffalo and depend in part on the chase for subsistences. Deer, elk, antelope and bear form the principal game found in their country. They are cleanly in their persons, live in lodges made of Buffalo hides and use to a considerable extent dressed skins for clothing. They annually exchange horses for large quantities of manufactured goods and wares.

Those on the north west form the 2d class and are found along the Columbia River and its branches, from the country of the Cayuses westward to the Cascades or Great Falls. This division includes many fragments of tribes having no chiefs and acknowledging no authority beyond the head of a large family. During a portion of the year these Indians are found wandering along the streams, pitching their camps wherever salmon are found most abundant. They are filthy in their persons and habits, addicted to intemperance and its concomitant vices. They have adopted the dress of the whites and to some extent imitate them in the construction of their houses. Their domiciles vary from a comfortable log cabin to a reed hut, ~~the~~ the merest apology for a shelter.

The third and last division are along the southern borders of this agency district and include a portion of the digger and Klamath tribes. The latter inhabit the country along the eastern base of the Cascades and Sierra Nevada mountains and south of the Great Klamath Lake, the Digger country extending to the north of Snake River. With the exception of the immediate margin of the streams,

their country is a barren waste, affording very little vegetation)sic) save artimesia or wild sage. They subsist upon roots and almost every living thing within their reach not excepting reptiles , crickets, ants, etc, It is asserted by gentlemen of the Hudson's Bay Company that they are very ~~improvident~~ improvident, seldom storing subsistence for the winter, and in their extremities they resort to cannibalism.

During the summer they go in a state of nudity and in winter they use for a covering robes made of the p 272 skins of rabbits, the skins of wild fowl such as geese and ducks are also brought into requisition as an article of clothing. The wildsage furnishing them shelter in the heat of summer, and like the Coyote, they borrow in the earth for protection from the inclemencies of winter.

At an early day in the history of Oregon it was greatly feared there was likely to be a combination of the several Indian tribes east of the Cascade Mountains for the purpos of making an attack upon the white settlements in the Willamette valley, but there is little foundation for such fears. On a better acquaintance with the state of Indian Affairs in this agency it is found that the tribes are much divided among themselves, and bitter jealousy exists between bands of the same tribe, as also grievances of long standing between the several tribes. With proper management on the part of the whites such an event, as a combination to any great extent, never can occur.

From what has been said in the first of this report it will be apparent that portions of this country is rather inviting to settlers and within the last two years quite a number of our citizens have availed themselves of their rights under the Act of Congress creating the Office of Surveyor General of the Public Lands in Oregon and to provide for the survey and to make donations to settlers ~~on the public lands in Oregon~~ of the public lands; and have located on the east side of the summit of the Cascade Range. By virtue of an act of the Legislative

Assembly of this Territory, this district has been organized into a county called Wasco.

This affords greater facilities to the Indian Agency to add each courts of justice in cases of necessity; but it has also afforded opportunity to designing persons to produce difficulties. Some settlers have selected claims which included the improvements and property rights of the Indians and have come into collision with the aboriginies; but so far these difficulties have yielded to the decision of the Indian agency.

Under the practice of taking claims whisky p. 273 settlers have located at points best suited for their purposes and have given the agency some trouble and in this connection I might add the constantly recurring difficulty of the immigrants on their routes to recover their animals. These are sources of the difficulties and as the country is destined to be settled rapidly I would respectfully recommend a speedy extinction of the Indian title to at least a portion of this district.

There is a military station at the Dalles within this district garrisoned by two companies of the 4th Infantry (but as I am informed in reality by 53 rank and file) commanded by Major G.I. Rains. This officer stands deservedly high with the citizens for his zeal and energy in endeavoring to preserve peace and order on this frontier. But I am sorry to say that the force at his command is wholly inadequate to the service to be performed. Being infantry they can only act with efficiency in the immediate vicinity of the post. I would however suggest that in view of this being the only military post within the immense extent of country lying east of the Cascade Range of Mountains, the difficulty of infantry pursuing offenders to the confines of it, the equestrian habits of the Indians and the normal effect which United States Dragoons would produce on these savages,

besides the adaptation of the country to cavalry operations and the support of their animals--all concur in rendering the presence of Dragoons desirable in addition to the present force, and therefore I respectfully submit these suggestions to the consideration of the proper authorities of the General Government.

There is also a Catholic mission at this place under the superintendence of Rev. Father Mesplie, whose report is herewith enclosed. This is the only mission within the district and was established upon the breaking up of the Protestant missions in 1847, one of which (Methodist) was at this point, and all of which were abandoned immediately after the horrible massacre of Dr. Marcus Whitman and his associates at Wyeletpoo. There is no doubt but much of the progress, intelligence and civilization manifested in the Indians residing in the vicinity of these establishments is owing to the labors of the missionaries who are and have been among them.

It has not been in my power to visit all the tribes under my charge since entering upon the duties of this office. I have found a decided aversion in the Indians to my taking the census and in one instance they (the Cayuse) positively refused to give any information urging that at one time Dr. Whitman took the census and immediately after great numbers of their people sickened and died. I have therefore desired it prudent to abstain from ^{pressing} ~~reporting~~ the matter until it becomes less objectionable to them.

In the absence of authentic numbers the following is respectfully submitted as the approximate of the several tribes.

Name of Tribes	Chiefs or head men	Whole number of souls	Number in this district
Dogriver or Cascade	Wal-li-chin	80	80
Wasco	Clash-cal-la	300	300
Ty-ich	Vim-et-z-tuz	500	500
DeChutes	Stoke-ote-ly	300	300
John Days	Wish-och-nip-its	150	150
Utillas	Wah-lauch-hie	200	200
Cayuses	We-at-anat-te-le-max-ma	600	600
Nez Perces		2,000	500
Flatheads (She-shi-one) Mountain		400	occasionally
Snakes		1,000	200
Bannocks		500	200
Diggers			100
Bands principally on Columbia river			300

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The accompanying map it is hoped will enable the department to form a correct idea of the locality of the several tribes and divisions referred to in this report.

It has been kindly furnished by Brevet Major G.O. Haller 4th Infantry U.S.A. who has been to great pains in collecting accurate information as to the topography of the country and it may be relied upon as being in the main correct.

[No map included on microfilm]

All of which is respectfully submitted

R.R. Thompson, Indian Agent, Middle Oregon
Joel Palmer Esq. Superintendent Indian Affairs, Dayton, O.T.

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Mission of the Waskos (Dalles)

August 6, 1854.

Mr. Thompson, Indian Agent, Dear Sir:

The mission of the Waskos at the Dalles founded the sixth of May, 1848 by the Rev. W. Rousecan, at the request of the Indians, has since its commencement advanced very slowly. On examining the archives kept by my honorable predecessor, I see that the progress of religion has been much retarded by the wandering life of the Indians and by the too great intercourse with the whites.

During the three years that I am in charge of said mission I have unfortunately proved the same difficulty. Within the last two years the worst of all has been added, namely liquor. This has cast the unfortunate people into a deplorable condition, and without being a witness, no one can form an idea of the Indians when intoxicated. They are most horrible to behold and capable of exciting pity in the most hard hearted. This disorder dear sir, stops entirely all improvement of the Indian and if this abuse is not stopped, the Indians will in a short time become good for nothing, neither for civil life nor much less for Christian life. The greater part of them will disappear. Some will perhaps resist this overthrow, but will be reduced to so brutish state that they will be insupportable to themselves and much more so to all who may be in connection with them.

What I say concerning the Waskos will apply in like manner to the Indians of Tair (Tudier Creek) and to all the small tribes within my jurisdiction.

However Mr. Agent, we have at Wasko and at Tair some Indians who though in the midst of disorder have profited by some of the lessons which we have endeavored to give them. They yield easily to the sweet influence of Christianity, occupying themselves with agriculture, and improvement, in rendering homage to their Creator. In general I have ... since you have been established in this place that a remarkable calm has taken place. Many of the people have yielded to fear and others to

reason. But the fact exists.

Great credit should be given to you, Mr. Agent for having in so short a time obtained ~~tx~~ such great results .

Yes, the present makes me look for a better future and if this new state of things continues I have the sweet hope that your aid joined with our ~~fight~~ efforts will in some years obtain a remarkable change.

Such Mr. Agent, is our present report.

Deign, dear sir , to accept it and believe me with the greatest respect.

Your very h mble and obedient servt.

T. Mesplie

Mr. Thompson, Indian Agent

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Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Olympia Wash. Territory

March 24, 1854

Gen. Joel Palmer,

Supt. Indian Affairs, Territory of Oregon

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of January 16th with its inclosure which reached me only a short time since as I was starting on a journey down the sound.

Your views in relation to the tribes bordering upon the two territories corresponds so nearly with my own that it will afford me great pleasure to second them.

I am about to proceed to Washington on public business and will confer with the Commissioner of Indian affairs upon the subject, submitting your letter in connection with my own report.

In the mean time I have appointed A.J. Bolen (sic) esq. special agent for Indians lying in this territory between the Cascade and Bitterroot Mountains, directing him to consult with you upon the management of the tribes in question and to cooperate ~~with~~ with your agent until some definite action is taken by the Department. May I beg of you to aid him with your cordial advice.

I have also appointed Wm. H. Tappan, esq. as special agent for the Columbia River. In case any questions affecting your Territory arise in the course of his duties let me ask of you the same good office in his favor also.

Very respectfully and truly

Your most obt.

Isaac I. Stevens

Gov. Wash. Territory & Supt. Ind. Affairs.

As a general rule it ~~is~~ is not desirable to interfere in the selection of the chiefs of the tribes as such a course would take away much of the ~~add~~ responsibility of the Indians and lead them to feel no accountability for the ~~co~~ conduct of the of the individuals thus selected. But in the present case the selection of a head chief among the Cayuses it will be important if possible to prevent the selection of Five Crows for that station who can be regarded in no other light than an enemy to the people and government of the United States. His conduct at the Wialatpu Massacre is recalled. It was he who after the bloody tragedy sent for and forced from the building occupied by the women and children one of the young girls and compelled her to reside at his lodge and submit to his brutal lust, retaining her till the captives were all ransomed by Governor Ogdon. (sic)

He was also one of the Indians who ... for the continuance of the war and opposed the surrender of the murders. During the war he was actively engaged and received a wound in the arm and has ever since manifest unfriendly feelings. It ~~was~~ is also notorious that he has always been a favorite of the persons in charge of Fort "alla Walla and decided in his preference for the Hudson's Bay Company and its interests above those of our government and people. These considerations constitute a strong and justifiable reason for your ~~to~~ interference to prevent the selection of ~~to~~ this notorious Indian as the principal chief of the Cayuses.

I learn that no little feeling has been manifested by the Indians in your district on account of the reported decisions of the courts in regard to the applicability of the Intercourse law. The written opinions of Judges Williams and Olney are in your ~~possession~~ possession and although not full in all the details, yet they are sufficient to show the hopelessness of maintaining peace and order among the tribes of Middle Oregon if our citizens continue to form settlements in that region. If the judges have given proper construction of the law,

Scanning notes: Microcopy 2, Roll 4, Oregon Suptcy. 1848-73

Territorial laws

Letters of settlers complain.

Oregon - Washington boundary

Mission claims letters

Tribes in Oregon west of the Cascades, Tillamooks, Clatsops, Chinook, south of the Columbia, pp. 54-82 Good. All tribes outlined.

p. 69 Port Orford. 300 miners on Beach. Trouble with Indians. Klamaths.

p. 75-- No interpreter at Uvilla agency (earlier could not talk with people.. raises question.. how accurate could he obtain info., reaching out up Columbia River .

Coquille difficulties, many letters.

Frenchman held for murder of Indian, 30 miles south of the Dalles. Interpreter engaged who speaks ~~Max~~ Nez Perce! and jargon.

227 -36- To-to-tin. Statistics table. Location and boundaries. good.

237- Kennedy claim vs Indian land. Possessory rights. Policy shaping.

Microcopy 2, Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs 1848-73, Roll 4

Letter books 1848-1872. 9 vols. Vol C. November 1853-August 1854
276(3) p. Suggested citation: Oregon Superintendency of Indian
Affairs, Letter books, register to Vol C, 15; or Oregon SIA, Letter
Books, register to Vol. C, 15.

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Dayton O.T. Dec. 15, 1853

Sir:

Your letter of October 25 1853 announcing your arrival at the
Utilla Agency and detailing your subsequent proceedings has been
received and your course in the transactions you refer to has my entire
approbation. It is to be regretted that a British subject
in the employ of the Hudson's Bay Company should attempt to exert an
influence over the Indians in this Territory at variance with the policy
of the American government, this course can secure no permanent
good to the British government or the company and while it diminishes their
influence with the Indians tends to destroy the confidence of the agents of
our government in the professions made by the company's functionaries of
friendship and regard. That they should seek to maintain their influence
with the Indians as traders and strive for the ascendancy in
legitimate traffic, might be expected but that disregarding the laws
rules and policy of our government they should assume to dictate to the
Indian tribes in our Territory whom to select as their chiefs ~~must be~~
cannot be tolerated and the conduct of W. Panbrun is particularly
objectionable in as much as he had full knowledge of the fact that
the Cayuses had in council requested the Agent of our government to
nominate their head chief and that said agent had declined such an
interference in the affairs of any Indian tribe or individual Indian
within your agency you will cause such person to be arrested and turned
over to the proper authorities to be dealt with according to law

Mr. Thompson, Indian Agent, Dear Sir:

The mission of the Waskos at the Dalles founded the sixth of May, 1848 by the Rev. W. Rousecan, at the request of the Indians, has since its commencement advanced very slowly. On examining the archives kept by my honorable predecessor, I see that the progress of religion has been much retarded by the wandering life of the Indians and by the too great intercourse with the whites.

During the three years that I am in charge of said mission I have unfortunately proved the same difficulty. Within the last two years the worst of all has been added, namely liquor. This has cast the unfortunate people into a deplorable condition, and without being a witness, no one can form an idea of the Indians when intoxicated. They are most horrible to behold and capable of exciting pity in the most hard hearted. This disorder dear sir, stops entirely all improvement of the Indian and if this abuse is not stopped, the Indians will in a short time become good for nothing, neither for civil life nor much loss for Christian life. The greater part of them will disappear. Some will perhaps resist this overthrow, but will be reduced to so brutish state that they will be insupportable to themselves and much more so to all who may be in connection with them.

What I say concerning the Waskos will apply in like manner to the Indians of Tair (Tudier Creek) and to all the small tribes within my jurisdiction.

However Mr. Agent, we have at Wasko and at Tair some Indians who though in the midst of disorder have profited by some of the lessons which we have endeavored to give them. They yield easily to the sweet influence of Christianity, occupying themselves with agriculture, and improvement, in rendering homage to their Creator. In general I have ... since you have been established in this place that a remarkable calm has taken place. Many of the people have yielded to fear and others to

reason. But the fact exists.

Great credit should be given to you, Mr. ^Agent for having in so short a time obtained ~~tx~~ such great results .

Yes, the present makes me look for a better future and if this new state of things continues I have the sweet hope that your aid joined with our ~~fixxx~~ efforts will in some years obtain a remarkable change.

Such Mr. Agent, is our present report.

Deign, dear sir , to accept it and believe me with the greatest respect.

Your very h mble and obedient servt.

T. Mesplie

Mr. Thompson, Indian Agent