

Washington Suptcy. Microcopy 5, roll 21 letters from agts. and employees of suptcy. Nez Perce and Umatilla Agencies Jan. 24, 1856-May 15, 1864

Head Quarters Co. I 1 Regt. W.T. Vols.

Lapwai, March 22, 1856

Isaac I. Stevens, Gov. and Commander in Chief

Sir:

On my return to the Nez Perce country I discharged the two Nez Perce Volunteers according to your orders and for some time after that the chiefs had trouble in keeping the War Party out of this country. About the time Col. Cornelius was about to move after them I found it necessary to organize a company of volunteers at this place of the settlers and Nez Perce Indians for the purpose of keeping them out of the country; and since the company was organized they have been busy. When the Red Wolf came back from below he said he had orders from Supt. Palmer and Agent Olney to move the friendly Cayuses into this country which he done; and from that time there has been a regular communication kept up between their camp and that of the war party. On the 11 March I heard that a Pelouse Indian by name Ume-taquitat had come into the Nez Perce camp at the forks of Clear Water and Snake River. I immediately ordered Capt. Chase to the place for the purpose of giving him a trial, after (2) examining him, said Pelouse Indian Ume tquitat according to his own confession and the testimony of several witnesses, he was found guilty of murder and also as acting as a spy for the war party. As the penalty in both cases is death, he was condemned to be hung by the neck until dead, which sentence was approved by me and executed on the prisoner ... (3)

Respecty. William Craig Lt. Col. Rgt. W.T. M. Vol.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Lapwai, March 22nd, 1856

Gov. Isaac I. Stevens, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Sir:

I have anxiously been expecting supplies and instructions from you, as I am out of both, as you told me there would be such things forwarded to me at the first convenient season. The Indians in my charge are doing very well as a majority, but there has been some trouble among them caused by news which the Red Wolf brought from Agent Olney and Supt., who, he says, ordered him to move the friendly Cayuses to this country which was done. I do not whether (sic) they had a right to do so without informing me of their intentions.

As soon as they moved into this country they commenced passing to and from the war party which I was compelled to stop by rather harsh means. I have no late news from the Spokans I cannot say how they are at present. I understand that some of the war party have gone into that country and Indian report says that McDonald sent some tobacco to the Cayuse chief and invited him to come to Fort Dolville. Gary was the bearer of the message. I am anxious to hear from you.

I am sir, your obdt Srvt

William Craig, Special Indian Agent

Nez Perces.

N.B. Perhaps you may think I have been negligent in keeping you posted up about the Indians but there has been nothing urgent, and I am out of paper and everything ~~else~~ else. I am now in debt to all my express men, they find it hard and so do I. I am out of all the comforts of life such as sugar, coffee and ---

C.W.C.

Wash'tn suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Office Indian Agency

Walla Walla Valley April 16, 57

Hon J.W. Nesmith, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem, Oregon.

Sir: Within the last three weeks Spoken Gary and several of the chiefs of the Spokans have visited me and expressed a great desire to be at peace and to make a treaty for the sale of their lands, that they may go upon a reservation. They say there has been much suffering amongst the people during the past winter for want of food, and that they are in a destitution; this statement is true, but the spring is now opening and they will be able to get their summer supply of roots and fish.

All the chiefs and head men of the Nez Perce tribe have either been or sent delegations to see me to ~~know~~ learn the intentions of the government towards them. They are anxious that their treaty should be ratified and carried out. They have experienced a severe winter and lost a great deal of stock.

There is much evident dissatisfaction amongst the Indians of this valley, but I have been able to induce them to proceed as usual in the cultivation of their gardens and the collection of their summer supply of roots and fish promising them protection for their gardens and stock.

The minds of all the Indians in this interior country are much agitated as to the policy that will be pursued towards them. There is an impression rife amongst them all that agents are sent out to pacify them with kind words until such time as there will be soldiers and citizens in the country to drive them off their lands without paying them for them. And unless the action of the present Congress will warrant the adoption of some decisive policy by which the Indians can be convinced of the objects of the government toward them, the management of them will be a very precarious and arduous duty.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully your

ob

bt. servt. A.J. Cain, U.S. Ind. Agt.W.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Copy

Fort WallaWalla, W.T. February 19, 1859

A. J. Cain, Esq. Indian Agent, Walla Walla Valley

Sir:

In answer to your communication of this date I would state that in December last the question recurred to my mind whether the country east of the Cascade Mountains was or was not Indian country within the meaning of the act of Congress of 1834. Not being able to satisfy myself clearly on the subject I wrote to the Hon O. B. McFadden, chief justice of Washington Territory for his opinion in the matter. I received a letter from him a few days ago from which the following is extract.

"The country east of the Cascades is not Indian country in the sense used in the Act of Congress of 1834. So far as relates to the sale, exchange, barter or gift of wine or liquors to an Indian, the act of 1834 is in force and you have full and complete jurisdiction for the purpose of examination and binding over, but I do not think you have anything to do with the introduction of liquor by settlers. If they make sale to white men they must have their license in conformity with the laws of the territory ; to this whole subject I will write you at length in a few days."

The above is all the information I am at present able to give you but as I will probably hear from Judge McFadden in a short time I will be more happy to communicate to you any information I may receive on the subject.

Very Respectfully, your obt. servt.

Sig. Sam D. Smith

U.S. Commissioner for Walla Walla county.

Wash^Ttn Suptcy. No. 5, [^]oll 21

Office Indian Agency

Walla Walla ^Valley, W.T.

^Feb. 28, 1859

Sir:

I herewith enclose you copies of correspondence with the U.S. Commissioner in this valley in regard to violations of the Intercourse Law.

Recently Major Greer, commanding officer of Fort Walla Walla informed me he had received instructions from General Harney to treat citizens of this valley in the same manner as citizens west of the Cascade Mountains.

I will respectfully ask for any instructions that may be necessary for my guidance in these matters.

I have the honor to be

^very respectfully

Your obedient ^Servant

A.J. Cain

Ind. Agent W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Office Indian Agency, Walla Walla Valley W.T.

March 12, 1859

Hon J.W. Nesmith

Suptd. Ind. Affairs O and W

Salem, O.T.

Sir:

Shortly after the date of my last communication reporting the Walla Wallas friendly I received information that led me to suspect dissatisfaction amongst those under Homily,, camped near old Fort Walla Walla and upon visiting them my suspicions were not only confirmed but I am of the opinion that Homily's camp is a rendezvous for all the renegades from tribes on both sides of the Columbia. This camp numbers about 150 men.

I am as yet unable to determine as to how much importance to attach to this dissatisfaction but will in a few days have sufficient information to ~~make~~ enable me to determine . (Tieas?)

There about 50 Walla Wallas under "Puse" (?) camped 10 miles from there whom I regard as perfectly reliable.

Rumors have reached me to the effect that the Colvilles and Okinagans are very saucy.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully

Your obt Servt.

A J. Cain, Ind. Agent, W.T.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Office Indian Agency,
Walla Walla Valley W.T.

March 26, 1859

Hon J.W. Nesmith

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

Sir:

In my last communication I informed you of suspected disaffection amongst a portion of the Walla Wallas under Homily camped near the old fort. My suspicions ~~are~~ to this effect were not only confirmed but I found that Homily's camp had been the rendezvous for renegades from different tribes for some time past. Through the agency of "Pum" and his band of Walla Wallas who are reliable ~~in~~ I succeeded in intimidating Homili and his advisors sufficiently to induce him (Homily) to come and see me and make fair promises for his future good behavior; and to use his influence with his band to prevent dissaffection and the harboring of bad Indians. I have but little faith in him and if he violates his promises nothing but summary measures toward him and his band will answer.

Spokan Mary has come down to see me and says the Spokans are all friendly. He desires information in regard to money due him from the Ind. Dept. for past services as interpreter. I will request any information that can be furnished from your office on the subject.

The past severe winter and the late opening of spring has caused great suffering amongst all the tribes of Indians in this region of country.

I have been advised by the commissioner of Indian Affairs of the confirmation of ~~that~~ my appointment by the U.S. Senate and that I am required to turn over all funds over to you and give a new bond. I shall proceed to Salem as soon as I can complete my quarterly papers which will be in the early part of next month. My duties have been of that arduous character that I am unable to complete my accounts at the termination of the quarter. I have etc. A.J. Cain, Ind. Agent, W.T.

(Copy)

Al-pow-wa, W.T.

August 18, 1859

A.J. Cain, Esq. Indian Agent, Walla Walla W.T.

Sir:

I arrived here yesterday ~~morning~~ ^(a) evening, one and a half days from Lieut. Mullen's camp which I found about four miles below the Mission on Coeur d'Alene river.

I found the Indians all quiet and Lt. Mullen ^(a) progressing very rapidly with his work; he expects to be in the Bitter Root Valley in three months.

With reference to the mile posts you spoke of in your instructions to me, I found a few of them defaced but more of them entirely destroyed. It seems to be a matter of doubt as to whether it was done by some unruly young men of the Pelouse or by some white men that had left Mullens' party. I think by the former.

Lt. Mullen informs me that the rumors of the Nez Perce tribe being dissatisfied originated with "Meloons" (or Keloons") it seems ~~xxx~~ he he reported it to Colville and the Commanding officer immediately apprised ~~and then~~ Mr. Mullen of the report. Lt. Mullen assured me he never for a moment put any confidence in the rumor but reported it to Col. Wright as it was his duty.

Father Joseph informed me the Coeur d'Alenes are not altogether satisfied with the road but now are perfectly satisfied; they seemed more friendly than I ever saw them.

Lt. Mullen is constructing a good wagon road and deserves credit for it. The Indians have given him the name of a "Little Man" with a Big "Heart," and I think he deserves it.

There is nothing else of interest going on in the upper country.

Your obdt. Servt.

(sig) Thos. Hughes

"ash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

(Copy)

Al-pow-wa, W.T.

August 18, 1859

A.J. Cain, Esq. Indian Agent, Walla Walla W.T.

Sir:

I arrived here yesterday ~~morning~~ evening, one and a half days from Lieut. Mullen's camp which I found about four miles below the Mission on Coeur d'Alene river.

I found the Indians all quiet and Lt. Mullen progressing very rapidly with his work; he expects to be in the Bitter Root Valley in three months.

"ith reference to the mile posts you spoke of in your instructions to me, I found a few of them defaced but more of them entirely destroyed. It seems to be a matter of doubt as to whether it was done by some unruly young men of the Pelouse or by some white men that had left Mullens' party. I think by the former.

Lt. Mullen informs me that the rumors of the Nez Perce tribe being dissatisfied originated with "Meloons" (or Keloons") it seems ~~xxx~~ he he reported it to Colville and the Commanding officer immediately apprised ~~xxxxxxxx~~ Mr. Mullen of the report. Lt. Mullen assured me he never for a moment put any confidence in the rumor but reported it to Col. Wright as it was his duty.

Father Joseph informed me the Coeur d'Alenes are not altogether satisfied with the road but now are perfectly satisfied; they seemed more friendly than I ever saw them.

Lt. Mullen is constructing a good wagon road and deserves credit for it. The Indians have given him the name of a "Little Man" with a Big "Heart," and I think he deserves it.

There is nothing else of interest going on in the upper country.

Your obdt. Servt.

(sig) Thos. Hughes

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 17

Office Indian Agency

Walla Walla, W.T.

Oct. 17, 1859

Hon E.R. Geary, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Portland, Oregon.

Sir:

Owing to a severe attack of phtersy since my return from the Colville Valley I have not been able to report to you fully ~~on~~ a complete account ~~for~~ the past quarter but will do so by the next express.

The Indians on the Spokane and in and about the Colville Valley ~~are~~ were all quiet.

Near all the Nez Perce chiefs are here under my direction for the purpose of holding a council that means may be devised for the purpose of holding a council that means may be devised to get all of the tribe living contiguous to the whites on this reservation.

I have the honor to be

Very Respectfully, your most obt.

A.J. Cain, Ind. Agent. W.T.

Oct. 31st, 1859

Sir:

All the principal chiefs but one, and most of the petty chiefs of the Nez Perce tribe, left here a few days since satisfied with their visit. Owing to the many demands upon my attention and the completion of my accounts, I will not for a few days be able to report in detail.

I will however submit to you some views in regard to the final disposition of some of the Indians in my charge, which are the result of a careful and practical knowledge of Indian Affairs in this part of this territory.

The reservation upon the Umatilla in Oregon should be abandoned, not only as a matter of economy to the government but for the promotion of the welfare of the Indians and the successful carrying out of the policy of the government. It is too near a public highway and neither the Cayuses Walla Wallas or Umatillas would be satisfied there ever with the establishment of a military post to protect them from the Snakes. The Umatillas should be sent to the Warm Springs reservation. The Cayuses are a very small tribe, and not only speak the Nez Perce language but are being rapidly absorbed by that tribe and should be sent to the Nez Perce Res.

The Walla Wallas are intermarried and affiliated with the ~~Yakmas~~ Yakmias (sic) and should be sent to the Simcoe Res. The Palouses are a small tribe and speak the language and are being rapidly absorbed by the Nez Perce and should be sent to their reservation.

These changes in the disposition of these Indians would occasion the government no additional cost in their removal and would be much more satisfactory to them; besides the reservation alluded to would not then contain as many Indians as now originally intended to be placed upon them owing to their great decrease within the last few years from war, famine and disease. I have the honor to be very respectfully, your most obedient, A.J. Cain, Ind. Agent W.T. to Hon E.R. Geary, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Portland, O.

Notice

Information has been received that Capt. Pierce and his party of miners would attempt to seek for gold on the Nez. Perce reservation. In ~~addition~~ addition to information previously given the public I give a copy of instructions from the Com. of Ind. Affairs to the Supt. Ind. Affairs of Oregon & Washington upon the subject.

Copy Department of the Interior, Office Indian Affairs July 2, 1860
Sir:

I have to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 12th May last, informing the Department that in consequence of the rumored discoveries of rich and extensive gold mines within the reservation of the Nez Perce, great excitement had been occasioned by the rush of a crowd of miners into the country of that tribe. The action which you have taken in the premises toward the protection of the reservation from the lawless invasion is approved and you will further instruct the local agents to give public notice to all parties concerned that the treaties with the Indians are paramount and the Government is determined to exercise its full authority to prevent intrusions upon the ^Reserves of the Indians, under all circumstances, as no person except the proper officers of the Department have any right whatever under any pretense to go upon said reservation.

Very Respectfully, your obdt. svt.

Charles E. Mix

Acting Commissioner

Signed

Edward R. Geary, Esq.

Supdt. Ind. Affairs

Portland, Oregon

A. J. Cain, Ind. Agt. "T.

Nez Perce Agency, Nov. 27th, 1860

Sir:

I am satisfied that gold discoveries have been made on this reservation on small streams emptying into the Clear water from the spurs of the Bitter Root mountains that that no longer period than next spring will elapse before miners will be pouring into the country from all quarters and whenever the right of the Indians are invaded, war is inevitable. A part of the Nez Perce and nearly all of the neighboring tribes have been dissatisfied for some time past, and the slightest provocation would precipitate hostilities, that would require much time and a large expenditure of life and money to adjust.

I will most respectfully recommend that immediate steps be taken by the proper authorities to modify the treaty with the Nez Perce so as to give the government all the gold bearing country.

This is the only save solution of this question by which the laws of the United States would be fully vindicated and the rights and interests of the Indians protected and the prosperity of the country insured.

I am fully convinced that I have, if sustained in my present difficulties sufficient influence with the Indians and can explain to them where and how they would benefited (sic) by acquiescing in the modification of their treaty if such should be the pleasure of the government.

The country lying north of Snake river and Clear water river, following the south fork of the latter is of but little benefit to the Indians and none of it but the bottoms along Clear water are occupied and in inaugurating the agricultural policy contemplated by the treaty, could be easily moved over and located on the south side, where there is an abundance of land for them.

I will again reiterate that I must be sustained as an officer of

the United States government in executing its laws or the force of arms alone will settle present difficulties.

I will take this occasion to remark that after a long experience with Indians and the Indian service, the most of the Indian difficulties on the frontiers arise from a non-execution of the laws of the United States; and the grave question arises, are a few citizens under a Territorial Government or the authorities acting under delegated authority from the sovereign states to interpret and execute the laws made by the representatives of the United States.

The minds of our entire Indian population are in a state of foment at the present time; they have a feeling of inferiority and know they never can be the equal of the white man and have a natural feeling of jealousy and antipathy to his race and the only means of controlling the Indians is by inspiring him with fear and confidence in the integrity of our government.

To ameliorate the conditions of the Indians is an obligation that our people owe the race and should be fulfilled if for no other consideration than placing ourselves right upon the records of the age; but the problem of making a white man of an Indian is one that I do not believe will ever be solved.

My ~~opinions~~ experience in these matters has been dearly bought at the risk of life and expense of health and nothing but my personal reputation would induce me to continue my present labors under the difficulties that surround me. I am at present held responsible not only by the government, but by the citizens of this interior country for not only the good conduct of the Indians but the lives of white men, knowing the country in defiance of law. I hope soon to be relieved from such terrible responsibilities. I enclose you a rough draft of the reservation made by Mr. Rusch who has under instructions visited near all of it. I have the honor to be etc. A.J. Cain

Hon . E.R. Geary, Supt. Ind. Affairs, Portland, Oregon.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Indian Agent Office,
Walla Walla Valley W.T.

Dec. 29, 1860

Sir:

Your communications and instructions of 18th and 19th have been received by the hands of Mr. Kafus (?)

Your instructions will be fully complied with.

I enclose copy of proceedings of the council held with the Nez Perce in October.

In regard to the invasion of the Nez Perce reservation by miners, I made every effort and exceeded all my authority to prevent it. Maj. Stein differed with me in regards to the rights of these men to travel across the reservation, before a public highway was opened, and my labors proved ineffectual.

As soon as the miners ~~xxx~~ ^{were} upon the reservation, I asked for military protection but it arrived too late to effect any good more than assure the Indians the miners should be removed as soon as they could be reached through the snow.

A crisis in our Indian relations is near at hand, the reports of war councils all through the country are true, but there is no reason for alarm at present as the Indians will do nothing until the snow leaves the mountains.

I have exerted myself and think I have succeeded in quieting the apprehensions of the public. I have kept Mr. Kapus waiting two days and delayed reporting expecting every day and hour an Indian express that inform me (sic) of ~~xxx~~ all that was going on.

In a very few days I will be able to give you full and complete information.

I have the honor to be

Very respectfully
Your obedient servant (unsigned but Cain

To E.R. Geary, Supt. Ind.

)

Nez Perces Res. April 12, 1861

A.J. Cain, Esq.

Ind. Agt. W.T.

Sir:

Complying with instructions received from you I left this agency March 31 and proceeded to the district of country now occupied by the whites and known as the Oro Fino mining district. I was accompanied by Mr. A.J. Thibodo physician for the Nez Perces Indians who will doubtless report to you as to the character and extent of the gold mining country so far discovered. As my mission was confined to the intercourse between the whites and Indians and the preservation of peaceful relations between the two races, it is only to those subjects that I will call your attention.

After leaving the Clear Water at this agency I did not again touch its waters until I arrived at the mouth of a creek running into it from the southside some seven miles below the forks. At this place I found two lodges of Indians. The men however with the exception of two were absent assisting a Mr. Babcock to discover a route for wagons into the mining district. Mr. William Craig, who had joined my party interpreted for me while I had some conversation with the two men that I found at the lodges. They appear to be, and in my opinion are well disposed towards the whites, have no particular objection to their passing through the country or mining in it and are led by and under the influence of W(?) Mihna-lucke, the chief who is established on the south fork of Clear Water about five miles from its mouth and who as is evident from the tone of his followers has the most friendly disposition to the whites. I met this chief both on my way up and down and ~~some~~ conversed quite freely with him. He has no objection whatever to the passing of the whites through the country or to their mining for gold, but the old man complained of the introduction of liquor among his people. He has

reason to do so too. Fr...d [Forn] am informed, ~~through~~ thought not by him, that a short time since one of his daughters was to drink to excess and was debauched by some unprincipled white man. I ascertained beyond a doubt that liquor had been vended to the Indians, principally by some persons who had disposed of their stock and gone below for another supply. At the time I went up and also on my return I found liquor at the camp of a Mr. James Connor. He assured me however that he had not nor could he induced to dispose of any of it to Indians and after making most particular inquiries among whites and Indians I am disposed to credit his assertions. With one exception this is all the liquor I came in actual contact with. The exception is a load owned by a man who called himself Overlander. I met him on the trail leading up Oro Fino Creek on his way to the mines. He was above all Indians and could not possibly vend any of his liquor to them or I should have arrested him as from information I had received I was disposed to believe that he had let the Indians have liquor previously.

Upon my arrival in the mining district and when my business was made known to the miners they showed an eagerness to act in concert with the authorities for the prevention of the vending of liquor to the Indians.

A meeting was called for the second day after my arrival and was quite fully attended. ~~by~~ A series of resolutions were passed which I think cover all the ground as far as these gentlemen are capable of acting. A copy of the resolutions and preamble adopted by the meeting of the miners I have the honor of herewith submitting for your consideration.

After having had as much intercourse with the miners and the Indians living between this agency and more mines as my limited time would admit of, I arrived at the conclusion that except from the introduction of liquor, no apprehension need be felt as to whether

collisions will take place between the two races. I am satisfied however that unless this nefarious traffic is stopped, that disturbances will occur when the passions of both sides are raised--the Indians considering themselves oppressed and inflamed with bad whiskey may commit some overt act that will plunge the whole country into war and confusion. Past experience teaches us how difficult and expensive it is to ~~conquer~~ ~~(?)~~ conquer a peace with the natives of the country; and common prudence to say nothing of duty should induce us to use the most strenuous exertions to prevent such a catastrophe. I will therefore advise that a ~~suff~~ sufficient force be placed at your disposal and stationed at the ferry over Snake river or at some better point, if there be any, and that no liquor be allowed to enter the Indian Territory. Government must undoubtedly soon take some means to settle the question of ~~ex~~ right of way and other disputed points that are now in abeyance, but until such points are absolutely adjusted I would enforce the intercourse laws strictly so far as they relate to the introduction of liquor.

I am sir, ~~xxx~~ respectfully

Your obdt. Svt.

C.W. Armstrong,

Spl. Ind. Agt.

Wash'tn Suptcy. No. 5, Roll 21

Portland, August 15, 1861

Sir:

I have the honor to herewith transmit to you copies of letters received by ~~Supt.~~ Supt. Rector (?) from A.P. Dennison (?) Ind. Agent Cgn on the subject of murders recently committed by Indians on white men in the ^Tych country. The letters comprise the whole information now current here on the subject and from the important nature of our Indian question at the present time I deemed it proper that your office should be thus advised of these occurrences.

On Monday the 19th inst. I start for the Nez Perces district from which place I will immediately advise you of the state of affairs as I found them. I would suggest the propriety of your making the acting Governor of W.T. acquainted with the enclosed letters.

Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servant
Chas. Hutchins,
Indian Agent, W.T.

to W.W. Miller Esq.
Supt. Ind. Affs.
Wash. Territory.

Washn Suptcy . No. 5, Roll 21

Office Indian Agency,

Lapwai W.T. Sept. 16, 1861

In reply to circular letter from the Department of the Interior office of Ind. Affrs. dated June 15, 1861 I have the honor to inform that office that having just relieved Mr. Cain of the Agency district and finding in this office no books, papers, files, correspondence, memoranda or any data whatever on which to base the information required at this time, I can only reply to questions 4 to 11 inclusive on this reservation. There are no schools, no scholars, no teachers, consequently a change to no religious society or individual Indian and there are no missionaries on the reserve of any denomination.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

Chas. Hutchins,

Indian Agent, W.T.

B.F. Kendall, esq.

Supt. Ind. Affrs.

Olympia, W.T.