

Secretary of State, Olympia

Indian War 1855-60

Kittitas Valley W.T. July 1, 1879

Hon Elisha P. Ferry, Gov. Wash. Ter. Olympia W. .

Dear Sir:

Now that we have met personally, that you have visited our valley in person, have met our people face to face, know the length and breadth of our domain it is but justice to you as our chief executive to know some of the wishes of the people of Yakima etc.

There is then , I would beg leave to say a matter in which the people of this county are particularly interested (xxed out) and unanimously interested. and that is that a military post be established somewhere within the borders of our county and that you assist us in securing the same.

You are well aware that Fort Colville and Cordelane protect the settlements on the south and east whilst ~~which~~ by placing the post at the mouth or on the Oconaging river leaves a gap of something like 150 miles in which Yakima has not the slightest protection. Besides troops can be subsisted in this valley as cheaply with a good many things as in any portion of the land besides being accessible at all times of the year. I have never known a section of p 2 country make such rapid strides as this has done since the establishment of U.S. troops in our midst. They have established confidence and security and hence the country is settling up and moving ahead .

Madam rumor has it here that you are working against us. This is trust is untrue.

You are well aware that in the last Territorial Convention Yakima held the balance of power and had the citizens of Yakima co. received the official respect due them you would have been standing where Thos. H. Brentz stands.

What I wish to say there is another day, another November

if we live and the people of Yakima are not only unanimous on this point in regard to post but sensitive.

In the above regards I have not beat about the bush but have come square to the point with unvarnished facts .

Let me hear from you and believe me

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

S.T. Sterling

Secretary of State, Olympia

Indian Wars 1855-56 No 16

To Gov. Ferry

We the undersigned residents, stockmen farmers and ranch
men protest against allowing Moses or his agents ^{leasing} ~~xxxx~~ leaving the
proposed reservation or any part thereof before our property be
appraised and our claims finally adjusted, as we do not think it just
or right to be placed at the mercy of any man or corporation of man.

Okanagan July 14, 1879

A.R. Tharp

Alex McCauly

R.L. Johnston

Paul Driscoll

G.W. Kumb

F.S. Moose

Robert ~~Gax~~ Clayton

George Sutherland (his mark)

Jas. Palmer

John Bill

Wilbur. Nimcoe. 1879

(Sect of State. Olympia)

Office Yakama Indian Agency

Ft. Nimcoe W.T.. July 22, 1879

Hon E.P. Ferry

Governor

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the recpt of your official letter of July 12th relating to the ~~death~~ death of Leo the prisoner and to ask your executive clemency in the case of the companion of Leo (Leo) who was sentenced at the same time. The death of Leo makes his friends feel verry sad. and the end of punishment or the release of the friend of Leo and his return here to his people would do good.

I am sir

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indi Agent.

C.M. No. 9

Indian Wars 1855-60 No 17

Praying the abolition of Indian Reservations (read)

Memorial

Praying the aboliti n of Indian Reservations. To the Honorable Senate and House of Representatives of the Unit d States of America in Congress assembled. The memorial of the Legislative assembly of the Territory of Washington respectfully requests that the continuation of race distinc tion by segregating a particular class of our native population and confining them to reservations, treating them as inferior and dependant, whether they be regarded as wards of the government or prisoners upon such reservations is inconsistent with the progressive spirit of the age and the grand achieved doctrine of the republic that all humanity are equal before the law -a discrimination on account of race which ignores manhood or equality and uniformity of right as men and women is at variance ~~with it~~ with the theory of democratic government and surely native-born humanity of the United States cannot longer be regarded as aliens nor can communities of such be treated as foreign nations....

That the time has arrived when the Indian shall be treated as other men are treated with the same right to ~~enjoy~~ enjoy property the same right to pursue happiness. ~~and~~ That race should not be confined as prisoners ~~upon~~ upon or be limited to reservations; nor should they enjoy rights to acquire or hold land superior or different from the American citizen. An Indian is human, ~~and~~ he is neither more or less than a native of our country and your memorialists believe that a policy which recognizes his humanity and manhood should be adopted. They believe the Reservation system of managing Indians a perfect failure based upon principals radically wrong, uselessly p 2 expensive to government, unjust and detrimental to the Indian ~~retarding~~ retarding alike his advancement and the settlement of the country in which such reservations have been declared. Large and valuable

regions are continued as a wilderness, withheld from appropriation and cultivation by useful settlers. Indians are restricted to prison limits against their will often kept there by the strong arm of military power uniformly by the fear to leave. A vast amount of money is expended by the United States, intentionally, for their benefit, but really in the useless employment of white persons who sign vouchers regularly but contribute but little amelioration to those who have no desire they shall continue among them and who tolerate their presence because afraid to expel them. The reservation policy in no wise benefits the Indian. Reservations are by the Indians generally regarded as mere prison limits restraining their freedom and pursuit of happiness. They serve to keep alive the traditional prejudice that the Indians are a different, hostile and inferior race. Millions of acres of land have been withdrawn from the public domain defeating the beneficent purposes for which reservations were established. In the United States by the census of 1880 there are about 250,000 Indians, of which 66,407 are called civilized, being in the statistics of the Indian Bureau returned as "wearing citizens dress." The aggregate area of Indian Reservations is 241,764 square miles or 154,741,534 acres an average of nearly one square mile for every Indian man, woman and child or about 4 square miles for every Indian who wears citizens dress or about 16 square miles to each head of a family who wears citizens dress. In this territory

p 3

The reservations amount to 10,821 square miles or 6,925,748 acres.

There are about 14,000 Indians of whom 4,405 wear citizens dress or 2 ¹/₆₂

¹/₂ square miles for each so called citizen Indian, about ten square miles or 6400 acres to each of such civilized Indians as are heads of family.

The number of agriculturists or of those who have capital or can employ labor to utilize land is perfectly insignificant and these poor creatures are made land poor by having land nominally given to them which they can in no possible way utilize or render a benefit. Thus a charitably

intended system is but an unmitigated curse to the donees. The government has presented an elephant to a Papoo squaw or papoose expecting such helpless ones to ~~xxxx~~ take care of the huge beast. Such being the practical view of this system after a long trial your memorialists respectfully urge that it should be abandoned. The government should assist the Indian by bestowing aid which is practical. To those who wish to acquire and hold land the free and most ample privilege should be extended, those who have no desire to ~~cultivate~~ cultivate the soil where should not be restricted to reservation limits ~~where~~ they cannot subsist themselves and and those dependant upon them, nor should they be forced to the pursuit of agriculture if they prefer to live by hunting or fishing. Nor is there any reason why an Indian should have forced upon him a large quantity of land when he neither wishes nor requires any nor can he make any use of it. Neither, if he could cultivate such land should he be entitled to more than a white man. Your memorialists favor the bestowal of land within these reservations upon such Indians as desire it. Such ~~these~~ reservations might for a period be held subject

p 4

to exclusive entry by Indians who should be afforded opportunity there or elsewhere to locate 160 acres of land upon terms more liberal than accorded to white settlers. After the expiration of such period the bar to general settlement regardless of race should be removed. Nor would such a policy be otherwise than beneficial to the Indian settler. Even should he be unable to cultivate profitably he would be surrounded with settlements which would enhance the value and desirability of his lands and he would be abundantly more profited by surrounding white neighbors, than by the improvements made by himself. Large areas of reservation of Washington Territory, which for years the Indians have refused to appropriate, should be opened to settlement. Your memorialists therefore pray that a policy should be inaugurated by which the land within reservations remaining unoccupied at the expiration

of a fixed period, say twelve months after notice, should be declared open for settlement alike to white and Indians that until such period named Indians exclusively should be permitted to take such lands that each and every Indian should be allowed to enter a quarter section and that no fees should be charged and that the title should rest in him ~~h000~~ after one years continuous residence, but the land should be inalienable for seven years that on the land heretofore taken by the Indians ~~fr~~ upon any reservation shall be confirmed to them both like in alienable condition and that any Indian who has been restricted to 40 or 80 acres allotment may enter sufficient other land, either on their reservation or elsewhere to secure to him or her a grant of 160 acres/

Passed by the council Nov. 23, 1883

Sewell Traux president of the council

Passed by the House Nov. 24, 1883

E.C. Ferguson, speaker of the house.

Approved 28 Nov. 1883

W.K. Small, governor.

Washington Territory ^{cal executive and launcher} injected itself into the the treaty-held reservations, ~~repeatedly~~ ^{repeatedly}.

The ~~Legislative assembly of the territory~~ Council, Nov. 23, 1883, memorialized Congress to abolish Indian Reservations. O

The ~~council~~ ^{repeated} memorial was signed by Sewell Fraux, president. It was passed the next day by the House and signed by C. Ferguson, speaker and on Nov 28 was approved by W.K. Small, governor.

The memorial ~~in~~ contended:

"...retarding ~~and hindering the progress of civilization~~ and ...the settlement of the country in which such reservations have been declared. Large and valuable regions are continued as a wilderness, withheld from appropriation and cultivation of ~~useful settlers~~...millions of acres of land have been ~~so~~ withdrawn from the public domain defeating the beneficial purposes for which reservations were established..."

The memorial placed the reservation ~~acres~~ ^{in the nation} at 154,741,534 acres and the population at ~~250,000~~ 250,000 "of which 66,407 are called civilized."

Reservations in Washington territory were ~~put~~ at 6,925,746 acres and the Indian population at 14,000 "of whom ~~4,405~~ ^{4,405} ~~was~~ ^{were} citizens and less.

"...the government should assist the Indian ~~by bestowing aid which is practical. To those who wish to acquire and hold land the free and most ample privilege should be extended,~~ those who have no desire to cultivate the soil should not be restricted to reservation limits ...nor should they be forced into the pursuit of agriculture if they prefer to live by hunting or fishing."

The memorial proposed a period of twelve months, permitting Indians to locate after which the reservations would be open to settlement, alike to white and Indians. It proposed a year's continuous residence upon settled 160 acre tracts and protection ~~against alienation~~ to the Indian against alienation for seven years.

OO- ~~OO~~ C.M. No. 9, Secretary of State, Olympia, Indian Wars 1855-60 no. 17, cannister.