

July 15th, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, Sir:

I have the honor to report that Highney, an Indian chief that had been held as a prisoner by Gen. Howard at Vancouver, W.T. had the choice while a prisoner to return to Warm Springs agency or come with his people here. He chose this agency and in moving his horses and people incurred the expenses (sic) as seen in the enclosed bill. Shall I pay said bills, If so, out of what fund.

Yours very truly, James H. Wilbur.

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Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner, sir:

I have the honor to send you a copy of ferry charges to Highney Indian Chief in moving ~~OoOoOoOo~~ from Warm Springs agency to this agency. Crossing the Columbia river, crossing 388 horses at 25 cents \$97.00

60 packs with horses 18.00

30 men and women 30 cents 9.00

total \$124.000

Highney paid \$8.75

Due Jeff Miller \$115.25

Office Yakima Indian Agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. July 21, 1879 Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that I have received from Agent Reinhart of the Malhaeur agency some copies of correspondence between his office and yours relating to the return of Sagent (?) and his band to that agency and requesting me to examine said papers and ..to your office ,

The expense of moving said Indians to this agency was about \$50,000 dollars. They have been put to work here and have done well are contented and happy and if kept steadily at work will soon become self supporting. It would be in my judgment at this time none is better to move theremainder of the band now there or tthese that might her after be put there, to this agency and break up that agency rather than send them back. I think from all I know of these they have made more improvement duongd sinse (sic) they came here than in all the years previously spent in hstructing and taking care of them. I think it would be a childish course then that, to return them. I will report more fully in my annualreport .

I am sir etc .

Hon E.A. Hayt, Commissioner

July 28, '79

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that I have carefully inquired of the Piute and Banock Indians here at this agency who are complained of by Sarah E. Williams and charged with having stolen her horses thrown down her fences and caused her garden and field of grain to be destroyed. I cannot obtain any information from said Indians in reference to said defendant's action, said to be committed by them p 268

It seems to me the charges made for horses and bolts, said to have been taken, to be extremely high, though I know nothing about the stock personally. I am unable to give you any assistance in settling said claim and return said papers.

I am etc.

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir:

I have the honor to inform you that the Piute, Bannock and Snake Indians who were brought here last Feb. as prisoners, poor as poverty and crime could make them, have been supplied, wholly with beef and at least half of their flour, from beef and wheat, the product and property of the Indians of this agency. To take the property of the loyal and industrious and give to the disloyal and lazy is not just. The Indians of this agency look for and confidently expect the Department pg 300

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to appropriate money for their benefit equal to the value of the property thus furnished. I shall look (as their agent) for a favorable response to their claim. Hoping to hear soon from the Department in relation to this matter of justice.

I am sir, etc.

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General O.O. Howard

Sept. 16, 79

Dear Sir:

I wrote you Sept. 5th objecting to the receiving of the prisoners held by you and requested you to retain them until I could hear from the Interior Department. I have received the following telegram. Washington, D.C. Sept. 9, 1879

Wilbur

Howard has only eleven Indians to turn over. That is so insignificant to cause objection. E.A. Hayt, commissioner.

Yakima Ind. Ft. S. L. Coe. W.T. Oct 6, 79

Hon. E.A. Hayt, commissioner.

Sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge a statement of funds remitted to this agency for the 3rd and 4th quarters 1879

Amounting in all to \$7,750 dollars. Nothing for head chief, for support of schools, shops, mills, hospital and policemen. The Plutes are destitute and must have monies appropriated for their clothing and food. The winter is fast approaching and what is done must be done immediately or our roads will be blocked with snow. Please answer by telegram what is to be done. I am sir etc.

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Oct. 2th, 1879 (to Hayt)

I have the honor to inform you from my standpoint (illegible)

Our police force for the Omac Indians and themselves and family require 43,800 lbs of beef per annum worth 48 making \$1,752 dollars. Flour per annum 36,500 pounds worth 3 1-2 amounting to \$1,277.50; money to pay police \$2,430 dollars. For sugar, coffee, syrup, beans, rice, salt and soap \$1,832 dollars. Total for police per annum \$7,337.50. The 40 members of the police are cumbersome and expensive and are not worth as much as the ten reported approved and paid the 2d quarter. I recommend the last 30 approved to commence service Augst 1 be paid to Oct 1st and discontinued.

The plutes and Bannocks and Snake Indians who have been receiving rations from Feb. 10th and who are still poor and must have rations require ~~40,500~~ 37,592 lbs of beef per quarter or 150,368 lbs per annum worth at 4 cents \$6,014 dollars; flour per annum 125,120 lbs worth 3 1-2 cents \$4,378 making for said Indians for beef, flour per annum \$10,392.92 dollars making for the police and the above named Indians \$17,730.42 dollars. Then add to the above the

subsistence of from 80 to 100 school children, the beef and flour would amount to at least \$2100 making a grand total of p 319 \$19,830.42 dollars. I want to know where the beef and flour is coming from, or rather, where the money is to come from and where the money is to meet said expenses! I confess it looks hopeless to me. If your hon. is prepared to make the needed appropriations promptly and keep us from debt in the future as in the past, I am content, if not I want the expenses reduced or a new agent appointed.

It is ^{true} ~~too good~~ the Piutes, Bannocks and Snakes here raised 926 bushels of wheat; it takes as you will see 780 bushels per quarter--they raised some potatoes and corn, wheat, corn and potatoes raised will(I think) subsist them one third 320 of the year; to subsist them through the coming year will require \$6,932 dollars. It is to be remembered these Indians were taken from the war path and even brought here as prisoners, wild as the elk and no more accustomed to work; they have done quite ~~good~~ as well as we could have expected. A liberal appropriation must be made for their subsistence and clothing this coming season or they will suffer. \$6,932 dollars should be appropriated for their subsistence. and at least \$3,000 for their clothing. I understand supplies were taken last winter to the Malhuer agency, both food and clothing-- 322 their supplies met them when they were on the way to this agency! What has become to these supplies? What are we to do about the emergency this winter. The winds of winter are beginning to blow and the road will soon be blocked with snow. I shall wait with deep solicitude for a response and to know the needed appropriation is made.

I am sir, etc.

Hon E.A. Hayt

Commissioner, Sir:

Oct. 21st 1879

I have the honor to reply to your official letter
ma ked in the margin(C.W. Oregon 274-79 dated Aug. 12, 1879
relating to a claim of Harvey Fields for \$805 for horses and
cattle taken and destroyed by the hostile Bannocks and other Indians
formerly at the Malheur agency.

In a council held this day with the Indians above named I find
the horses were seen by them with hostile Bannocks that sheep
and cattle were killed along the road.

The evidence by the Indians and the proof furnished by Fields
satisfies me the horses, beef steers and sheep were so taken and
the charge made for them is reasonable and should be paid.

I am sir etc.

Office Yakima Indian agency

Ft. Simcoe W.T. Oct. 31st, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to report everything quiet and orderly at the agency. The first part of the month I was detained at the circuit court of the county looking after the case of Chief Moses. I wrote you the grand jury failed to find a bill against him and he was discharged, and his bail released. The Lincoln was subpoenaed and in court two weeks. The fall has been very favorable for fall work and we have been improving the time have seeded better than one hundred acres on the Department farms and the Indian farmers have been doing a good work plowing and seeding.

I must not omit to speak of our Piute and Pannock Indians. They are ~~doing well~~ doing well with but little exception they have grubbed about 50 acres of land during the month and getting it in good order for a crop in the spring. I am about to allot them farms in severalty--up to this time they have cultivated in common, not being able to stand alone. The land grubbed is good land and the grubbing is worth at least \$3 per acre. Our grist mills has all the work it can do and is doing finely for the agency.

The invoice of goods bought at San Francisco and shipped Sept. 25th has been recd and today notice has been given they have arrived at the Dalles, 65 miles from the agency. I shall send teams in a few days for them. Our expenses this month will be more than usual--plowing, seeding, lumber. I am etc.

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Nov. 24, 1879

Sir: I have the honor to communicate to you that Oitz the head man of the Piutes, Bannocks and Snakes who were upon the war path in the summer of 1878 is here for the purpose of taking some 29 of his people from here to the Warm Springs agency in Oregon. Having reported for the people when they were turned over to me last Feb. and knowing the ...it would produce with those left here, the hostile feeling existing toward the Indians who have been on the war path on the opposite side of the Columbia and the strong probability of their being caught in a snow storm on their way p 351 and lost, but not heart, their having no protection I decided that Oitz stay here with his wives and children until they could return (if that was your order) with a degree of comfort and safety. I consider it very injudicious to send him about the country alone. He is content to stay now with his people and I shall keep him unless I am differently ordered. I am etc.

General O.O. Howard

Nov. 24, 1879

Dear Sir:

Your letter of the 18th is rec'd by the slip ? from the Silver State. The Indians that were brought here last winter were in a most destitute and suffering condition. Quite a number I think about twenty young men and old died. They are now enjoying very good health and are contented and happy in their work.

Moses did not send down any horses. Moostainck, an Indian connected with the Perkins murderers turned state evidence and was released. He to satisfy the lawyers who succeeded in getting him released p 354 gave as I understand 30 of his horses and half of them I am informed were taken by the sheriff and the other fifteen by the lawyers. I have not heard that Moses was in any way connected with said horses. The getting and disposing of the horses was outside of my doing.

I am sir etc.

P.S. I return said slip.

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Ftl Simcoe, W.T. 16th Nov. 1879 Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor to inform you that goods purchased by your agent at San Francisco to the amount of forty six tons have arrived at Rockland on the Columbia river sixty five miles from the Station. The transport to ~~Rockland~~ from San Francisco to Rockland and from Rockland to the station will cost about one thousand dollars. Out of what fund is this to be paid? Please direct immediately.

your etc.

Civ. Oregon R. 694.79

Hon. E.A. Hayt, commissioner

Dec. 29, 1879

Commissioner, sir:

I have the honor to acknowledge the recp't of your official letter of Nov. 18th 1879 enclosing a claim of Dillard Sterrit for \$1,834.50 dollars. I have had the Indians Bannock and Piute who are here who are charged with committing the alleged depredations but cannot get any evidence of their being the partys. In the council I took pains to impress upon them that no harm would come to them in telling the whole truth. They say they did not commit these depredations.

I am sir etc

James H. Wilbur.

report--piutes-Church

Dec. 31, 1879

Hon E.A. Hayt:

I have the honor to submit my report for the month of December. The first part of the month was pleasant for stock feed business, the last half of the month has been stormy and cold and has required a great deal of labor and vigilance in taking care of the cattle. Up to this time we have lost nothing.

The boarding school has been doing well. The Piute school six miles away under management of George Waters has done better and the children are more constant in attendance than we 372 could have reasonably expected and are making fair improvement. Our shops have been well supplied with material for work and the work in them has been thrifty.

Our grist mill is in first rate order and has been most of the month with grinding. We are not running the saw mill in the winter month.

We have just completed a church 36 by 72 feet with a belfry and a good bell having capacity to seat completely six hundred and fifty. The church is finished entire and is a model building. The new church is located near the old one and enables us to use the old for a school room. p 373

There is a growing effort with the Indians of this agency to be manly, industrious and Christians . There is peace in all our borders and prosperity that attends our efforts to civilize and Christianize the Indians of the reservation.

I am sir, your obedient servant

James H. Wilbur.

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Yakima Indian (sic) Fort Simcoe W.T. January 18, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner:

Sir: I have the honor herewith to enclose gold value of currency from January 1st 1876 to June 30th 1878 which I trust will be satisfactory in the settlement of my accts. Also a letter from Messrs Ladd and Tilton Banker, Portland Oregon.

I am sir, your obedient servant James H. Wilbur.

U.S. Indian agent

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Yakima Indian Agency, Fort Simcoe, W.T. Jan. 19, 1880

Hon E.A. Hayt, commissioner: Sir:

I have the honor to make requisition for six hundred and eighteen dollars now due the policemen of this agency for the 3rd and 4th quarters 1879. Sometimes since you informed me the money would be forthcoming. Please send at your earliest convenience and oblige.

I am sir etc.