

The Mecca toward which so many covetous eyes have long been directed; the goal for which thousands of hobbled feet have been tentatively shuffling for years, is likely to prove a barren reality, at least in respect where lust for gain has been most strongly shown.

The Yakima Indian reservation with its eight hundred thousand or more acres of agricultural, grazing and timber lands gives little promise to the whites, even when the contentions between the government and Indians have been finally settled, aside from the natural increase of business which will result from additional acres brought under cultivation and larger crops due to improved methods of farming.

The reason for this is that there are less than three hundred thousand acres of land adapted to agriculture and in so round numbers 2,500 allotments of 80 and 160 acres tracts have already been made to the Indians. These allotments cover nearly all of the irrigated lands and even those which can be reclaimed with the exceptions of small fractions, none of which exceed forty acres in extent, and there are only a few this large. Consequently those who have been awaiting the opening of the Yakima Indian reservation with the expectation of acquiring valuable lands at little cost had better begin disabusing their minds of this fallacy for their hopes stand little show of realization.

The writer recently traversed the reservation from one end to the other and has no intention of trying to belittle its extent or importance for the more one sees of it the greater is the realization of its undeveloped possibilities and commercial significance. It is a principality which has been so long dormant and practically unproductive that its real value is difficult to appreciate.

The lands now under cultivation are devoted to hay and grain with a heavy crop garnered or insured for every cultivated field and a larger acreage to grain than ever, the total harvest of cereals this year will not exceed 300,000 bushels--a travesty on such a vast and fertile

domain. Even with this small showing the principal part of the grain has been grown by the whites who have leased the lands or acquired control through marriage with Indian women.

The general interest that has been felt by thousands regarding the opening of the Yakima Indian reservation is shown by the letters of inquiry constantly received by local newspapers, secretary of the Commercial club, real estate agents and other supposed bureaus of information. Those who have traveled for nearly forty miles on the railroad through the northeastern part of the reservation and noted the vast stretches of level land covered with rank vegetation and broken only here and there by the sunny fields and by fences have failed to realize that these productive plains which are now practically unoccupied and serve mainly as a feeding ground for countless cayuses are the lost heritages of those who were forced to accept a tithe of that of which they were once owners. All the lands along the line of the railroad and within the reservation, which are of any value, have been allotted and patents are being issued to the Indians. Some four or five hundred of these Indians to whom allotments have been made have since died but the lands go to the heirs or where there are no direct heirs are to be held for the benefit of the federated tribes.

The boundaries of the reservation have never been definitely settled. Under the treaty made with the Indians in 1855 by Governor Stevens the west boundary was so indefinitely outlined that it has ever since been a bone of contention. According to the Indians it was along the main ridge of the Cascades and in the description there is much ground for this claim but in conformance with the present surveys about three hundred thousand acres are left out.

At the present time this land is practically worthless and will remain so until some railroad makes the timber of value, but the Indians are anxious to have it included in the reservation boundaries for when the lands not allotted are purchased by the government this will add

several two hundred thousand dollars to the fund to be distributed.

A government engineer has been ordered to report here and finally fix the lines and his coming is daily expected.

The treaty establishing the Yakima Indian reservation was made in 1855 by Governor Isaac Stevens acting for the government and the fourteen tribes of Indians who entered into the agreement represented nearly two thirds of what is now the state of Washington. By the terms of the treaty these various tribes were to be known as the Yakima nation of which Kamaikun was the head chief. (copy) Two hundred thousand dollars, together with the annuities of \$1000 for the chieftains were among the provisions granted by the government. Kamaikun was to have \$500 a year during his life. He was among the chieftains, however, who protested against the terms and never did accept a dollar of the money.

From all the accounts that can be gathered he was powerful mentally and physically, and a striking Indian in many particulars. He was large in frame, commanding in appearance, vigorous and logical in expression and his height six feet six inches as he stood in his moccasins. One of his main peculiarities was his bald head, a condition almost unknown among the redmen. He was a prominent figure in the war of 1855-6 and after peace was restored he settled on a tract of land on the Antanum and declared that his active days in council were over and that he desired to spend the remainder of his life in the quietude of his fireside. This was not permitted him, however, for the whites coveted his little piece of ground and he was forced from one place to another until he finally made a home in Whitman county and declared he would be driven no further and would maintain his rights with a gun if necessary. There he died, and years afterwards when his grave was opened it was found that his head had been severed from his body by vandals. The supposition is that it was done by government

employees who visited this country and it is said that his skull is included in the collection of relics and curiosities at the Smithsonian institute.

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The treaty with the federated tribes of Indians was entered into in June, 1855. In September the news of the killing of a prospector named Mattice in the Yakima country was sent by Acting Governor Mason to Major G.H. Raines, then in command of the regulars at Fort Stellicoom. Four days later Raines was notified that four two more men, citizens of Olympia were shot from an ambush by the Yakimas while crossing the Natcheez trail. Raines then detailed Capt. Malony to proceed with his troop to Yakima to punish the murders and give protection to whites traveling through the country. He also ordered troops stationed at The Dalles under Major Haller into the field. In the meantime Agent A.J. Bolen of Vancouver, who had gone to the present agency headquarters at Fort Simcoe was murdered while en route home, via The Dalles.

The death of Bolen, from all information, was the result of a council held by the Indians. Three braves were assigned to do the work but one of them flunked and carried the news to The Dalles which later on led to the apprehension and the military execution of those who were directly responsible for the murder.

On October 6 the government troops met the Indians on Simcoe creek and after a battle which resulted in a temporary success retreated to an adjacent hill which now overlooks the agency headquarters. Here there was a bloody fight but the engagement was disastrous to the government troops.

In the meantime couriers had been dispatched to Vancouver for reinforcements and while the military authorities did not respond with any promptness, Oregon with her men and munitions never hesitated

and the war was carried into the next year and then terminated in the peace which has ever since been maintained. The last battle of any importance was fought on the buttes near Union Gap six miles below Yakima City.

The Yakima reservation, under present conditions was really organized in 1859, the first agent then being placed in charge. Before that time the territorial governor was superintendent of the Indians.

After the death of Bolen whose body by the way was never found, government troops were stationed at what is now known as Fort Simcoe but which the Indians called Mool Mool, meaning bubbling waters on account of many springs in the vicinity. There blockhouses were built on the commanding hills and barracks and other buildings in the center--a location which could not be improved upon.

The troops stationed there were mainly Virginians, who previous to the civil war were transferred through the political figuring then going on in Washington to the south and they were enlisted practically as a body under the ensign of the Confederacy. Singular enough in one of the battles in West Virginia General Garnett, who commanded them there and who was the superior officer at Fort Simcoe, was killed by the troops under Gen. Milroy. The body was sent across the lines for burial with military honors, and after the country was once more united, Gen. Milroy was appointed as the civil agent of the government at Fort Simcoe and took possession of the quarters which had once resounded to the tread of Gen. Garnett.

Fort Simcoe, 34 miles from North Yakima by the main traveled road, is a place of much interest. The location is at the head of the valley in the foot hills in a grove of sturdy oaks. One or two of the old block houses are still standing and the open gun holes on all sides are a reminder of the troublous times of the past. Some of the

hewn log barracks have been torn down but two or three still remain standing and are used by the artisans who are now found necessary.

The present agent, Mr. Lynch, is on his second term, having been superseded during the Cleveland regime by Mr. Erwin. His residence is that of the old commandant of the post which was built in 1857 at the cost of about \$60,000. This structure has a semi-gothic front and has the liberal proportions of former days. It is of two stories and the entrance brings one into a wide hall which extends to the depth of the house. On each side there are commodious rooms and the upper floor is nearly a repetition of that of the ground.

Almost every room is provided with a large fire place and more comfortable quarters it is difficult to conceive. The great cost of the building is due to the conditions prevailing at the time of its construction. The latticed windows, the doors and much of the lumber were brought on ship around the Horn and packed on mules from the Dalles. No expense was spared and gay times are said to have prevailed while the Virginians occupied these quarters.

Sherman, Sheridan and Grant are said to have been entertained there before they attained their later greatness. Column after column could be written under this head but traditions and other details must be left for another time on account of limited space--
The Yakima Republic, September 1, 1899.

Reservation

The annual report of Jay Lynch, Indian agent at Fort Simcoe has been received at Washington.

He dwells particularly on the question of the Indian lands. Of the 800,000 acres on the Yakima reservation but two-thirds is practically valueless. The expenditure of \$75,000 to \$100,000 would reclaim much of this land by irrigation which the Indians could then lease for ten years profitably.

Indians on the irrigable lands are prospering. During the year past the Indians disposed of 3,000 ponies at \$25 a head. The department acknowledges an error in the western boundary line of nearly 294,000 acres ~~which the Indian commissioners offered to purchase from the Indians for \$75,000., but they think the land mostly covered with pine timber, is worth more.~~ The present population of the reservation is 2,309; school children 113--The Yakima Republic, Sept. 21, 1900.

Indian Reservation

Judge Erwin speaks encouragingly of the prospects of improvements on the Yakima reservation and also of the progress being made by the Indians under his charge.

In the year's residence here, he has become as enthusiastic over the Yakima country and its possibilities as the most optimistic old-timer. He said:

"We propose doing considerable work this summer building ditches and putting thousands of acres of the finest land in the state under cultivation.

"Recently \$5,000 was placed at my credit to be used in building irrigating canals and this will soon be utilized, for we are nearly prepared to commence work running canals from the Toppenish and Satus creeks. These canals will irrigate lands in the vicinity of the agency and soon it will blossom like flowers in the sunny south--Yakima Herald, May 17, 1894.

Indians

Rev. Thomas Pearne--When a boy I remember a meeting of the various chiefs of my tribe--the confederated Yakimas--meeting with Col. Wright at the Soda Springs on the Antanum. They went up in the mountains that was then the great game region where the mountain goats were plenty and agreed on the boundary of the reservation. There they built a big pile of stones.

The Indians did not believe the white men would ever become so numerous as to interfere with their hunting range so they laid off a small reservation.

I have been over the boundary line with the government surveyor, Barnhardt and showed him the piles of stones that marked the original boundary between us and Klickitat. Miles and miles of land in Klickitat belong to us under the treaty. The government will pay us half cash and half in wagons for land that has been taken from us since the treaty--Yakima Herald, Oct. 12, 1899.

Indians

Reservation

Agent Jay Lynch and Special Agent Parker have been conferring with the Yakima Indians with a view to inducing them to take lands in severalty.

A council was held recently and while the Indians expressed themselves as favorable to the idea of lands in severalty they stated that they wanted more time to think over the matter.

Agent Lynch, while in this city, said in answer to interrogatories:

"There are about 1,400 Indians on the reservation according to the last census which is probably overestimated owing to there being at all times more or less stragglers on the reservation.

I have made an estimate of the acres and find there are 800,000 on the reservation of which fully 400,000 are arable.

I consider the Yakima reservation beyond all question the finest in the valley and in the state of Washington.

Only about 150,000 acres could be taken by Indians under the allotment system which would leave 250,000 acres which might be thrown open for settlement by the whites. If a vote had been taken at the council for taking of lands in severalty it would have been overwhelmingly carried, but I did not deem it best to press the matter until it had been thoroughly discussed in order that there might be no opposition--Yakima Herald, October 15, 1891.

Indians

Reservation

Special Indian Agent John K. Rankin of Lawrence, Kan. has been ordered by the commissioner of Indian affairs to proceed at once to the Yakima agency and begin the work of allotment of lands in severalty which the resident has authorized.

This does not look to the immediate opening of the lands to settlement by the whites, though that must follow as a matter of course--Yakima Herald, April 28, 1892.

Two years ago the Coeur d'Alene Indians ceded to the government a portion of their reservation in consideration of \$600,500 and this money, or at least \$500,000 of it, has just been paid each Indian receiving \$1,100. The towns of Farmington, Tekoa, Oakesdale and other points along the line of the Spokane & Palouse railroad are receiving a big boom owing to this payment, for the Indians have settled their debts at the stores and are rapidly spending the balance of their wealth.

Buggies and hacks seemed to have the greatest fascination for them and they lowered this stock to the bottom notch the first day after getting their money.--Yakima Herald, May 5, 1892.

March 3 1925 Indians

While 150 Indians were gathered yesterday in the long house near Wapato to hear the report of the chiefs who recently went to Washington to put their grievances before the great white father Philip Olney, one of their leaders was in Yakima circulating a petition among the businessmen asking the extension of the trust period on all Indian allotments on the reservation.

The council which began shortly after noon yesterday continued late into the night and was resumed again today noon, is expected to close tonight.

Signatures on the petition will be sought by Olney in the towns of the reservation today and he will report his success to the council before it closes.

While the question of extension for 10 years would come with the trust period which without extension will come to an end on June 30 this year on 643 allotments, was the principal question before the council at which all the tribes of the Yakima federation were represented considerable time was given to the discussion of hunting rights, location of the agency headquarters, schools for Indian children and reservation boundaries.

With the Indian braves sitting along one side of the long house and the squaws lined up down the other and the chiefs at one end from which the council was conducted, Chiefs Yokawh-ow-hi, Ses-sash-elit-palmer and Frank See-lat-see and their interpreter Louie C. Mann told of their trip to the nation's capital. Mann read a diary which recounted every detail of each day of their stay in Washington. Indian children played about the council room as their elders talked matters that will be of vital importance to them when they grow up.

Considerable dissatisfaction with the results of the chiefs trip to Washington was expressed.

"We take our troubles to the reservation agency" said Jimmie Saluskin in an eloquent talk" and the agent says Washington has the power. We go to Washington and they tell us to take all these things up with our agent. Is all the money we spend to send our chiefs to the president wasted? It must be."

While the chiefs were in Washington they obtained a written answer to every grievance they placed before the Indian department. In every one of these answers which were read to the council the Indians were advised to present their facts to the local agency for his recommendation.

The chiefs also claimed that promises made to them in Washington were not kept. They declared they were promised that a bill providing for the support of the local agency by tribal funds would be killed and then when they got home they found it had not been killed and would probably become a law.



The returning chiefs reported that they had ~~not~~ been asked while at Washington to gather more facts to support their application to have the agency moved back to Fort Simcoe and to lay them before Major Evan Hestep, reservation superintendent. In regard to their hunting rights they were told this would be investigated by the department of justice.

Joe Dan read to the council a telegram from Frank Iyall, one member of the delegation who remained in Washington to await further instructions. Iyall went as a delegate from the Cowlitz Indians but the council yesterday authorized him to act for the entire federation. Iyall urged that immediate

Reservation problems , particularly the road situation were related to the Lions club this noon at the Commercial hotel by George Allen, president of the Toppenish commercial club.

That fact that only a ~~single~~ ~~small~~ slight percentage of the land is subject to taxation makes it difficult to obtain sufficient funds for improving and extending the road system there, he said.

Six hundred Indian allotments will be subject to patent in June of this year and when the land is sold by its aboriginal owners the latter will soon spend their money and be more or less destitute, he said.--The Yakima Republic,
February 28, 1925.



Wapato p

Wapato-Reservation Project

Crops on the Yakima Indian reservation project for the year 1925 were valued at \$8,247,000 according to the annual project report made by L.M. ^{Holt} ~~Boyd~~ supervising engineer for the United States Indian irrigation service.

The 1924 crop on the reservation was valued at \$6,325,000

The year of 1925 showing a crop value gain of about 30 per cent.

Potatoes proved the most valuable crop with 71,820 tons raised at a total value of \$3,000,000. It was estimated that the potatoes were worth \$40 a ton.

Apples were the second place winners with 1,150,800 boxes valued at \$1,400,000 produced. Approximately 97,100 tons of hay valued at \$1,360,000 were raised.

The aggregate wheat yield was valued at \$700,000

In some sections the ~~field~~ yield was 89 bushels an acre.

The Yakima Republic, January 27, 1926.

Indian Reservation

Tomas Priestly, U.S. Indian agent at Fort Simcoe, W.T. has received authority from the commissioner of Indian affairs to permit a limited number of cattle and sheep to be grazed on the reservation with consent of the Indians under the following conditions:

That such permits be given only to actual settlers residing in the neighborhood of the reservation and for their own cattle or sheep.

That a fair and just compensation shall be paid to the agent by the owners of the cattle or sheep for the use and benefit of the Indians.

That no exclusive privilege of grazing lands be granted on the reservation nor any act done looking to a lease or agreement for lease or any particular portion of said lands.

That all permits shall be for the grazing season only, and subject to revocation at any time by the department.

That ~~and~~ no responsibility for the cattle or sheep shall in any way attach to the United States or any of its agents, individually or collectively, nor shall the stock belonging to the Indians be deprived of ample pasturage. Neither shall the cattle or sheep owners erect any improvements whatsoever on the reservation nor use the lands for any purpose other than the grazing of their stock, under penalty of the immediate revocation of the permit.

That, subject to the above specified conditions, the whole matter shall be controlled by the agent--Yakima Herald, W.T. Sent. 12, 1889

Indian Reservation

Captain Thomas Priestly, agent of the Yakima Indian reservation has just made his annual report to the secretary of the interior. It embraces the following points: There are 277 children of school age on the reservation of which number 125 are attending school. The reservation containing 830,000 acres of land is the abiding place of numerous scattering remnants of tribes which formerly inhabited Washington and British Columbia.

In the reservation are 240,000 acres of arable land. It is estimated that 3,975 Indians are attached to the reservation, but the agent states that his census taken in the year past ~~1888~~ shows but 1675.

The Indians are engaged in stock raising and farming and with the exception of a few old men are self supporting. In the matter of civilization they are progressive as is shown by their desire to leave their blanket life and secure houses in which to live.

Their natures are yet barbaric; however, and they last year killed two Indian doctors with the idea that they were doing nothing wrong.

Infidelity to their marriage vows is also strongly prevalent among them.

They have 25,000 acres under fence, many Indians alone having as high as 1,000 acres under fence and trouble is likely to arise when an attempt is made, under the allotment act, to induce these men to relinquish all but 160 acres. Captain Priestley suggests that white men no longer be allowed to reside on the reservation simply because they have Indian wives and says that the Indians themselves object to this--Yakima Herald, North Yakima, Washington Territory August 29, 1889.

Indians--Petitions

McWhorter

Twelve requests relative to the management of the Yakima Indian reservation were made of Secretary Ballinger during his recent visit to North Yakima by twelve chiefs of the tribe after a tribal council and the petition handed him has just been made public.

In those twelve requests are involved more important points than have ever been placed in a similar paper in the Yakima valley.

Probably the most interesting is the request of the Indians that the government protect them from bootleggers for they "implore" this protection and also demand the removal of all saloons from the reservation.

The Indians also ask that the treaty of 1885 be followed by the government that they be not required to lease lands nor sell them and that they be allowed to hold the Wapato canal as private property.

If the petition of the Indians were followed the opening of the reservation to white settlement would never be accomplished until the last Indian of the Yakima tribe had passed away.

This petition was formulated at a council held at the L.V. McWhorter ranch on August 2 and has been translated being made public Tuesday through Mr. McWhorter.

It is signed by Shaw-aw-way, Coot-ahy-ah, chief of the Yakima tribe and 12 others of the head men. Umtee-bee, chief of the Toppenish tribe was unable to be present at the conference so sign the appended paper. The petition in full:

Honorable Richard Ballinger,
Secretary of the Interior.

Dear Sir:

By the act of the chiefs and council of the Yakima tribe in co~~o~~o session on the Yakima Indian reservation, Yakima County, Washington on August 2, 1909, we herewith submit the following petition

First-^hat the United States government shall not open the Yakima Indian reservation without the consent of the Yakima tribe.

Second-^hat we shall not be required to dispose of our canal at Union ^uap in the event that the large proposed canal is constructed, but be allowed to retain the same as the private property of the Yakima tribe because we do not wish to ~~required~~ be required to sell sixty (60) acres of our land to make it possible to bring water to the remaining 20.

Third-^hat we shall not be required to become taxpayers by receiving patents for our lands as many of us are living in tepees and have no houses.

Fourth-^hat we ~~should~~ be not required to lease any allotments or to sell any deceased lands under our agent now because we have more trouble about getting our money.

Fifth-^hat we shall be allowed to have enough estate money that money which comes to us from the sale of allotments belonging to our deceased relatives now being held by the Indian agent to pay the deceased just debts and incumbrances remaining without having to sell the personal property of the heirs as is now necessary very frequently to meet these debts also that the allotments of deceased Indians shall be property of the rightful heirs and not revert to the government and be classified as unallotted lands.

Sixth-That our agent S.A.M.Young shall treat us as a friend should and in all cases under his jurisdiction act according to justice in his dealings with us.

Seventh-There are a great many children born since 1904 who are denied allotment and we ask that they be given allotments before the reservation is opened.

Eighth-That owing to the fact that we are constant losers from thieving stockmen we are deterred from engaging in extensive stock raising, no outside grazing permits shall be granted within the boundaries of the Yakima reservation settlements and that a sufficient range in the foothills be reserved for our exclusive use.

Ninth-We implore protection from bootleggers and demand the removal of all saloons from the reservation.

Tenth-We ask in our efforts at farming and instructions how to live in houses as our children are dying and we want to know how to prevent it.

Eleventh-We ask that land values on that part of the reservation to be sold which can be irrigated by pumping plants be increased accordingly.

Twelfth-That the terms of the treaty of 1855 which does not state the government could sell any part of the Indian reservation for public settlement shall be strictly adhered to "so long as the Sun, Moon and Stars shall be witnesses to this treaty,"

Very respectfully

Shaw-aw-way, ~~Coot-ahy-ah~~ Coot-Ahy-ah

Chief of Yakima tribe and 12 other head men..The Yakima Herald, October 6, 1909.

"When the children went to the boarding school they stayed there all the time," he said. "They could ~~talk~~ ^{talk} only English and they learned the whiteman's language and ways quickly. Now they go to the public school in the daytime and then go home at night and talk the Indian language with their parents. Sometimes they go to school only three months out of the year, as their parents may take them on a trip into the hills and the children cannot stay home alone.

"When we had the boarding school the Indian police rounded up all the children and brought them to the school. Now there are many of them who do not go to school at all. They hang around pool halls and learn bad ways. Out at the fort there are no pool halls. I went to the boarding school two years and was in the third grade. I know two neighbor boys who have been going five years to public school and only in the third grade. They do not learn fast in public school and they get discouraged.

(under cut of Chief Meninick on page 1.

In the council of Yakima Indians held in the long house near Wapato yesterday and today Chief George Meninick as former head of the federation of tribes made a speech in which he gracefully surrendered any leadership that he once held.

"I was once your chief" he said. "I am no longer your chief. Sometimes you do what I say. Other times you don't. Act in all matters as you believe most wise. I won't advise you. I turn over the reins to younger men. But don't forget you are Yakimas," Chief Meninick is shown above in his tribal robes. The Yakima Republic, March 3, 1925.

steps be taken if the Ya imas hoped to obtain the extension of the trust period. He said that immediately on receipt of this telegram Olney got busy with the petition and that it was because he was out on that work that he was not present at the council.

Attempts of the Yakima Indians to progress and develop after the fashion of their white brothers are thwarted at every turn by the repressive and unwise policies of the bureau of Indian affairs in the opinion of Thomas Yallup, full-blood interpreter and one of the prominent redmen of the Reservation.

Capable Indians who have money kept in trust by the government are not allowed to draw any substantial amounts from their funds with which to effect desired improvements on their farms and in their homes, he said.

"An Indian will go to the superintendent and ask for money to buy a team of horses but the superintendent tells him he doesn't need a team," he explained. "An Indian sees what a nice home his white neighbor has and he wants furniture like the white man's. The agent writes out an order and tells the Indian to buy his furniture at a second hand store. The agent says \$25 a month is enough for an Indian but you know that doesn't go very far for a man with a family. The Indians want to progress but they are tied down.

Not only are the adults handicapped by the bureau system. The children too suffer, he asserted because they are forced to obtain their schooling in public schools with white children instead of at a boarding school. The Indians want the boarding school reestablished at Fort Simcoe but all their efforts and pleadings so far have fallen upon deaf ears.