

Yakima, Fort Simcoe, Wash^ter. March 26th, 1880

Messrs Miller and Gunnt(?)

Goldendale, W.T. Gentlemen:

Your letter of the 17th inst. stating you had purchased the stage line from The Dalles to Yakima City from Mr. Lockwood and are now carrying the mail is received.

You also state that yo desire to establish a Station on the lower Sattas within the limits of the Reservation. To this I have no objection, and permission is hereby given to establish and occupy temporarily a stage station at the locality above named, provided of course that a quiet and orderly house is kept and no intoxicating liquors[✓] is brought on the reservation, which I am persuaded you would not do, were no such provision made.

Very Respectfully

Your obt. servt.

James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

(Per Fairchild)

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, Wash. Apr. 6, 1880

Hon Commissioner of Indian Affairs, "ashington D.C.

S, r:

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your communication dated March 12th enclosing copy of letter from Mr. George Hunter and marked in the margin "L Washington 388 1880" and directing me to furnish your office "with all necessary information as to the condition of the Palouse Indians, how long and for what reasons they have been away from the reservation and your views generally upon the subject matter of said letter." In reply to the first and second parts of the above I would say that the Palouse Indians were, as stated, parties to the Treaty with the Yakima Nation. Said treaty provides that 449 none of the parties thereto shall be required to abandon any improvements they may have made on the lands previously accepted by them to come upon the reservation till such improvements shall have been paid for, at a fair valuation to be fixed in a manner specified in the treaty. These Palouse Indians at the time of signing the treaty had made improvements of considerable value they were each engaged in cultivating a small tract of land, and as their improvements have never been purchased or any steps taken to ascertain their value, they have occupied them continuously since. In 1861 Mr. Bancroft, then agent at Yakima, was applied to to remove them to the Reservation but not having funds applicable to that purpose did not carry out his intention. I am not able to state positively that they have ever received annuities, but from the fact that a ~~founder~~ farmer and blacksmith were employed solely and expressly for them by Col. Sam'l Ross, supt. Ind. Affairs for "ash. "er in 1870, who was located at Palouse and to whom supplies were sent 450 for distribution among them, I entertain no doubt but they regularly received their proportion of such annuities till the change affected by the law of March 1875, prohibiting further

gratuitious issues to Indians.

In reply to your request for an expression of my views upon the subject matter of this letter I would say that in my judgment it would be far better for the Indians, to pay them a fair price for their improvements and remove them to the reservation where they belong.

There are in this vicinity quite a number of Indians who have been induced by the advice of white people, to avail themselves of the provisions of the law giving them the privilege of locating homesteads on the Public Lands. Prosperous white farmers have been pointed out to them and they are told that the proper way to become prosperous like the whites, is like them to locate on a homestead "and go to work." With this desire they have abandoned their tribal relations, left their reservation and located a "claim." No doubt this advice has been given in many-perhaps most instances with the best of motives, but the result has been almost--perhaps I should say always, most unfortunate for the Indians. The poorest Indian today--those who give least promise for the future--are those who have located homesteads. ✓

Removed from the oversight and supervision of the agent, the Indian soon becomes the prize of designing men, who take advantage of his ignorance of the law, and of his simplicity to filch from him his property, till discouraged with the unequal struggle, he ceases all efforts at improvement, and gradually drifts back to his old, idle dissolute ways and becomes "only a worthless Indian." I do not say that this is always the case, but it is often so and always possible, and till the generation of Indian children now at school are grown up and take upon themselves the management of affairs, I am unalterably opposed to removing the Indians from the watchful and careful care and oversight of the government.

Very respectfully your obedient
servant, James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent

Yakima, Ft. Simcoe, W.T. May 10, 1880

Col. H. Clay Wood,

Asst. Adjutant Gen. Dept. Columbia, U.S. Special Indian Agent,
Portland, Ore. Sir:

Sir: Referring to your letter of the 4th inst. asking my views relative to returning fugitive bands of Indians to the Reservation where they belong I would say that as far as the Indians belonging to this reservation are concerned the treaty gives them the privilege during the fishing season to visit their accustomed fisheries, to take fish, to pasture their horses on vacant government land and during the proper season to visit the mountains and camas grounds, to gather berries, roots etc. I ~~do~~ know of no Indians belonging here, who are off the reservation, except such as would come under the provisions of the treaty above cited, with perhaps the exception of some 471 ~~who are~~ 30 who are living ~~in~~ Lewis River in Cowlitz Co. and the Palouse Indians. These last number about 200 and have never been on the reservation.

The treaty to which they are parties, especially provides that they shall be at liberty to reside at their old homes on Palouse river till the govt. or other interested parties shall purchase at a fair valuation the improvements they may have made on the lands where they reside. So far no steps have been taken to make such valuation and purchase, and they are consequently legally off the reservation. Could this condition of the treaty be fulfilled I should consider it highly advisable to bring them on their reservation. This being the fishing season, and so far as I know all the Indians belonging here who are off the Reservation being located at fisheries on the Columbia River, (excepting perhaps the few at Lewis River) I do not see how, without violating the provisions of the ~~treaty~~ treaty, they can be required to return till the season is over

Very respectfully etc.
James H. Wilbur, U.S. Ind. Agent

Fort Simcoe, Nov. 19, 1880

Rev. James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, Washington D.C.

My dear brother:

All well at the agency and everything moving along smoothly and quietly. We are all rejoiced at the result of the election and hope that complete returns may show Garfield's majority so large that not even Democratic recklessness shall dare to call the result in question.

May I suggest as an eminently proper person to fill the position of Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the new administration Rev. James H. Wilbur of Oregon. I do not know that this appointment will be made but I have an idea that such will be the case.

The school is flourishing, as many children as can be accommodated in the boarding house are now there, but it is proposed to

p 633

increase the accommodations till the entire number is as great as the school house will admit.

I hope to send your accounts for 2nd qr 1879 next week. I have been compelled to send some of the vouchers to the Dalles and Portland for new copies and as soon as the new ones are received I hope to be ready to send both copies so that there will be an end to the matter.

Mr. Miller desires me to call your attention to the necessity for the plot of survey of this reservation. We requested the commissioner to send us a copy Sept. 22 nearly two months ago but have received no notice, whether it would be sent. Please see to the matter.

All unite in love to Mrs. Wilbur and yourself

Very Truly Yours

J.H. Fairchild.

Joe Stwire 644
Goldendale

Ft. Simcoe, Nov. 30, 1880

Thomas Johnson, Esq.

Goldendale, Wash.

Sir:

Joe Stwire, the head chief at the agency, desires me to ~~re~~ remit you \$15.30 on his account.

Enclosed please find the amount which please place to his credit and send receipt to this office.

Very respectfully

J.H. Fairchild

Clerk Yakima agency.

Mrs. Wilbur. Piute

Monthly Report. Leggins, Piute
Snipes and cattle

Rev. James H. Wilbur

Dec. 2, 1880

U.S. Indian Agent, Wash. D.C.

My Dear Brother:

Enclosed please find report for November from which you will gather a fair idea of matters here. Your letter of Nov. 15th came to hand yesterday. All feel very anxious about Mrs. Wilbur's health. You did not mention particularly how she was but merely said she would remain in Washington till her health was better. All at the Agency are well except Mr. Miller and he feels so much better that in spite of my remonstrances he has been at work this week. Those who ought to now say that the school was never so prosperous as now. It is as full as we can accommodate. Most of the children, boys especially are small from 8 to 10 years old. Of course they cannot do much work more than to keep enough wood sawed for the school and bearing house and p. 652 pack in wood to the wood sheds, office, etc.

Knowing your anxiety about the school we have all did all we could to fill it up and make it a success. Mr. Cox seems to have secured the confidence of the people and the attachment of the children. He is intensely anxious to make the school a success and neglects no proper means to that end, and more important than all else is truly pious.

Thomas McKay was up yesterday with cattle. He reports a great many calves dying among our herd and Snipes and Huntington's. The Doctor who has examined into the matter pronounces it the pneumonia that has killed so many cattle in the east. This morning we ~~waked~~ ^{waked} and found the snow 10 inches deep at the time, 10 a.m. it is over a foot and still snowing. Of course we will look well after the stock.

Mr. Hadley has been very useful since you left. It is only simple justice to say that he has done his duty well. I am highly

pleased with the temper and demeanor of the Piutes.

Following your suggestions I have made it a point to try and conciliate them. I have given about 25 pairs of blankets, 30 shirts, 90 yds ticking and a 653 few kettles and axes to those who I saw with my own eyes were old and needy. I also gave Leggins a pair of blankets, shirt, overalls, boots and hat, and kept nearly all the able bodied men at work about 10 days.

This has given them an opportunity to provide themselves clothing, tents, a little sugar, coffee, etc. and all they are now asking for is a chance to go to work.

But we have absolutely nothing for them to do. The woodsheds are all full and great piles of pine and oak wood at every back door and nearly 100 cords get in the timber. I intend today if I get time to look up our cash accounts for the 4th qr. I sent to the Dalles for 1000 lbs sugar, 900 yds calico and 60 gal syrup. I think we have sufficient margin so that it will not be necessary to make any account of it in other words, receipts from annuities will more than cover it. All desire to be affectionately remembered to yourself and Mrs. Wilbur.

Very respectfully, J.H. Fairchild, clerk.

Yakima Dec. 3, 1880 Rev. James H. Wilbur

U.S. Indian Agent, Washington, D.C.

My dear brother:

Mr. Miller has tendered his resignation to take effect as soon as you can supply his and Mrs. Miller's place. He says that his health will not admit of his staying longer than till spring and he does not want you to think he is staying here for the sake of being wintered.

I am satisfied he is risking his life by active outside work and while declining to receive his resignation, have relieved him from active outside work, although he will still direct the labor and work in the shop when his health will admit. He would be glad to get away this winter but knows of course that this cannot well be done, till your return.

Do not let this disturb you in the least. For some time Mr. Miller's health has been such that I have insisted on his keeping in the house so that really there will be no change 656 and everything will move on smoothly the same as heretofore. It is simple justice to say that Miller laid the foundation for his ill health by the labor and exposure, surveying and ought to be kept on the papers at least as long as he directs the work, even if he does not work himself. I am sure you will approve of this. I will also say that since Miller has been unable to take an active part, Mr. Hadley has manifested an increased activity and desire to be useful and has made himself almost indispensable.

The school is remarkably successful. The Piutes are in better humor than ever before and all departments are exceptionally flourishing. So you need have no anxiety on our account. very re. etc. All desire to be remembered to Mrs. W. and yourself and ~~add~~ ask you to remember us in your prayers.

Fort Simcoe, Dec. 4, 1880

J.B. Coyle, Esq.

Portland, Ore.

Sir:

We find on looking over our harness material that we are short some articles necessary to our shop work.

Please send us by mail if they can be put up in strong packages of the required weight, 4 doz Cock eyes, 2 1-2 inch; 2 1-2 doz bridle ~~bits~~ bits for harness bridles 4 doz line snaps. Please send bill and ~~we~~ I will remit on its receipt. If the articles can be sent by mail we shall receive them more promptly and certainly.

Very respect. etc.

J.H. Fairchild. clerk.

(secty. agent.

Please see that the articles are put up in strong pkgs and add postage to price.

Yakima Fort Simcoe, Dec. 4, 1880

Peter Nelson, Esq.

Agent Rockland Ferry Co.

The Dalles, Oregon

Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find check on French & Co for \$55 , the amount of your bill for ferriage in 4th quarter 1880.

I have delayed sending it, expecting to send out again, but the storm has rendered the roads so bad that I hardly think we will send this winter. Will you please look after those wagons left with Zan. If you will employ some one to put them under shelter or cover them with boards so that they will not be injured by the storm, we will gladly pay the bill.

Please sign the vouchers enclosed and mail in the addressed envelope, herewith.

Very res. etc.

J.H. Fairchild

Clerk in charge of agency.

School. George Waters

Yakima, Dec. 8th, Ft. Simcoe

Weather

Rev. James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, Wash D.C.

Dear Brother:

I enclose letter to the commissioner which explains
itself... (no merit material)

667

I received a short time ago a note from George Waters saying that their
youngest child is dead.

We are getting the cattle to the ranch, though the indications now
are that we shall have milder weather.

Saturday night at Yakima the thermometer stood at 20 below zero.

Here
This was at 12 m. There at 11 it was 1 above, but rapidly growing
colder.

The Piutes are in good humor. We expect soon to set a party cutting
wood in the timber. All desire to be affectionately remembers

JH Fairchild, etc.

Cattle

J.B. Huntington

668

Fort Simcoe, Dec. 11, 1880

J.B. Huntington, esq. The Dalles

Sir:

Instructions just received from the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs make it my duty to report your name to the office in Washington for the ..of legal measures unless immediate arrangements are made to settle the amount due this agency for grazing your cattle on the reservation.

Previous to his departure the agent had fixed upon \$500 as the amount he was willing to accept, though~~y~~ satisfied that a much larger sum was justly due. As my duty in the premises is merely to obey orders, I shall not demand more, but cannot promise more than that no further action shall be taken till Agent Wilbur's return, who I know will be willing to settle on terms liberal to yourself. Permit me to call your attention to the fact that when once referred to the authorities p 669 in Washington the matter passes entirely from the control of the agent and is no longer open to compromise.

Thirty days is the limit allowed in the order referred to which will make January 10th the latest date to which action can be ~~000~~ deferred.

Regretting extremely that this necessity should have occurred during the absence of the agent, and trusting there may be no delay or difficulty in making a satisfactory settlement, I have the honor to

be . etc J.H. Fairchild, act U.S. Ind agt.

P.S. Should you prefer you can deposit the amount with French & Co. at the Dalles to the credit of James H. Wilbur, U.S. Indian Agent, to be held till settlement is made on his return.

Cattle Horses
James Cook 674

Yakima (Fort Simcoe) Dec. 13th, 1880

James Cook, Esq.

Yakima City, Wash. Ter.

Sir:

Under instructions just received from the commissioner of Indian affairs, you are hereby notified to remove at once, any cattle you may now have grazing on the reservation.

If this notice is not complied with immediately, or satisfactorily, arrangements made for the payment of a fair compensation for the privilege of grazing on the Reservation, it becomes my duty under the instructions above cited, to report your name to Washington for the adoption of legal measures.

As my duty is merely to obey orders I leave any settlement of grazing in the past to Agent Wilbur on his return.

very etc.

J.H. Fairchild.

Actg. Agent.

675

Dec. 17th

To the white men engaged in buying horses at Joe Stwire's

Gentlemen:

It having been reported to me that you are purchasing horses from the Indians belonging to this agency at prices much less than their fair value and less than the price you had agreed to pay, you are hereby notified to purchase no more horses from these Indians and directed to remove from the Reservation immediately

J.H. Fairchild

Actg. U.S. Indian agent.