

Letter Record Book Aug 21st , 1881 to Oct
1st, 1882

Piutes-Bannocks p 182
Leaders. Conduct

Yakama, February 28th 2 (1882)

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a copy of the report of Mr. A. Chapman on the condition of the Piutes at this Agency, together with accompanying documents, recommendations etc. from various military officers of on (sic) coast, for which I beg to tender my thanks. But few points seem to demand attention from me, but these are generally so wildly inaccurate that I must ask your indulgence while I rectify some of their errors--That Meggins and his band desire to return to their old country, so stated by Mr. Chapman, is doubtless true. I have stated the same to the Department, and I have no doubt but influenced by this desire, they made the most of my inconvenience they may have to endure p 183 here, in ~~the~~ their talk with Mr. Chapman. When, however, they told him they were suffering from hunger, his own observation must have detected the falsehood. Their statement of the amount of their weekly rations is absurd. It is true I have not deemed it necessary to allow them full rations this winter, for the reason that they have a large supply of subsistence of their own. During the fishing season the most of them were permitted to remain at the fisheries where they caught and cured a large amount, several wagon loads of salmon. In addition to this they had several thousand bushels of potatoes raised by themselves, and the product of over twenty acres of wheat, turned over to them last harvest. Besides the subsistence thus provided by themselves, I have this winter issued them a weekly ration of about 5 lbs flour and 6 lbs Beef for every full grown person, varying the amount of either sometimes, as circumstances rendered advisable. That this is ~~simply~~ amply sufficient their appearance testifies. They are

plump, strong and healthy and no one has complained of insufficient food. They have not had houses--1st because + p 184

had no certain knowledge that they were to remain here till it was too late to build 2nd that I had no lumber and 3rd because they refused to live in houses when offered them , preferring their old custom of living in tents--There is probably a grain of truth in ~~one~~ Mr. Chapman's statement of their want of clothing; and yet it is more than probably that they would be fairly supplied were it not for their ~~inveterate~~ inveterate habit which I have been unable wholly to suppress of gambling.

All have been treated alike, yet there is no complaint from Oitz and his band, either, on account of food , clothing or shelter.

But it is in his relations of conversations with myself that Mr. Chapman exhibits the full power of his fancy. When he says that "the agent to some extent admits" that horses have been stolen from the Piutes by the Yakimas and sold to the whites, he speaks in reference to something that I never heard before. In no single instance has complaint been made to me by Piutes, of depredations of Yakamas, that has not been immediately investigated and justice done to the offenders. Several cases have occurred p 185

of complaints from Piutes that their horses were missing which horses were afterwards found with ~~b~~bands belonging to Yakamas, but they were evidently strays and were cheerfully given up when the owners were found. ~~One~~ but one or perhaps two occasions have Piutes complained that their horses had been stolen by Yakamas. While it may be that a few of the wilder and more worthless of the Yakamas regard the Piutes with aversion, it is not true as regards the greater and more reputable portion of the nation. As an illustration of their feelings I may mention that unknown to myself or any of my employees, horses, cattle, provisions, clothing etc. were distributed among the Piutes as Christmas presents by the Yakamas, both the last Christmas and the one

preceding amounting to the value of several hundreds of dollars on each occasion. When I informed the council of the Yakamas, that the Department desired to locate the Piutes permanently here, they cheerfully agreed to cede them some of the best land on the Reservation, and expressed their readiness to contribute labor etc. to settle them in their new homes.

Mr. Chapman's further reference to conversations p 186 with me is equally erroneous. It may be possible for I cannot undertake to remember everything that was said in a conversation lasting an entire evening, it may be that I said that if Leggins' story was true it was a wrong and outrage on the part of the military authorities to bring him here. I still think so. I may also have said that at first I did not favor their location here--that personally I should be glad to be relieved of the responsibility of their charge and I may have said that their subsistence had cost , in flour and beef belonging to the Yakamas, not much less than \$20,000, and I did say that since Sarah Winnemucca had excited their hopes of a return to their old country, their feeling was such that should Mr. Chapman tell them he had come to escort them back , it would require a military force to keep them. All these I am ready to repeat, except the last. That has been tried in direct violation of Mr. Chapman's positive promise and found erroneous.

The construction which Mr. Chapman evidently seeks to put on my conversation with him is entirely false.

When Mr. Chapman exhibited his instructions p 187 to me I did not doubt but he came with authority from the Hon Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and supposed my own advices had miscarried or been delayed. While fully aware of the effect his communication would have on the Piutes, I had no means of preventing his making known the object of his mission, unless I should arrest and confine him. I might remove him from the reservation, but from its borders he could send word to the Indians. I therefore determined to appeal to his honor. I explained to

him my position--told him the desires of the Piutes excited by Sarah Winnemucca and the trouble I had with her people at that time, and asked him to defer communicating to them the object of his visit till I could hear from the Department. In the meantime I assured him I would afford him every facility in my power of learning the condition etc. of the Piutes. He declared that he fully understood and appreciated the difficulties of my position, and assured me he would not inform the Piutes of his object, till I could receive a reply to my dispatch. How his promise was kept, the Department has been informed p 188

It is a matter for wonder to me that the Military authorities who fought these people all summer, took them prisoners and escorted them to this Reservation, should have ~~xxx~~ so little knowledge of who were actually engaged in hostilities. Inclosed with copy of the report of Mr. Chapman is a list of "good Indians;" indorsed by the military authorities, which contains the name of some of the most bloodthirsty creatures that were engaged in massacre --Leggins, only claims eighteen lodges of his people as peaceable, and says Gen. Howard gave him permission for only six to return to Maheur, yet the list has 40 names, some of which I know to have been among the most treacherous and cruel of the hostiles. Paddy Caps mentioned as one of the "good Indians" was the ~~red~~ leader of the band who committed the greatest atrocities, and his name is so execrated throughout all Grant and Baker counties, that an army could hardly protect him from the vengeance of the people.

Should it be determined to permit the return of these Indians, as recommended by the military authorities, I shall most cheerfully acquiesce and p 189

render every assistance in my power to carry out the arrangement, but till the matter is finally decided, my own course is fully determined upon. As soon as the weather renders the measure practicable, I shall take my force of mechanics and laborers to the location selected

for the Piutes , where I already have a part of the necessary lumber-- shall build a house for the farmer in charge of the Piutes, a ~~new~~ store house for the issue of subsistence, a school house--shall move all the Piutes there shall clear a large body of land, break and fence it, and seed it to corn, potatoes, wheat etc. for their subsistence. I have also determined that such labor in clearing, fencing and planting grounds solely for their own benefit as the Piutes are capable of doing, they must do. I neither believe it good policy or for the best interest of the Piutes or the Department that they should be kept in idleness, receiving their weekly rations and rendering no return and it is my intention that they shall as soon as practicable, perform the greater part of the labor, necessary to supply their own subsistence.

p 190

And if while the work above indicated is in progress the Department should determine to permit the Piutes to return to their old country, there are enough Yakamas who would be glad to render a fair return in labor for the improvements intended for the Piutes while a large proportion of the latter would elect to remain here.

Very Respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.

(9 pages in letter book)

Letter Record book Aug. 21, 1881 to Oct 1, 1882

Yakama, March 1st (2)

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D.C.

Sir:

Respectfully referring to my letter of Dec. 15th, 1881, replying to "9635-15320/1881" in relation to land claim of Wm. Taylor embracing the Tumwater fishery, and asking if the right to take fish conferred on these Indians by the treaty implied also the right of a road to the fishery, I have the honor to remark. The fishing season will commence in about one month and the question must be settled before that time if trouble is to be avoided.

Wm. Taylor is dead and his son, who inherits his land claim, is no friend of the Indians.

I learn that he has expressed his determination to prevent their fishing unless he is paid for the same. There is but one way possible to get to the fishery, to wit, through a cleft or gap p 193 in the basaltic cliff that borders the lower bottom of the Columbia. This gap and the land above and below it, is on the claim of Mr. Taylor and I learn he contemplates fencing it up, and refusing the Indians passage to the fishery. Of course their right to take the fishery is a delusion if they have no right to go there. To deprive them of the privilege of taking salmon would be to them a calamity too overwhelming to estimate, since fish is an important factor in the subsistence of all, and is the sole food of very many. I respectfully ask therefore immediate instructions in the matter, and information if the Indians can claim a legal right to travel to the fishery, by the road used by them from time immemorial.

Very Respectfully

J. James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.

Letter Record book Aug. 21, 1881 to Oct 1, 1882

P. 197

(starting P. 4 of monthly report
letter) Feb. 28 2

Wilbur to Hon H. Price.

...

As previously stated I have hauled several loads of lumber to the spot selected for the Piutes, and just as soon as the weather will permit, I intend to proceed with a force of carpenters and laborers to the ground, to erect such buildings as are absolutely necessary and commence to clear, break and fence the ground.

The location selected is in a bend of the Copish river where a fence, not more than two miles long will enclose from two to four thousand acres of excellent land, so situated that it can be cheaply and abundantly irrigated. In this work--for their sole use and benefit--I intend the Piutes shall render such service as they may be capable of. I intend to build a school house at the first, and organize a day school for the present. Whether the Piutes, excited by the promised return of Chapman for their deliverance in the spring, will consent to work without some pressure, remains to be seen. Sarah Winnemucca, the evil genius of her people, finds a means to communicate with them. She is a consummate actress, and seems to have gained the entire confidence of Gen. McDowell.

In this connection it may be well to remember that, if promises solemnly made to the Piutes have been broken, if pledges have been violated, it is the military alone, who is responsible. A death bed repentance is doubtless better than none, and the awakening of a long dormant conscience may be a good thing, but one cannot help sometimes wishing the repentance had come sooner. For many years I have been planning and laboring to secure for the Yakamas, a sure and certain resource. While they were still so little advanced the blankets, calico and clothing

seemed to them highly desirable, I persuaded them to forgo their present gratification and permit me to use the money intended for blankets etc. to purchase a herd of cattle.

They consented, and year after year I saw the herd grow and increase and looked forward to no distant day when I should be able to present every young man who married and settled on a farm, with two or three cows and be able to give a few beeves every quarter to the poorer Indians without expense to the government. p 199.

~~disturbing~~ disturbing the funds intended for other purposes. No longer ago than 1878 I was asking from the Department permission to sell several hundred surplus beef steers and invest the proceeds for the benefit of the Indians.

The Piutes were brought here, and where are the Yakamas's cattle! While the prospect was that we all-agent and Indians- were to work together to try and elevate and help up a poor outcast race, we made no objection.

The Yakamas cheerfully gave up their cattle, and without a murmur saw their fat beeves slaughtered week after week, and fed to the Piutes, ~~deriving~~ deriving their satisfaction in the hope of seeing another tribe of Indians raised from the bottom of the ladder, and helped up into a civilized self-reliant people.

I repeat that it is unfortunate that the military conscience slumbered ~~until~~ till our herd of cattle were ~~now~~ nearly exhausted.

The task we had set for ourselves was two years ago comparatively easy to ~~be~~ accomplished. Now unwarranted interference from outside parties has wholly changed the conditions of the problem and where then the course was clear and the way plain, it has now become dark and uncertain, and time, firmness care and above all unlimited patience can alone render the realization of our hopes possible.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant, James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent

Letter Record Book Aug. 21, 1881. Oct 1, 1882

P 201

Yakama, March 3, 1882

Hon H. Price, commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I ask the indulgence of the Hon. Commissioner of Indian affairs for calling attention to a matter that while doubtless deserving little consideration, yet appears to our Indians of great importance. Today a number ~~members~~ of our leading men, John Lumley, capt. of police, Stick Joe, Joe Stwire and others have earnestly desired me to write to the Department respecting Eneas, who they allege is about to or has already forwarded some kind of communication to the Department.

Eneas is an intelligent and I am sorry to say a very disaffected Indian. I first nominated him for Captain of police but finding that he was looking to parties outside

the reservation for instructions in his duty, rather than to the agent and proving himself utterly unreliable I procured his removal.

He is an earnest Catholic and to bring the reservation under that influence, and secure the ultimate transfer of the Agency to that sect, is the dream of his life. Of course he is merely the organ of others and is just sufficiently intelligent and unscrupulous to make him a convenient and useful tool. His own following is not large, but he knows just what prejudices, passions and superstitions can best be used to create dissatisfaction and is an adept at starting a false rumor and concealing his own connection with it. Of course he causes me much embarrassment, but knowing that he is but an instrument, and well aware what hand is pulling the strings, I have deemed it best to endure in silence, and strive to counteract his schemes as soon as know rather than call him at once to account and to bring on myself the clamor of

"bigotry" "sectarianism" etc. from outside parties, some of whom know nothing of the circumstances and others who would rejoice at any disturbance likely to bring the agency into disrepute. Eneas neglects nothing likely to embarrass the agent or render it difficult to accomplish his plans. While ~~letting them~~ telling the Piutes that they are oppressed, that the Department desires ~~to~~ their return to Malheur and that Wilbur alone opposes, the Yakamas are told that the Piutes are defrauding them out of their land and their subsistence and urged to resist.

What course to pursue with him has caused me much perplexity. Knowing the source of his inspiration I have heretofore deemed it best to take no apparent notice of him, and this has probably been the best policy, especially as it is the policy least desired by his ~~prop~~ prompters.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

Letter Record Book Aug 21, 81-Oct 1-82

Yakama, March 20th 2 (1882)

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir: Referring to section 269 instructions to agents issued Oct 1st, 1881, I have the honor to report on arrangements made with owners of cattle in this vicinity and to ask your approval of the same.

Our location is such that without a much greater expenditure for service, than I could recommend, it is impracticable to prevent outside cattle grazing on the reservation.

Consequently while in common with the Indians I would much prefer that no such cattle be allowed on our range yet under the circumstances it is believed that the arrangement referred to is the best that could be made.

Adjoining us on the north and east is the stock ranch of Snipes and Allen.

They are large owners of cattle said to number in the fall of 1880 not less than ten thousand head. Their losses that winter were enormous, but they are now believed to have from four to five thousand on their range. In view of the manifest impossibility of arriving at any exact estimate of the number that may cross the line and graze on the reservation, I have arranged with them for a yearly payment of one thousand dollars, subject to future adjustment as their cattle may increase or diminish in number. It is believed that the above sum will fully cover all claims of the department at the rate of one dollar per head per annum.

Mr. David Powell of Portland, Ore. also has cattle here. As they range principally on the reservation I have agreed with him for the payment of one

dollar per head per annum for whatever number he may have. No round up of his cattle has been made this year, and the number is not yet definitely known, but is believed not to exceed three hundred head.

These are the only parties willing to pay though there are many more outside cattle on our range. In general however they belong to settlers living in the vicinity who claim that their cattle stray across the line and are unwilling to pay their pasture. All we can do in such cases is to drive the stock off whenever found on the reservation. As soon as the grass is fairly started in the spring I intend to make a general roundup of all Department cattle, brand all that are not ~~now~~ now plainly branded, and make a careful ~~count~~ count to ascertain the ~~exact~~ exact number of hand.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur U.S. Indian Agent.

Letter Record Book Aug 21-81/Oct 1-82.

Lakama, March 25 2

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to report that according to the plan heretofore communicated to the Department I notified all the Piutes to be on the ground selected for their new camp on Monday, the 20th instant, informing them that the weekly issue of subsistence would be made from there.

On Monday therefore I proceeded to the spot but found that only Oits and his band had come. Thinking the others might come by Thursday (the regular issue day) I set my force of men at work and remained there overseeing them till that day, when no more of the Piutes having come, I issued the regular ration to those who were there, and returned to the Agency, sending Leggins and his band word to come in the next day for a talk. None came at the appointed time p 223.

and two policemen were dispatched after Leggins and Paddy, the leaders of the dissatisfied element. I was satisfied that their insubordination could no longer be safely borne and determined the question of obedience or disobedience should be settled. I was somewhat apprehensive that they might refuse to obey the summons of only two members of the police force but after a time both came in accompanied by from twenty to twenty five of their people.

A better idea of subsequent proceedings can be gained from the inclosed extract from the minutes by which it will be seen that the whole band with but one exception gave in, and promised to go to the new camp and faithfully obey my instructions.

I learn they have lately made frequent visits to Lakima City and declare that parties there have told them they had letters from Chapman saying he would be here with a large number of wagons in the early spring for their removal. That they are told such things at Lakima City I

have no reason to doubt, but that 224

Chapman has written anything of the kind, I do not believe. All this agitation, all this circulation of false rumors these endeavors to create dissatisfaction and distrust among both Yakamas and Piutes, pretending to receive letters from Washington, and telling the Indians that "Wilbur is lying to them," all proceeds from the same source. The same hand that pulls the strings that move Eneas in his efforts to sow disaffection that last season circulated through all this country a petition for my removal, carefully approaching none but those supposed to be unfriendly to me, and so well covering their backs that no friend of mine could ever get a sight of the papers--this is the influence that excites the Piutes by bogus letters and tries to drive them into open defiance of my authority.

As for these Piutes, I have frequently written to the Department that if my personal wishes alone were consulted I should say let them go if they so desire; but when I reflect on what their life would undoubtedly be should they return, I cannot recommend that course or any others but leave the matter wholly to the p 225 decision of the Department. My experience has taught me too well the condition of a band of Indians located near a military post.

The women are prostituted to the lust of the soldiers, and the men live in lazy content on the wages of their shame--the children grow up in idleness and vice, their whole systems become so impregnated and poisoned with loathsome disease that in a few years the last wretched survivor crawls to some lonely spot and there yields up the life that has become a curse to himself and all around him.

That this picture is not overdrawn, everyone who has lived in the vicinity of a frontier post can testify--it was the life these Piutes led at Camp McDermitt and to which only, I am ~~as~~ satisfied they wish to return and while their removal would be an inexpressible relief to

me, I cannot conscientiously recommend it, believing as I do that their sole desire is to live in idleness and vice.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur U.S. Indian Agent.

Yakama, Fort Simcoe March 25, 2, Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C. p 226

Sir:

I have the honor to request permission to make the changes hereinafter indicated in the force of employees at this agency. As will be seen by the accompanying letter the Piutes have agreed to cheerfully set at work on the lands selected for them.

It is my intention next week to erect a school house and house for the employee who shall have charge of them. The list of employees authorized by the Honorable Secretary of the Interior for the agency for the current fiscal year, includes one teacher for the Piutes.

p 227 at \$500 per annum and I am also allowed one farmer for Piutes at \$800 per annum.

The change I desire to make is this. Thos McKay, a halfbreed, borne on my papers as famer and placed in charge of the herd of cattle has latterly conducted himself in such a manner, that I should be compelled to ask his discharge, had he not determined to resign. I propose to place O.R. McDonald, farmer for the Piutes, in charge of the herd, and employ a competent man as teacher who will have full charge of the Piutes, who will keep the children in school a few hours each day, but who will principally devote his energies to teaching them to work.

I wish to secure a mwn whose character will command respect, whose piety will lead him to be watchful over their spiritual interests, who is a practical farmer, and not only knows how to labor himself but is

p 228 competent to teach others, a man whose sleepless vigilance shall seem to overlook them all at all times, who will always be ready to teach them the best way of performing labor, who will have an eye to everything, will see that everything is in its proper place, that there is no waste of time or material, whose interest in their progress shall be grounded on the sense of duty, and who will conscientiously try to lift them up to an independent and self supporting condition. No doubt such qualities are rare and I feel sure ~~that~~ they can be found, but not for \$500 per year.

I propose ~~therefore~~ therefore with the consent of the Department to dispense with the farmer now in charge of the herd and place Mr. McDonald there a change that will result to the great advantage of the service, and taking the salary now paid that farmer add \$400 from the pay allowed for a p 229 teacher for the Piutes and hire for \$1000 per annum a teacher to have entire charge of the Piutes. there is more necessity of teaching the Indian children to work than simply to read and write and unless a teacher has charge of the children during the hours not devoted to study but little real good will be accomplished. My plan is, while making provision for teaching them to read and write to make all this subordinate to teaching them ~~good~~ habits of industry and economy, to let the teacher keep them in school two or three hours in the forenoon learning them to ~~sing~~ sing, to speak English, to read and write and when the short session is completed lead them to the field where he shall have entire charge of the work and supervise all the operations.

This would result in a saving of one pg 230 hundred dollars per annum and I am fully persuaded from my own experience, achieve far higher and better results than could possibly follow from placing a farmer in charge of the work and hiring a teacher for \$500 per annum.... I respectfully ask therefore permission to hire a teacher and farmer for the Piutes who shall be borne on my papers as teacher at the rate of \$1,000 per annum. V. Respectfully. James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

Letter ^{to} Record Book 81-82

Wilbur to Hon. H. Price, Yakama March 31
(report for month of March)

...Since the 20th I have been on the ground nearly all the time, camping with the ~~xxxxxx~~ men and directing the operations. Little more was done the first week than make a commencement so that nearly all the work has been done from the 23th to the close of the month, when the whole force of the Piutes were present. We have cleared over 50 acres worth at least ~~\$700 per acre~~ \$7.50 per acre to clear, have plowed and seeded the same, built a substantial heavy corral some sixty feet square, erected two small buildings, one 16 x 16 and one 16 x 20 for temporary store houses and have nearly completed a good comfortable farm house 28 x 16 with wing 20 x 16, intended for the employee in charge of the Piutes.

p 236

...In this connection I ask indulgence for referring to a statement of Gen. Miles dated Jan. 7th addressed to the Commander of Division of the Pacific, a copy of which was forwarded me by the Department. After referring to the number of Piutes originally brought here "many of whom were "always loyal to the government" he says, "Since they have been on that reservation they have been living in a wretched condition, with very insufficient food and clothing," etc. No doubt General Miles repeated the information precisely as communicated to him, but the statement is nevertheless incorrect. I have not furnished the Piutes with first class hotel fare, neither have I employed a French cook for them, but they have p 237 always had sufficient food. I have not supplied them with luxuries, nor given them flour and beef to sell to the less fortunate Yakamas, but none of them have suffered from hunger. I have graduated my issues according to my knowledge of the supplies they had of their own and while it may be possible that sometimes a family through failure

to be present at the issue, may have been on short rations for one or two days, such cases have been rare and there are none who have had "insufficient food." When hauling their camps to the new farm I was surprised at the amount of flour they had laid up. Some camps had no less than four or five large 135 lb sacks, some two and three and some one, but there are a few that have a greater or less amount.

Some possibly may be without, but if so, it is because they neglected to harvest the grain offered them. All this flour is besides the regular weekly issue. As for clothing, they have had it, as I have had it to give them.

A number of their camps are women and children, the men having been killed during the war or having abandoned their families. Some of these older people are doubtless in want of clothing. I have many times issued clothing and blankets to such pg 239

and perhaps the next day they would come for more saying that the younger men had robbed them and it was impossible to ascertain whether such was really the case or whether the story was a mere pretense to obtain a new supply. If they have not sufficient clothing, it is owing to causes entirely beyond my control. When estimating for supplies for the current fiscal year, the quantity at Alheur was kept steadily in mind and it was not expected the Piutes would require anything further, so that no particular reference was made to them in the estimates.

When however I was compelled to pay more than two thousand dollars for transferring these supplies for them, the amount remaining for the Piutes was considerably diminished. Until they have received a large quantity, and I do not believe any have really suffered from a lack of clothing during the past winter....

Letter Record Book 81-82

Wilbur to Hon H. Price, Takama May 1, 82

(Pg 4 of April Report) p 256

..We have completed an irrigating ditch, the value of which to all that large part of the reservation lying along the Topnish river cannot be estimated. It is some 12 feet in width, in some places, # 3(or 5) feet in depth over four miles long and is capable of carrying sufficient water to irrigate many thousands of acres of land that only needed this to become the most valuable on the reserve.

It is so constructed that it not only affords an abundance of water to irrigate all the land the Piutes will be likely to cultivate but many thousands of acres besides and is of such capacity that if necessary the entire Simcoe river can be diverted from its channel and made to contribute to the support of the people. In this work I only do simple justice to the Piutes when I say that their assistance was of immense value. The cutting of the ditch, great as the work was, by no means represents the whole accomplished at the Piute Farm. My report for March mentions 50 acres, these cleared and seeded to wheat. Since then we have cleared and broke at least 80 acres more, either seeded p 257 to grain or ready for potatoes, turnips, corn etc. Sufficient at least to subsist the Piutes another year. When it is remembered that the cost of clearing and breaking the ground is at its very lowest estimate seven dollars and fifty cents per acre and that exclusive of supplies furnished my laborers, the whole cost for irregular employees at this agency for April including work at the Agency and on the ditch is but one hundred and ninety five dollars it will be seen that not only have the Piutes rendered valuable service but that the labor of all has been directed to good advantage....

Letter record book 81-82

Yakama, July 27, 1882

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

On the 24th^{inst.} I had the honor to address a letter to the Department stating that a rumor had just reached me that the Piutes at the Tumwater fishery had crossed the Columbia river and were making their way back to the Malheur country. Last night I received an express from the Lieut. of Police who I had dispatched on first hearing the rumor-stating that the report was so far true, that some two hundred had crossed (as I at once appraised the Department by telegram) that he had arrested David, who had come from Warm Springs with money to pay their ferriage across the river and intended to arrest Louis another Warm Springs Indian Piute and the originator of the scheme as also Legins andaddy, the leaders of the disaffected element pg 361 among the Piutes. The messenger stated that Legins andaddy had been arrested and the Lieutenant was looking for Louis. I have been confined to my room some two weeks with severe illness, so that it was impossible to go in pursuit of the fugitives myself, and therefore sent an express to the Dalles directing the immediate organization of a pursuit party of four white men and ten Indians, the latter under command of Simpson, lieutenant of police. As neither of the leaders, Legins oraddy is with them, and as I trust both, as well as David and Lewis are safe in jail at the Dalles, I trust there may be no trouble in overtaking and bringing them back.

When the fishing season commenced, the Piutes came to me and requested permission to visit Tumwater fishery, to dry salmon, the same as last year. With an eye to reducing the expense of their subsistence as much as possible I told them if they would give me their promise not to cross the Columbia river I would allow them to go. This they solemnly promised and were permitted to depart, the ferryman being cautioned not

to cross them and several Takama 362 Indian police being instructed to keep their eyes on them. It seems that after conducting themselves for some time so well that the vigilance of those detailed to look after them was somewhat relaxed they either procured a boat of their own or hired some irresponsible persons to cross them at a point some two or three miles above the regular ferry, which crossing was interrupted by the arrival of the interpreter and lieutenant of police, who as above stated had been dispatched on the first receipt of the rumors. Unless I err greatly in my estimation of the temper of the people of the country ~~and~~ through which they must pass on their way to Alheur, very few of these poor creatures will reach their destination alive, should they escape the party now in pursuit of them. But it would be impossible to convince them of this fact.

The Warm Springs Piutes have told them so many times that "ilbur was lying that the government did not wish them to remain at Takama and had not ordered the return of those who escaped to Warm Springs etc. that when they saw month after month pass and no signs of the return of these fugitives they believed that I alone was pg 363 responsible for their detention here in defiance of the wishes of the department.

My stay in the services is so short and my wish to retire with pleasant relations to all connected with it so great that nothing but a sense of duty could impel me to say that there can be no doubt but this whole plot for the escape of the Piutes was planned and carried forward from Warm Springs.

Early a year ago Agent Smith received the most positive orders to return the fugitive Piutes at Warm Springs. I informed my Piutes of the orders and that all would be gathered here. The Warm Springs Piutes declared "I had lied" "that there were no such orders." I urged Agent Smith to comply with Department Instructions. This he has never done or

manifest any intention of doing. Last May Louis , a Piute employe at Warm Springs came here as I have since learned to concoct a plan for the escape of the Piutes. My Piutes received permission to visit the fishery and when the vigilance of those deputed to look after them had somewhat relaxed, David, a Piute from Warm Springs Pg 364

appears at the Dalles with money to pay their ferriage across the river. Finding the ferryman unwilling to cross them, he goes to Orono Vancouver to get permission from the military authorities, his pass being furnished by Mr. Walker, Agent Smith's clerk, then conveniently at the Dalles.

Let any one place these facts together and knowing anything of Indian character believe if he can that all this was done without the knowledge of Agent Smith or his employees.

Had the orders of the Department been obeyed and the Piutes at Warm Springs brought here, they would have realized that the Department desired them to remain here, and would have made no effort to escape. Oitz and his band have received precisely the same treatment, and yet they are happy , contented and cheerful and have no desire to get away.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent.

Piutes-~~E~~scapers.

P 365

Letter Record book 81-82

(Telegram, undated)

Official business

akima Agency July 31, 1882

Commissioner Indian Affairs

Washington

All fugitive Piutes captured and returned except some twenty who
I learn have gone to Warm Springs.

Wilbur,

Agent.

Yakama, August 15, 2

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash D.C.

Sir: Respectfully referring to my letter of resignation and communication from the Honorable Secretary of the Interior accepting the same, I have the honor to state: My successor, Gen R.H. Milroy informs me that at the very earliest, it will not be possible for him to relieve me before October 1st next.

Desiring to close up everything and leave no liabilities I have carefully computed the amount required to meet all expenditures at this Agency for the current quarter and respectfully ask that funds may be immediately forwarded to liquidate the same, so that when I transfer to him and leave the service there may be no indebtedness remaining. I respectfully ask that funds may be placed to my credit to meet the following viz;

Pay of employees, 1 physician from July 1 to October 1 at \$1,200 per annum \$238.04; 1 clerk 1st quarter at \$1,000 \$250; 1 carpenter, 1 wagon and plow maker, 1 miller and 1 supt farming 1 quarter at \$900, each per an \$900; 1 carpenter temporarily employed \$1,000 \$250; 1 farmer at \$800 and 1 ditto at \$700 temporarily employed through haying and harvest time for two months during July and August \$260.86

Total pay of employees \$1898.90

Pay of teachers, 1 supt of teaching 1 quarter \$250

1 teacher 1 month July \$500 \$42.12

1 teacher and matron 1 quarter at \$600 \$150

1 teacher and supt. for Piutes 1 quarter at \$900 \$225

total for teachers \$667.12

Indian Employes 1 blacksmith at \$900 \$225; 1 engineer 1 quarter at \$700;

1 interpreter at \$500 \$125; 1 cook in boarding house \$200 \$50; 1

laundress at \$52 \$13... We have nearly two thousand head of cattle

to provide for during the winter, nearly five hundred Piutes who must be fed

during the year and the cost of gathering and thrashing the harvest and putting up the hay is a very small fraction of what the Dept. would have to pay to buy flour for the Piutes and beef cattle for them and the school and if the harvest is not gathered nor hay put up for our cattle the Department will surely have to provide funds to purchase flour and beef. I have been led to these remarks by reading again circular 96 where I notice what before had escaped my attention that the agent ~~is~~ here is positively prohibited from disbursing more than \$12000 for ~~all~~ all employees white, Indian, regular, ~~irregular~~ irregular and school....

....I respectfully ask that in addition to the \$3154 .02 above noted a further sum of \$300 may be placed at my credit to pay irregular employes during the months of July and August for expenses incurred in arresting and returning fugitive Piutes to the Agency, including traveling expenses of J.H. Fairchild on said service \$175.44; for purchase of medicine for immediate use as per requisition of Dr. Whetzel, agency physician \$22.55, for payment of bills for storage of goods shipped from San Francisco...(etc) making a total of \$3680.51

..."e have put up at the cattle ranch from four hundred and fifty to six hundred tons of hay and about one hundred and fifty tons at the agency, nearly all of the work having been done by irregular employes with a white farmer to oversee and direct operations.

Very respectfully

J.H. Wilbur U.S. Indian agent.

Letter Record book 81-82

pg 4 of Wilbur letter to Hon H. Price, Yakima, August 31, 82 (Report for August, 1882)

p 409

From about August 14th to October 1 our Indians are nearly all in the mountains gathering berries and many Paiute families are employed to look after the houses of the absent Yakamas so that the school is probably as full as could be expected till the berrying season is over...

Letter "Record Book 82- 82

p 496

Yakima Oct 2, 1882

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir: I have the honor to report that having been duly nominated by the president and confirmed by the senate as U.S. Agent for the Indians of this Yakima Agency and having been ~~satisfied by you~~ notified of you by telegram of the 17th ult. that my official bond as such agent had been approved and having been directed by you in said telegram to take charge of this agency on the first day of October, 1882, that I have receipted to ~~the~~ the late agent Jas. H. Wilbur on the 30th ult. for the govt. property belonging to this agency and took charge of the same ~~and~~ from and including the 1st inst.

Very respectfully R.H. Milroy U.S. Ind. Agent.

Piute, Bannock

Depredations. Hay

Letter Book Aug 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882

Ft. Sincos, Sept 19, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir:

Referring to Department communication dated July 20th marked in margin
cil 12476 /81 I have the honor to state: Said communication
encloses the claim of Robert B. Hay for property amounting to \$2866.67
lost and destroyed by the Piute and Bannock Indians during the out-
break of 1878.

There can be no doubt but Mr. Hay lost heavily by the
depredations of hostile Indians during said outbreak, nor that p 51
the chief responsibility for said loss rests on the Piute and
Bannock Indians, though it is probable that some of the Umatillas
participated in the depredations. The value of the various articles
seems to be greatly overstated; probably \$1,500 or \$1,600 would
fully cover his entire loss, and this amount or sufficient to
cover his loss, should in my judgment be paid.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

Letter Book Aug 21, 1881-Oct 1, 1882

Plutes 32

location

Interpreter

Sept 221, 1881

Hon H. Price

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir: In view of the contemplated location of the Plutes on lands of their own on this reservation, I respectfully ask permission to employ an interpreter for them at a salary of \$300 per annum.

The constantly increasing intercourse with them, instructions in farming and labor etc. renders an interpreter a necessity.

Very respectfully

Your Obedient Servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

39

(To Price. Report, Oct 1, 1881

....

The permanent location of the Plutes, now principally engages my attention. I have made selection of a suitable tract of land where they will be comparatively isolated from the Yakimas, and it is my intention hereafter to devote my energies principally to their improvement and civilization.

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent.

p 46

Fort Simcoe, Oct 22, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash, D.C.

Sir: Respectfully acknowledging the receipt of your communication marked Civ. 17506 dated the 6th inst. I have the honor to return

the claim of R.B. May for depredations committed by the Piutes and Hannocks during the outbreak of ~~1877~~ 1878

In accordance with instructions I convened the Piutes in Council who admitted the depredation, but could not tell the number of sheep, p 47 destroyed or the ~~sum~~ amount or value of the stores taken. With reference to this particular depredation they seemed to think that the greater portion of the property was destroyed by Hannocks not located on this reservation. From all the information I have been able to gather, I am inclined to adhere to the opinion expressed in my letter of the 19th that \$1,500 or ~~\$1,000~~ \$1,600 would be ample compensation for the loss. Very respectfully.

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent.

Letter Book Aug 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882

Fort Simcoe, Oct. 20th, 1881

Hon H.C. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir: Respectfully referring to estimate of Annuity goods and supplies required at this agency for the year ending June 30, 1882, I have the honor to call ~~000~~ your attention to the quality of wagons furnished us. Attached to the printed list of articles to be estimated for, is a tag directing agents to state if "whether or not top boxes, spring seats, bows and covers are required," when estimating for wagons. In the estimate forwarded by me p 49 Feb 25th it was stated that seats and top boxes were required. No top boxes have come with the wagons and I desire to ask if they were contracted for. These wagons cost delivered at the Dalles \$115.75 each without top boxes. By permission of the Dept. I purchased at the Dalles, June 29th 3 wagons set up ready for running, with top boxes and California brake at a cost of \$123 each or \$7.75 each more than the wagons just received. The body brake on these new wagons, is utterly ~~insuited~~ suited to these mountainous roads, and we are compelled to have new brakes put on, at a cost of not less than ten dollars each, so that the actual cost of these new wagons is not less than \$8 to \$10 more pg 50 than I pay for the Baine wagon. When the quality of the wagons is taken into consideration, the actual value of the Bain wagon is at least \$30 to \$50 more than the wagons we are now receiving.

I respectfully ask that this statement may be taken into consideration, in making estimates in the future.

Very respectfully, your
obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian
agent.

Letter Book Aug 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882

Fort Sincos, Oct. 20th, 1881

Hon H.C. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir: Respectfully referring to estimate of Annuity goods and supplies required at this agency for the year ending June 30, 1882, I have the honor to call ~~our~~ your attention to the quality of wagons furnished us. Attached to the printed list of articles to be estimated for, is a tag directing agents to state if "whether or not top boxes, spring seats, bows and covers are required," when estimating for wagons. In the estimate forwarded by me p 49 Feb 25th it was stated that seats and top boxes were required. No top boxes have come with the wagons and I desire to ask if they were contracted for. These wagons cost delivered at the Dalles \$115.75 each without top boxes. By permission of the Dept. I purchased at the Dalles, June 29th 3 wagons set up ready for running, with top boxes and California brake at a cost of \$123 each or \$7.75 each more than the wagons just received. The body brake on these new wagons, is utterly insufficient to these mountainous roads, and we are compelled to have new brakes put on, at a cost of not less than ten dollars each, so that the actual cost of these new wagons is not less than \$8 to \$10 more per wagon than I pay for the Bain wagon. When the quality of the wagons is taken into consideration, the actual value of the Bain wagon is at least \$30 to \$50 more than the wagons we are now receiving.

I respectfully ask that this statement may be taken into consideration, in making estimates in the future.

Very respectfully, your
obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian
agent.

Letter Book Aug 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882

Oct 27, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to report that Mr. Arthur Chapman, Indian Interpreter (under the War Department I presume) presented himself at this Agency yesterday, with an order from Gen. McDowell, indorsed by Gen. Miles, directing him to visit this Agency and ascertain the wishes of the Plutes located here relative to a return to their former country, and to escort such of them as wished to return to the Columbia river, where he was to report to Gen. Miles if further escort was needed, etc. Said order alleged that the consent of the Interior Department had been given to the proposed removal.

I have no personal wish in this matter.

p 52

These Indians were brought here contrary to my judgment and have latterly owing to sinister influences, been a constant source of annoyance and anxiety. To be rid of them would be an inexpressible

relief to me; yet notwithstanding the trouble, labor and anxiety they have caused me, I have faithfully tried to carry out what I understood to be the wishes of the Department in relation to them, and place them on a foundation, that in a few years will enable them to care for themselves. But I respectfully suggest that unless some line of policy is adopted and adhered to, all efforts to assist and improve them either here, or elsewhere, must result in failure. Tall Sarah Winnemucca visited Washington in 1879-80 and obtained from the Hon Secretary Schurz that unfortunate permission for her people to return to Malheur, they had no expectation of returning. They knew they had forfeited their reservation p 53 and expected to make this their future home.

I do not include Loggins and his band who claim to have been brought here under a specific promise from Gen. Howard that they should be

returned to Malheur in the Spring. Nothing was said to me of any such promise, and no authority ever given me to permit them to leave. If Gen. Howard made such a promise he should have taken occasion measures to have it fulfilled. When the Piutes learned from Sarah that the Dept. had given permission for all, hostiles and peaceful, who wished to return, and had promised to do more for them, than before they took up the hatchet, they immediately commenced packing up. They were to return at their own expense, the Government rendering no assistance till they reached Malheur. (No greater folly than this project is conceivable. They numbered at that time something over 100 men of whom at least 15 were blind or otherwise helpless, p 54 about 160 women, many too infirm to travel, and probably nearly 200 children, many too young to travel. They had no horses or provisions, and expected to start on a journey of over 400 miles through a population so bitterly hostile, that each mail brought letters from the best men in the community declaring that it was the deliberate determination of the people to exterminate them if they returned. Certainly, without the most positive instructions, I should have been false to my duty to permit them to start on what must certainly be a raid of pillage.

Since the Department rescinded that permission, many of the Piutes are clinging to the hope that in some way they may yet be permitted to return. In this feeling they are encouraged by Loggins and one or two others, who urge them to accept no land on this Reservation. I am also informed that Sarah Winnemucca finds frequent means to communicate with them p 55 urging them to take no steps, accept of nothing that can be construed into a prospect of ever accepting this Reservation as their home. Could these influences be removed I have no doubt but the Piutes would cheerfully acquiesce in the desire of the Department to remain here. As it is, probably one third or if given the choice would elect to remain, the rest under the excitement of

Plutes. Oitz.
New School building

Letter Book , Aug. 21 1881, Oct 1, 1882

Nov. 1, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash. D.C.

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report from this agency for the month of October.

My principal efforts have been directed to the completion of the new school house in time to open school this fall. To this end everything else has been subordinated and in consequence the fall seeding of wheat has been postponed to the next month. I am glad to say that we have succeeded. The boarding house was already completed and on the last day of October school opened with some 40 scholars increased to 60 the next day. We have a school house that would do no discredit to any country pg 62

town in point of finish and convenience and though so much larger (70 x 26 feet) than anything ever before supposed necessary, yet from present indications I am not without doubt whether we shall be able to comfortably accommodate all the children that may desire to attend.

An interest in the subject of education has been awakened in these Indians that two years ago would hardly have been thought possible. Various circumstances occurred last season to convince them that education for their children was indispensable if they ever expected to make solid improvement.

The result was an immense increase in our school last winter, and the interest seems to increase.

My conviction is that the problem of Indian education must be solved in schools like this at Yakima, on the Reservation. The training given to a limited number in schools like that at

Carlisle and Forest Grove p 63

will doubtless prove of immense good to the Indian race, but I question if the real benefits are as great, as from schools at

home where the parents can see from time to time the progress of their children, and gradually adapt themselves to the changed tastes and habits of their children. Whether the change wrought by a few years training at Forest Grove will not prove too great and startling for the parents, whether there will not be the feeling that between them and their children there is a great gulf fixed which none may pass, and whether the children themselves returned from the comforts of civilization to the squalor and ~~filth~~ filth of savage life, will not become discouraged, and either abandon the task and seek some subordinate place among the whites or sink to a level with their people, are questions that time must determine.

p 4

during the last week of October we have had from twelve to fourteen plows at work and expect to get in nearly as much wheat as last season. Our potato crop has been gathered ~~estimated~~ almost entirely by the Piutes. The yield is considerably less than last season, but we shall have sufficient for winter use.

Oitz and twelve of his band of Piutes are in the timber cutting wood for winter consumption in the Office, School, etc.

I have already communicated to the Department the facts connected with the visit of Interpreter Chapman to this agency under orders from Gen. McDowell to confer with the Piutes relative to their return to their old country, and it is unnecessary to refer to it here further than to say, that what the Piutes might accomplish here is illustrated by Oitz and his band, who have definitely concluded to accept this as their future home, and gone to work like men. This band have near two thousand bushels of potatoes stored for p 65 winter, a large amount of corn, squashes etc. and wheat enough for their subsistence, all the product of their own labor. Next spring they will be placed on lands of their own, and I have no fears for the result. If five years does not show ~~some~~ some of

Oitz's band people fully abreast of the Yakimas, I shall be much disappointed.

Had it not been for the continual agitation relative to their return, the others would have done equally well, and all would be much further advanced, with regard to the Piutes, other than Oitz band, there is no doubt but they desire to return. Their hopes have been kept alive by their leaders, Leggins, Paddy and others, who urge them to do no work, accept no lands, and never consent to remain here.

If these were removed I have no doubt but the remainder would accept the situation and follow the example of Oitz and his band. So long as the advice of Leggins and Paddy p 66 is reinforced by the frequent visits of outside party parties like Mr. Chapman, who come to "confer" with them and as desired ascertain their wishes relative to return, they need not be expected to accomplish anything.

My own personal desire would be for all who wish to return, to go.

I do not believe it would be for their interest. I am sure it would not be for the interest of the Department. Their atrocities, committed without the slightest provocation when they took up the hatchet, deserves no favor, but their departure would relieve me of inexpressible annoyance and vexation, and end the suspense and uncertainty under which for two years I have labored.

Surely a great government like ours, should adopt some well considered line of policy and adhere to it. If it is determined to permit them to return, I shall joyfully acquiesce, if it is determined to hold them here, although this visit of Mr. Chapman has created so much p 67 expectations and excitement, that the task of managing them will be enormously increased, I shall, as I have ever done in the past, strive loyally to carry out the desires of the department.

Very Respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

Police 76
Fisheries

Letter Book, Aug. 21, 1881-Oct 1, 1882

Fort Simcoe, Nov 1, 1881

Hon H. P. Rice, Commissioner of Indian Affairs

Sir:

At a council of the Yakima Indians holdat this agency yesterday, it was unanimously decided that the service at this agency did not demand the employment of more than ten members of the police force during the winter, and that the agent was requested to discontinue all but that number. Some few changes were made by desire of the Council as per the enclosed report of changes in the police force during the summer p 77

When nearly half our Indians are at the fisheries a larger ~~force~~ force is necessary, but on the approach of winter nearly all are collected on the Reservation, and a force of more than ten men is a useless expense. If it can be done, I would respectfully request that the officers be continued as at present.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

Letter book Aug 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882

Piutes purchases

H. N. Price, Ft. Simcoe Nov 25, 1881 Commissioner of Indian Affairs

..declining to approve certain open market purchases made by me,

and last letter 19167/81.

..13 boxes of glass were purchased for the new school house because the glass estimated for, though the proper dimensions for our ordinary Indian houses, was not the right size for the school. We have a school house that is a great credit to the Indian Dept and I could not make up my mind to disfigure it by putting in windows too out of all proportion to the building...erection of the school and boarding house has consumed an immense quantity of nails...

..I was required to pay nearly three thousand dollars transportation from Malheur in supplies; the Piutes required large issues of blankets to make them comfortable for the winter. All these so exhausted my stocks that I was compelled to purchase, or see my school children suffer..

It should be borne in mind that in addition to the large school house, well finished in every part, and the boarding house, we have completed a large building p 84 for a residence for the superintendent of teaching and teachers, and another for the use of the person having charge of the barn, stables etc; and also there is no traders store here so that our people are compelled to look to the agent for all their supplies, or purchase them at Yakima City or Goldendale...

Referring to other articles.. Sash weights, axel pulleys, sash cord and stove locks \$84.86, absolutely required for the school house and nothing of the kind on hand; stove elbows, \$11, those estimated for were not the proper size for all our stoves; oil cloth \$8.44 for covering of tables in dining room, surely a necessary article; duck \$11.06 required for carrying belt in grist mill, none on hand being

p 85 heavy enough for that purpose. Cheviot \$20.40 for dresses for school children, not enough on hand; blue stone \$38.43, an absolute necessity for seed wheat in this country to prevent smut, line 86, required for the chimneys and flues for the school and boarding house, none being on hand.

The other items, ferrriage, forage, storage of dept goods and travelling expenses I presume will not be questioned.

I respectfully ask the Department to take into consideration the fact that it is sometimes three months before I can receive a reply to any communication I may address them, never less than one month and that it is impossible at all times to foresee the exigencies that may p 85 arise. that at the near approach of winter we are compelled to hasten in our supplies or do without them, often to the great injury of the service, till spring sometimes giving no time to communicate with the Department and procure its approval in advance.

There is no article on my list of purchases not absolutely essential and I respectfully submit that no officer of the Department in Washington can judge so correctly of the necessities of the service here as the agent who is on the ground.....

Wilbur.

Letter Book Aug. 21, 1881 Oct 1, 1882

Chapman

Fort Simcoe, Nov 21st, 1881

Hon H. Price Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash, D.C.

Sir: I respectfully ask attention to the trouble and annoyance caused me by the visit of "interpreter Arthur Chapman to this Agency. I have already in my letter of October 27th informed the Department of his arrival under orders from Gen. McDowell endorsed by Gen. Miles directing him to ascertain the wishes of the ~~000~~ Piutes located here relative to a return to their former country, to escort such as wished to do so, to the Columbia p 88 river and to report what further escort was needed etc. and alleging ~~th~~ that the consent of the Interior Department had been given for such removal.

Mr. Chapman was informed that no instructions to that effect had reached me, and that while personally more than willing, I could not permit their departure till the Department had been communicated with, and their wishes ascertained. He was also fully informed of the embarrassment and trouble caused me last year by their disappointment when it was ascertained that their desire to return would not be gratified, and was earnestly urged to hold out no inducement to them till the ~~inced~~ intention of the Department should p 89 be known. He expressed himself as fully comprehending the situation, and assured me he would not open to them the subject of his mission, but expressed a desire to see and converse with them, to learn their condition and wants, to better enable him to perform his duty, should the decision favor their removal.

I afforded him every facility for this purpose and he visited their ~~000~~ camps and had several "talks" with them previous to his departure for Yakima C, ty. I naturally supposed an employee of the Government, fully informed as to the facts and comprehending the position in which I was placed, would have sufficient discretion to say

nothing of his promise to refrain from p 90 discussing the question of their return, till an answer was received to my telegram of inquiry. I regret to say I was mistaken. My information is derived principally from Indians, and may be somewhat exaggerated, but the results of his conferences with them are too apparent to leave any doubt of the substantial correctness of my information.

On passing their camps on the way to Yakima City he made an appointment with several of their leading men to meet him at Yakima City next day and confer respecting their departure.

As that town is situated close to the line of the reservation and the Piutes are often in the vicinity for fishing and other purposes p 91 it was not difficult to hold such councils without my knowledge, and in fact I was not informed for several days. Mr. Chapman told them that the Govt. had determined to permit all who wished to return to their old homes that he had come for them and after learning their wishes would have transportation with escort ready at the Columbia river etc. He gave some of them money and asked if "their tyee" (agent) ever treated them like

that, etc. He remained there a week holding repeated consultations with them, and then came to the agency to learn if any information had been received. He was not then aware of his conferences with the Piutes and showed him the telegram ; p 92

from the Hon E.A. Stevens, acting commissioner, dated Oct. 31st, directing me to make no change with the Piutes.

This appeared to disconcert Chapman very much; he remained but a short time and returned to Yakima City where he had a subsequent conference with the Piutes, and told them that owing to the lateness of the season, or other reasons, their departure must be postponed, till spring when he would come and take them all back to their country. It requires no special knowledge of Indian character, to imagine the results of this visit.

perhaps one of the worst is that the Piutes , expecting soon
to return, take no interest in any plans for their benefit, refuse
p 93 to permit their children to attend school, and are expecting a
general exodus in the spring. I do not in this include Oitz, and his
band, who are hard at work, have accepted the situation in good faith
and have twelve or fifteen of their children in school. But there are
many more Piute children that should be there.

We have a school of which the Department may well be proud,
numbering over one hundred children and can accommodate and desire a large
desire a large number more of Piute children.

As long as these outside parties are coming each year,
could be creating discontent in the minds of the Piutes and exciting
false hopes and expectations; how can they be p 94

expected to improve and prosper. All the labor of Agent and
employees can be expected to accomplish but little till their
status is definitely and finally settled. But for this outside
interference, I have no doubt they would long since have accepted
the situation and today be contented and prosperous. Should they be
disappointed next season, it requires no prophet to foresee that
great firmness and tact will be necessary to manage and control them.

Very respectfully

Our obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian agent.

Letter Book Aug. 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882

New School. Grist Mill 99
Other buildings
Piutes. Attendance. Mo. Rpt.

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash.D.C.

N^o v. 30, 1881, Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following report from this agency for the month of November, 1881.

"A great amount of work has been accomplished with the expenditure of comparatively little means. We have sowed about one hundred and fifty to one hundred and eighty acres to wheat, gathered our various crops, not previously secured, and had a force of men (Piutes) in the timber cutting wood for use of the school, office, shops, etc.

The yield of potatoes this year was much less than last. We have stored seven hundred and forty bushels, which will probably be sufficient for the school. The Piutes are very well supplied from the products of their own fields. p 100

Our mechanics have been employed, completing the new school house, making desks, seats, etc. and have built and completely finished a house 28 feet by 22 feet two stories high as a residence for the superintendent of teaching and teachers, a good substantial building. I have also this month built a house 16 feet by 24 feet located near the barn and intended as a residence for the farmer in charge. of the stables and like the others, a substantial and well finished structure.

The new school and boarding houses are now completed, and either would do credit to any town in the Territory. Our school house was sufficiently near completion to enable me to open school Oct 31st with 40 children, now increased to 110 which is as many as can be properly taught and accommodated with our present force of teachers, and assistance in the boarding house.

I am more than pleased with the appearance, and progress and character of our school. Our old accommodations were so entirely and

utterly inadequate and unsuitable, that though much was accomplished, yet the school p 101
was never up to the mark/ I desired to see it attain. Now

however, with a home containing reasonable conveniences, and with vastly more suitable accommodations in the boarding house and dormitories, I feel that I may reasonably look for great results from our school, and think I can detect the certain indications of such results even now.

In general appearance, conduct, attention to studies and demeanor, our school will compare favorably with any in the country.

It is much to be regretted that the means at my command will not permit the employment of ~~sufficient~~ sufficient help in the school room, and in the boarding house, to enable us to take all the children that desire to attend, but the present number, 110, is as many as two teachers can render justice to, especially as the greater number are beginners, while the matron and seamstress, find all their energies taxed to manufacture and keep in repair the clothing of those we now have.

p 102

The grist mill has been kept running much of the time to its full capacity; in grinding wheat for the Indians and the Department. During October and Nov. There has been ground 3,871 bushels wheat for Indians, 1700 164 for the Department and 396 bushels for outside citizens for which we have received 49 bushels, tolls for grinding. I have had the Miller's dwelling thoroughly repaired, with new outside covering and shingle. Snow has commenced falling and it is my intention to start a force of men and teams cutting and hauling saw logs to the steam saw mill as soon as the necessary authority can be obtained from the Department. Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent.

Letter Book Aug. 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882 Taylor. Fishery. Rights.

Fort Simcoe, Dec. 15, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash.D.C.

Sir:

Respectfully referring to your communication marked '9635-15320, 1881 dated November 14th relative to the claim of Mr. W^m. Taylor to the Tumwater fishery by virtue of a patent from the government and informing me that such claim was not tenable, I respectfully ask if the right to take fish secured by treaty of June 9, 1855, includes the right of way to the fishery. The road (about the only practicable one) to the p 104

fishery passes down through a cleft or gap in the basaltic fliff that bounds the lower bottom of the C_olumbia, and I am informed that Mr. Taylor has expressed his intention of fencing up this gap, and prohibiting any person from passing. Mr. Taylor has on several occasions complained that Indians, passing through his field to reach the gap above mentioned, have caused him much inconvenience, by leaving his fences down, permitting their ponies to graze in his pasture, etc. I have strictly cautioned the Indians to pass through no field without leaving the fences in as good condition as they found them, and as far as possible, avoid passing p 105

through the fields on any occasion. Should Mr. Taylor ~~over~~ fence up the gap above mentioned there will be no way to the fishery, except through his field and I desire to ask, if the right to take fish can be construed to mean the right to travel to the fishery by the usual route, no other being practicable.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

Letter Book Aug. 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882 Taylor. Fishery. Rights.

Fort Simcoe, Dec. 15, 1881

Hon H. Price, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Wash.D.C.

Sir:

Respectfully referring to your communication marked '9635-15320, 1881 dated November 14th relative to the claim of Mr. W^m. Taylor to the ^Tumwater fishery by virtue of a patent from the government and informing me that such claim was not tenable, I respectfully ask if the right to take fish secured by treaty of June 9, 1855, includes the right of way to the fishery. The road (about the only practicable one) to the p 104

fishery passes down through a cleft or gap in the basaltic fliff that bounds the lower bottom of the C_olumbia, and I am informed that Mr. Taylor has expressed his intention of fencing up this gap, and prohibiting any person from passing. Mr. Taylor has on several occasions complained that Indians, passing through his field to reach the gap above mentioned, have caused him much inconvenience, by leaving his fences down, permitting their ponies to graze in his pasture, etc. I have strictly cautioned the Indians to pass through no field without leaving the fences in as good condition as they found them, and as far as possible, avoid passing p 105

through the fields on any occasion. Should Mr. Taylor ~~or~~ fence up the gap above mentioned there will be no way to the fishery, except through his field and I desire to ask, if the right to take fish can be construed to mean the right to travel to the fishery by the usual route, no other being practicable.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

Miscellaneous Letters: Aug 21, 1881, Oct 1, 1882, indexed.

Yakima Feb. 11th

Hon H. Price Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington D.C.

Sir:

Referring to circular No. 87 directing an inventory of all breech loading and magazine guns on this reservation, I have the honor to state, that for some time the police have been looking up the matter and to my surprise I find considerable feeling among the Indians in consequence.

Yesterday at a council called, partly on this very matter, the Indians declared, that in 1855 several bands who were peaceable, were required to give an account of their guns, which were afterwards all taken from them by US soldiers, and never returned.

There was so much excitement at the council that I promised to write and ask the object of the enumeration. This satisfied them, and I now have the honor to ask, if ~~consistent with~~ consistent with the interest of the service, that the object of said enumeration may be stated so that I may satisfy my Indians.

Very respectfully

Your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent