

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Sir:

Salem, Ore. Nov. 7, 1858

There is a report in circulation here that General Harney has issued orders rescinding the orders issued by General Clarke forbidding settlement in the Indian country and in the neighborhood of military posts east of the Cascade mountains. If such an order has been issued by the commanding general I have to request that I be furnished with a copy of the same.

The effect of such an order would be to change the policy heretofore present toward the Indians in the superintendency and the important results likely to flow from it is my apology for troubling you for a copy of the order.

Very Respectfully

Yours etc.

J. W. Nesmith,

Supt. Ind. Affairs O W T

Capt. A. Pleasanton

A.A.A. General U.S.A.

Fort Vancouver W.T.

Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem, Oregon, Nov. 12, 1858

Sir:

Referring to your letter of August 30 enclosing a copy of a letter from Thos. Casbery (?) Esq. recommending that the Yakima Indians if congregated, be placed in charge of Father Pandosey and directing me to "carefully consider the same and report to your office my views in regard to the propriety of adopting the suggestion therein contained " I have now to submit the following report:

Having never had the pleasure of meeting Father Pandosy I of course have had no opportunity to form any opinion from personal observation relation to his peculiar fitness for the discharge of the duties of the place for which Mr. Casbery recom ends him.

The fact however is within my knowledge that Father Pandosy, as Mr. Casbery says " has attended and instructed the Yakima Indians for some years back," and I must in candor say that in my opinion no beneficial results appear to have flown from the Father's ministrations to that tribe. His location was prior and up to the latter part of the year 1855 in the Yakima country and about ninety miles north of the Dalles of the Columbia and east of the Cascade mountains. The first acts of hostilities in that year were perpetrated by the Indians over whom Mr. Casbury represents that the father exercises so much influence and control. Those were the ~~murderers~~ <sup>murderers</sup> of Matice and others and the same who perpetrated the cold blooded and inhuman (?) murder of sub agent Colon and when Major Waller of the U.S. Army proceeded with a command of United States troops to punish the murderers he was attacked and defeated by Father Pandosy's Indians, and within a short distance of the father's residence.

I state these facts for the purpose of showing that Mr. Casbery is misinformed when he asserts that Father Pandosy has



so much influence and control over those Indians. If he did possess the influence and control he certainly exercised it to but little purpose.

In the month of November 1855 I had occasion to visit the Yakima country as colonel in command of the Oregon Volunteer force then in the field against the hostile tribes and visited the mission formerly occupied by Father Pandosy. In my report of the campaign I had occasion to allude to him. p. 296. Herewith I transmit you a copy of that report with the paragraph relative to the Father marked in the margin.

While Father Pandosy failed to exert his influence and control over those Indians in 1855, I do not wish to be misunderstood as intimating that he incited them to or encouraged them in hostilities for I do not believe that such is the fact.

I am informed that the father understands our language but in-differently his foreign birth and ministerial occupation probably having deprived him of the opportunity to acquire our language and become conversant with our laws. While such defects are not a fault they tend greatly to disqualify him for the responsible position to which Mr. Casbery recommends him. The history of missionary influence among the Indians of Oregon and Washington territories is not such as to ... any strong hopes of any beneficial results flowing from it thereafter. And the fact is notorious that thus far the seeds of the Gospel sown among those people has produced a bountiful crop of dissipated abandoned (?) murderers, thieves, vagabonds and prostitutes.

During fifteen years residence here I have never known but one Indian who gave any evidence of knowing or caring anything about the Christian religion. That the Yakimas and all other tribes here require among them is the presence among them of an honest, firm and reliable agent willing and capable of imparting to them a knowledge of agriculture and with a strong disposition to compel them to practice it. When they have acquired the ability and disposition to provide for

their own temporal wants it may then be worth while for Father Pandosy to try the experiment of instructing them into the profound mysteries of the Gospel. I do not believe that a wild Indian destitute of the p... and forththought essential to the supplying of his own physical wants is capable of entertaining ~~and~~ any very accurate conception of the plan of salvation about which intelligent white men differ so much among themselves. I do not believe that the employment of Father Pandosy or that of any other priest or preacher to teach the Yakima Indians the abstract truth or practical workings of the Christian religion will result in any practical good to the Indian or the government.

Very respectfully yours etc.

J.W. Nesmith,

Supt. Ind. Affairs O and T.

Hon Charles E. Mix

Commissioner Ind. Affrs.

Washington, D.C.



Camp Harney

Oregon Oct. 29th, 1869

Sir: I arrived at this post 24th inst. for the purpose of removing the bands of Snakes and Piute Indians from this vicinity and part of southeastern Oregon to Klamath Reservation in pursuance of instructions received from Indian Department Washington.

I find here the chiefs Winnemucca, We-Ya-We Wa and Ochweyo. Having informed them of my intentions they have had long debates and finally have come to the ~~con~~ conclusion not to move until ordered by the commander of this district asserting that Col "Otis" (sic) gave them permission to remain at Camps McDermitt, Harney and Warner and assuring them that they would be fed at these several points. I learn this fact from Chief Cho-toot, a Snake Indian who resides in Klamath Reservation and who spent last night in their council. My judgment sustained by opinion of Dr. McKay who accompanies me as adviser is that the presence of Col. Otis ~~command~~ commander of the district would be of great value and perhaps be indispensable to accomplish the object for which I am here.

Thankful for your assurance of assistance and cooperation I would respectfully ask that you furnish Col. Otis a copy of this letter or take such other steps as you may think necessary to secure his presence and cooperation on Monday the 5th at which time I expect to hold a council with the Indians at this post.

Maj. F. Dallas, Commdy Camp Harney

I am your obt. servt

A.B. Meacham

Supt. Indian Affairs

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem, Ogn. March 22, 1870

Sir:

Many Indians belonging to reservations in this superintendency have long eluded both supts. and agents by going into Washington Territory. I visited two bands this winter & last of February. One band under Smoke Heller ~~0000000000~~ ( Too indistinct to be sure of spelling) the Dreamer at Priest Rapids on the Columbia River. This chief belongs by treaty to the Umatilla Agency but has never been upon the reservation and now repudiates the treaty. He has collected about him 300 Indians, some of them renegades from other tribes. I notified him that he must come in peaceably if he would but come he must. The people have divided and part of the band have decided to go onto the reservation. Another band of Walla Wallas under To Mis (or To Mis) at the mouth of Snake River have already come in.

My object in this communication is first to explain my reasons for going over into your superintendency. Secondly to endeavor to bring about some understanding whereby we may cooperate together and make a successful drive.

I propose during the coming season to gather my people all upon the several reservations and can only hope to make a clean sweep by moving in concert with yourself and agents.

I would be much gratified to visit you and arrange this matter will you drop me a line when you will visit Portland. I will try to meet you. I expect to be in Portland from about 3 (or 5th) to 8 proximo. The affairs in ~~0000000000~~ my superintendency are in good condition.

Very respectfully

Etb. A. B. Meacham, supt. Indian

affairs for Oregon To Col Saml. Rap (?)  
Supt. Indian Affairs Olympia W.T.



Oregon Suptcy. Indian Affairs 1848-72 Roll 10, Microcopy 2

(Very indistinct and too difficult to type in full.)

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Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem Oregon, March 22, 1870

Sir: I have the honor to report that I made an official visit to Umatilla Agency on the 16th ulto and herewith transmit the results of observations and Council talks....

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#### Expedition to Priest Rapids

There were various reasons for making this movement at this particular time. To begin with they were a party to treaty with Stephens and Palmer 1855 and subordinate to Pau Piu Mox Mox and by the terms of that treaty were to have been located upon Umatilla Reservation. From some cause they have been neglected they occupying a country of such little value for any purpose and still unavailable for other than Indian settlements. Another reason was the influence upon our reservation Indians by allowing them to wander (?) off. Also because this band became the home and hiding place of nearly every renegade Indian from four several reservations Lapwai of Idaho, Simcoe of Washington and Warm Springs and Umatilla of Oregon. But my principal object was to break up a grand scheme of rascality being hatched under the leadership of ~~xxxxxx~~ of a head man of the Walla Walla tribe who is known as the great Dreamer, also Big Talk on Four Mountains also Smokeller. Now the scheme of which I refer was founded on pretended spiritual revelations by Smokeller. The principal idea ~~xx~~ seeming to be the restoring (?) of the country at some time not distant to the Indians claiming immunity from civil law and asserting a higher law under the name of religion. So much plausibility has this new religion that it has many followers throughout all that section lying east of the Cascade and west of the Rocky Mountains even down into Nevada.

Through the knowledge of Dr. C. McKay of whom I have spoken in former



reports and communications I learned the foregoing facts while on the Snake expedition last fall and winter. Now if nipped in the bud it may not develop into a dangerous element and to accomplish this I desire to have Smokeheller under the control of the agent at Umatilla where he belongs. I accordingly fitted out a small company under my own supervision consisting of myself Agent Boyle, Clement . . . P I. Pangrum and Oliver Brisbois . . . interpreter with two . . . and Indians also Homli acting chief of Walla Walla . . . and Kal istanla (?) head man of whom mention<sup>ed</sup> is made in ~~x~~ foregoing report

Left ~~Walla Walla~~ Umatilla Agency Tuesday 22 February via Walla Walla to Wallula (?)

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here we crossed the Columbia River. After holding a short talk both To Mas who represented about one hundred persons but who declined any final answer to my demands until after the result of the Council with Smokeheller should be known. Followed up the north bank of the Columbia river twenty four miles to Yakimia river up that river twenty five miles where we left river road and trail and passed over thirty five miles of rolling sage brush sand hills to Columbia river about ~~fifteen~~ fifteen miles below Priest Rapids. Here we ~~were~~ were met by a messenger from Smokeheller requesting us not to come any nearer until Monday--this being Saturday -- weather being intensely cold, wood and grass scarce altogether spent a very disagreeable Sunday However on Monday mounted horse and arrived opposite Grand Council lodge about 10 a.m. We were ferried over in canoes and at the signal being made by ringing a small bell we were admitted to his majesty's presence. The lodge was about 100 feet long, perhaps 16 feet wide. An aisle about 4 feet wide down the center disclosed at the farther end a chair of state vacant and standing beside it Smokeheller. After shaking hands with ~~him~~ the assembly I was conducted to this chair of state it being a rude structure covered with a red blanket. After a few moments



spent in social converse the grand council opened, report of which I herewith~~fix~~ forward.

Having occupied three and half hours again shook hands and left Smokeheller and people with a "flea in his ear." You will understand from report the condition of affairs so far.

On return via Wallula again met To Mas a report of which talk I also forward herewith.

Although no favorable answer was obtained at the said talk, yet the result is likely to prove partially if not entirely successful. Letter (?) dates from Umatilla Agency say that all of To Mas' band are coming in and that Smokeheller's power is broken a large party having declared ~~enim~~ against him and started to come on to the reservation.

I have given you a short sketch of this important expedition and will from time to time advise you of any change in the appearance of matters pertaining thereto.

I have opened a correspondence with Col. Saml Ross, Supt. Indian Affairs Washington Territory with the view to bring about a cooperation whereby I think we may during the coming summer clear the country along the Columbia River on both sides of several hundred renegade and worthless Indians.

I propose leaving Salem tomorrow to visit officially Warm Springs Indian Agency under Charge of Brevt. Capt. W.W. Addended Mitchel  
U.S. A

Very respectfully

A.B. Meacham supt. etc.

Hon E.S. Parker,  
Commissioner etc.  
Washington D.C.

(No mention made in ensuing transmittals of above referred to Council Minutes)



Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem, Ogn. April 18, 1870

Sir: I have to report to you that I made an official visit to Warm Springs Agency March 26. Left Dalles City on morning of the 24th with Capt.

W.W. Mitchell, U.S.A. acting agent and Dr. W.C. McKay arrived same day

The res ... in bad condition owing to the weather but found evidence of Capt. Mitchell's enterprise in Indian road work, otherwise traveling would have been almost impossible. The long grades cut in the mountain sides and bridges built over streams with Indian labor alone give me a good impression of these people

The country comprising this reservation is very high generally, the exception being the narrow crooked valleys in the numerous canyons that p 390 cross from west to east. The Agency is situated in one of these deep canyons government buildings occupying a small valley of perhaps three acres near the junction of two creeks

The first view had given a good impression as to the agency proper and in fact the buildings are decidedly better than at any other agency in this ~~xxxx~~ superintendency but here superiority ends unless it is in the selection and management of ~~xxxxxxx~~ employees. I commend the appointment as in his instance of married men of good moral character ... assistance and support morally to the agent in his efforts to perpetuate the things of the former agent Smith.

Sunday was religiously observed in every part of the Agency and Sunday Schools of Indian children is being regularly taught, some five of the children making progress. Preaching by Dr. Miller Dept. physician in the afternoon was attended by employees and Indians. This part of the agency affairs indicate that Indians may be christianized. I heard several of them talk and offer prayers.

Monday ~~disrupted~~ devoted to looking over Superintendent and Indian farms. This was not encouraging. All the farms are badly cut up by the creeks



into small patches varying from a half to ten acres. The Dept. farms is in detached parcels and comprising a total of perhaps forty acres and of an inferior kind of soil. Its products have not furnished forage for Dept. animals and as far as I could learn but little assistance to the poor.

The Dept. barns and granaries ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ were empty. Agent Mitchell is compelled to purchase grain for ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ feed and seed and haul it from thirty to forty miles but to his credit I must say he is full of hope and determination that such a state of things will not again exist. The Indian farms are small and altogether insufficient to supply the wants of the people although a few Indian men may have plenty and some to sell but the greater numbers at least seventy five per ct. have no civilized .. and a means for a livelihood. The truth is the land suitable for cultivation is not on this desolate Godforsaken reservation. In the several reports Indian Doing Well and all ~~thnx~~ this stereotyped hypocrisy I was led to the belief and so mentioned in my annual report that the agency was in a prosperous condition. A few plain words will explain how much credence to give this statement. On this reservation as also on some others a few Indians are really doing well but the great majority are still living in indigeous (?) in regular Indian like. Now to finish up this subject so far as this report goes I say this that for the purpose of vilifying Indians as an agricultural people is simply a swindle and a humbug except ~~for~~ the fortunate few and can this explain are nothing worthy of the large amount of government money that has been expended. One remedy is to furnish them stock and let those become stock growers but I have some doubt about the propriety of this to any .. extent at present or as an alternate to (too indistinct).....

p. 391 The Indian people

About one third or less are professing Christianized and civilized live in houses and make pretensions to civilized life. Out of the whole number on this reservation not more than twenty or thirty have laid aside the blanket. All wear lo



All wear long hair. All talk Indian but few can speak Boston (English) and it seems that a general aversion is felt to learning the language. Consequently agents and employes use the ~~jargon~~ jargon (a language common among all the tribes in my superintendency.)

Those who are not christians generally follow the teachings and ... of Smokeller of whom I wrote in my report of Expedition to Priest Rapids last February and are called Dreamers (crossed out (Drummers (written over) the something that is known as Dreamer at Umatilla Agency. These people are wild and fanatical having but little connection with ~~Christian Indians~~ Christian Indians and but little with the agent.

I wrote you something recent about this religion etc. in the reservation above alluded to how very fascinating and fanatical its power. A few weeks since a leader of the Dreamers notified Agent Mitchell that he would not remain, persuasion and threats were alike unavailing. He did leave and took with him twenty families, thirteen of whom have since returned. Capt. Mitchell failed to bring the leader and now asks instructions in regard thereto...



Salem Orgn. April 25, 1870

Sir: The accompanying special communication of Agent Mitchell of Warm Springs Agency I consider of importance sufficient to furnish you a copy thereof and to make some explanations in regard thereto and also inform you of the conclusions arrived at.

In my report of Priest Rapids Expedition and also of late visit to Warm Springs you will have observed that mention and remarks have been made as to the meaning and character of the Smokeller alias Dreamer religion.

The subject matter of this report of Agent Mitchell is to this effect, Quep-e-<sup>mach</sup>~~mach~~ is one of the Dreamers, a man of great courage and strong will combined with a large show of magnetic power over Indians and is really a chief but like Smokeller claims ~~HedDdOoddytso~~ to be only a voice. Now to make this matter plain you must understand that Quep a-mach has dreamed that he was to leave Warm Springs. He applied for a pass stating his reasons the principal one being the dream above referred to also another which really had no logic ie that there was no good land at Warm Springs for his people to make a home. (I have some respect for the first excuse. Agent Mitchell very properly refused the demand. Quep-e-mah boldly announced to the Indians ~~thru~~ though not to the agent that he was going and ~~would~~ never would come back again.

This occurred ten days previous to my late visit to Warm Springs. The whole matter had been before me and I realizing that there was danger of bringing about a very bad state of affairs by hasty action, knowing how wide reports ~~fix~~ this fanatical religion extends, instructed Agent Mitchell to go in person to Umatilla reservation and talk with Queep-e-mah.

Umatilla Reservation is about one hundred and fifty miles from Warm Springs by the usual routes, hence the report submitted. Now I know you can fully ... the situation.

My determination is to request Genl. Crook to arrest Queep-e-mah and confine him, also any other ~~fixxxx~~ who defy the government. The



result I hope for and expect is that this demonstration will be sufficient to prevent further defiance of law. Possibly the Dreamers may be found ... to resist and for a time disturb the peace for a few days, the dignity of the government must be preserved, and I see no alternative but this proposed arrest. From late Agent Smith and employes of Warm Springs and also the Agent Wilbur of Simcoe I learn that this man Queep-e-mah was under arrest many years ago and that he was treated cruelly and inhumanely and that the memory of this affair will make him desperate.

I confess that I had much charity for him when I realized how much he and his people have been crowded in that Warm Springs Reservation, they giving up good homes for a paltry consideration of money and a miserable bleak, sterile devil's garden. Nevertheless I see .... these people only

confined them to do right  
Hon E.S. Parker commissioner

Respectfully  
A.B. Meacham

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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Wash., D.C. April 26, 1870

Sir: I beg to call your attention to the contents of the accompanying report of Agent W.W. Mitchell of Warm Springs and also to the letter of explanation to Commissioner Gen E.S. Parker from which you will learn that an Indian belonging to said Warm Springs reservation has refused to ~~xxx~~ obey the commands of Agent Mitchell and defied the authority of the government, hence this communication will respectfully request that by your order said Queep-e-mach may be arrested and confined as in your judgment may seem best and also that the several Indians of the said Queep-e-mach's band be returned to Warm Springs. And I also request that in the event of other Indians resisting the ~~an~~ lawful commands of Agent Mitchell of Warm Springs or Agent Wm. Boyle of Umatilla or the Supt. of Indian Affairs that they may also be by your said order arrested and properly punished. This Queep-e-mach was and is probably yet on Umatilla Reservation I have this day issued an order to Agent Boyle of Umatilla to keep watch of said Indians and also to furnish



guides to the officers commanding the squad who may be ordered to make the arrest.

Very Respectfully

Your obt servant

A.B. Meacham

Maj.Genl. George Crook

Commd. Dept of the Columbia

Portland, Oregon

Office Supt. Indian Affairs

Salem, Orgn. Sept. 21, 1870

Sir: I have the honor to submit my second annual report of the condition of Indian Affairs in Oregon.

The changes made superseding civilian and appointing military agents at the commencement of the current year created some embarrassment which for a time seemed retard prosperity and disheraten the Indians. They could not b made to unde stand the reason therefore and with the instinct of their race feared the changes. So strong was the feeling that on every reservation within my superintendency Indians stampeded or threatened to do so in consequence therefore it required a great amount of talking to reconcile them.

I am however at present writing prepared to state so far as this cause for discontent is concerned that nearly all of them are again at their homes some perfectly reconciled and willing to be governed by military agents and perhaps pleased with the change. Others look wix upon it with distrust and fear.

Although we have not fully accomplished all that we had proposed yet a decided progress in civilization has been made. Under instructions from Commissioner of Indian Affairs and in conformity with the spirit of President Grant's inaugural address and policy as made known from time to time

p. 448.. But again mixed up with these people through the state are those who are slow to embrace American usages looking with distrust upon every new law. It will require many years to overcome their prejudices but this class is in the minority. One serious drawback is the existence among the Indians of Oregon of a peculiar religion called Smokholler or Dreamer, the chief direction of which is that the red man is again to rule the country and this sometimes leads to setbacks against ~~the~~ lawful authority.



p. 449 (Umatilla Agency.)

... Reference to Agent Boyle's census report shows the whole number of Indians belonging to ~~the~~ Umatilla Reservation to be 1622. Of this number only 837 are located here, the remainder, 785 are scattered along the Columbia River at various points. In the month of February last I made an official visit to these bands at which time full report thereof was forwarded asking instructions in the matter which I deemed necessary for the reasons that they have some found mostly out of Oregon and also because they denied belonging to Umatilla by treaty and refused to recognize my authority. I again respectfully ask instructions in regard to these people. The public welfare demands that something be done with them immediately. They doubtless belong to Umatilla and I would respectfully suggest that the military commander of the District be instructed to remove them hence, that they may become parties to any treaty that may be hereafter made with the Umatilla Indians, thereby securing to themselves some of the benefits of such treaty.

Warm Springs...

Warm Springs reservation as an agricultural country is a total failure

p. 452.. Indians not on Reservations

It is impossible to state the exact numbers but from best information I estimate them at 1776. They are scattered in various parts of the country from Columbia River to the California line and from the coast to the eastern limits of the state. The largest band being Snakes at Camp Harney Ne-ah-me-ma chief. , In obedience to orders from commissioner I made an effort to remove them to Klamath last fall but owing to cause set forth in report of said expedition was unsuccessful. They have since been fed by the military at Camp Harney. ..

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The next largest band is Smoheller's at Priest Rapids, Washington Territory. They also refused to obey my order "to come in" made to them during the month of February last of which full report was made. I would also recommend that they be removed to Umatilla by the military.

... No fears of serious trouble may be apprehended.

I am etc.

A. B. Meacham

Hon E.S. Parker,  
Commissioner etc.  
Washington, D.C.



Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem Oregon June 26, 1876

Sir:

I am authorized and instructed by Hon E.S. Parker, commissioner Indian Affairs to collect and deliver all Snake Indian prisoners and now held in bondage by the tribes as slaves to Ochio, chief of said Snake Indians or his representatives.

It was one of the conditions with said chief Ochio that if he would remove to a reservation with his people that all those held in bondage by other bands of Indians with whom treaties have been made should be returned to them.

Now to carry out these instructions and keep faith with the Snake Indians I have appointed W.C. McKay, physician at Warm Springs Agency to proceed with said Ochio ~~and~~ or his representative to collect said prisoners (or slave as they now are) in order that they may be successful in this enterprise I have to request that you furnish his officer an order permitting Dr. McKay to visit your several agencies if necessary for the purpose stated above and directing your agents to render him such information and assistance as he may require in order to carry out his instructions. As it will be necessary for him to go outside this superintendency as I learn there are several prisoners or slaves belonging to the Snakes at Takama and perhaps some at other points.

As I shall leave for the upper country soon I would respectfully ask that you make the order without delay.

Very respectfully etc.

A. B. Meacham

Hon F.S. McKenny

Supt. Ind. Affairs

Olympia W.T.



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~~Any~~ ...Any of such persons who may belong to other reservations or tribes must be allowed to elect for themselves whether they remain where now located or return to their own proper reservation. In either case they are to be enrolled and placed on equal footing in every respect with other Indians. Again, any Indian who may for good reasons desire to change from one reservation to another may be allowed to do so when ~~xxxxxx~~ consent of all .. agent and Indians of both reservations...

...There are many other points coming up on this new state of our Indian affairs that have been submitted to commissioner for instructions, the result of which will be furnished you at the earliest moment

Respectfully Meacham

(Joel Palmer at Siletz)



Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem Orgn. Sept. 6, 1871

Sir:

I have received a letter from one J.W. Evans at the Dalles in regard to the fishery question. He sets forth that you were to act as his agent or attorney in making the arrangement about the fishery and that on your (blank) you agreed with him to pay one hundred and fifty dollars for the season and that you ~~finxxxxxxx~~ paid therein sixty dollars in currency and agreed to pay the balance or rather that Supt. Meacham would settle with him within ten days.

I now write to you to say settle this thing up in some way. I have too much to do to look out for it. I wish you would without exciting curiosity too much ascertain the number of the fractional sections covering this fishery and furnish this office therewith immediately.

Very respectfully

etc. A.B. Meacham, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Oregon

Capt. John Smith, U.S. Ind. Agent, Warm Springs.



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Office Supt. Ind. Affairs  
Salem Oregn. Sept. 6th, 1871

Sir:

Yours in regard to Dalles fishery has been received. In reply I have to say that I have this day written to Agent Smith to settle this business with you. He is fully authorized in the premises. I know so little about it that I would not settle with(it) if I should meet you. What ever Capt. Smith agrees to will be for him and you to settle. It occurs to me that you ought to show some rights or title to the premises before receiving pay, however that is a question to be settled hereafter with you and Smith.

Very Respectfully

Your Obt. Servt.

A.B. Meacham, Supt. Ind. Affairs  
In Ogn.

J.W. Evans, esq.

Dalles City, Og.

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p. 596

Office. Supt. Ind. Affairs  
Salem Oregn. Sept. 11, 1871

Sir:

Herewith enclosed please find copy of a letter from J.C. Wilson, Eldorado City, Oregon in regard to Indians at Wal-low-wa Valley Oregon. Reference to the Treaty with Umatilla, Cayuses and Walla Wallas in 1855 discloses ~~the~~ the fact that said valley was ceded in that treaty to the United States. Hence it would clearly belong to the government. Nelson represents that the Indians now there are Nes Perces. Such being the case it would seem that while my jurisdiction extends over the country the question might arise who has jurisdiction over the Indians that are complained of.

I have then respectfully to suggest that some action be had on your part toward their removal. This subject has been several times agitated and must be settled at an early date to prevent a conflict between white settlers and Indians. I have this day written Agent Cornoyer of Umatilla to call in his peoples. If I can in any way assist you in this matter you are at liberty to command me subject always to the duties of my own work. Hoping that you will be equal to the emergency I am

Very Respectfully (etc.)

A.B. Meacham, Supt. Ind. Affairs Oregn.

John B. Monteith esq.

U.S. Ind. Agent, Lapwai, I.T.



Office Supt. Ind. Affairs

Salem Ogn. Sept. 13, 1871

Sir:

The necessity is imperative for our Indian people to have the privilege of fishing at the Dalles. To make things permanent we ~~shexl~~ must have the fishing reserved from sale.

In furtherance of his object I would suggest that you employ the necessary means to determine what are the ~~members~~ numbers of fractional lots covering the most valuable fishing grounds at said location and report the same to this office at an early day.

We should have at least one mile of river front for the purpose indicated. Please give the subject your early attention

Very Respectfully etc.

A.B. Meacham, supt. Ind. Affairs Og

Capt. John Smith

U.S. Ind. Agent

Warm Springs Og.

Salem, Or. Sept. 19, 1872

Sir: I have the honor to submit this my first annual report...

p. 717 Indians not on reservations

The Clatsops, Nestuckas, Tillamooks and Nehalims with whom no treaty was ever made and who have received but little assistance or attention from the government number in the aggregate about two hundred. They are now in Tillamook county about some thirty miles from Grand Ronde Agency. By the report of Agent Sinnott it appears that they desire to have lands allotted them and allowed to send their children to school at that agency. I think these benefits and privileges should be extended to them.

In Willowa Valley in the eastern part of the state there are about two hundred Nez Perces who claim that they were not parties to the treaty made with their people several years ago, that the valley belonged to this tribe at the time of making this treaty that they have lived there ever since, that this has been their country and they oppose its settlement by the whites. Having been directed to inquire into the facts in reference to these Indians and ascertain their needs. I will make this matter the subject of a special report.

The Indians mentioned by Agent Cornoyer in his report as being now on the Columbia River numbering in his opinion two thousand are a source of considerable annoyance to the agents at Warm Springs and Umatilla. They have a new and peculiar religion by the doctrine of which they are taught that a new god is coming to their rescue, that all the Indians who have died heretofore and shall die hereafter are to be resuscitated that as they will then be very numerous and powerful they will be able to conquer the whites recover their lands and live as free and unrestrained as their fathers lived in olden times. Their model of a man



is an Indian, they aspire to be Indians and nothing else. About four hundred of them belong to Umatilla Agency, one hundred at Warm Springs and the remainder in the Territories of Idaho and Washington. I understand that repeated ineffectual efforts have been made to induce them to return to their reservations. It has not been practicable for me to confer personally with them. It is thought by those who know them best that they cannot be made to go upon their reservations without at least being intimidated by the presence of military forces.

The estimate of the number of Snake Indians has not now on any reservation range from 600 to 1,200. A new reservation was recently selected for them on the head waters of Malheur river but the selection has not been approved as yet and the Indians are still roaming over the vast scope of country which they claim as their own. Their wants have heretofore been fully ~~presented~~ presented to you and it is not necessary that I should now repeat anything contained in my recent report of their conditions.

Very respectfully

Your obt. servt.

T.B. Odneal, Supt. Ind. Affairs

Ogn.

Hon F.A. Walker,

Commissioner Ind. Affairs, Washington, D.C.