

No. 138.

INDIAN LOCATION, PENN'S COVE,  
July 1, 1857.

SIR: In making my report at this time, I can only report what I have already done in my monthly reports forwarded to Superintendent I. I. Stevens. The Indians having been always quiet, furnishes no matter for voluminous report. My instructions have always been to be as economical as possible in the issuing of provisions and distribution of goods, to encourage the Indians to procure as much food for themselves as possible; therefore, I have given to them at times I deemed proper, and to those whom I thought required it. For nine months past they have been allowed to go and come from the location, as a general thing, when they pleased, (always letting it be known to me & my assistant where they were going, and what for.) They have left the location, generally, either to hunt, fish, procure clams, dig their potatoes, plant potatoes or cultivate them. I intended to have furnished them with turnip and carrot seed, but could not obtain them in season; they are especially fond of these roots.

The amount of potatoes raised by Indians under my supervision will probably be about three thousand bushels; should they be successful in procuring salmon this fall, they will require no food to be given them the coming winter. The Indians of the Skaget tribes have been in rather an excited state for some time, on account of the death of the head chief, Goliath and Charley, his brother, together with the failure of government to confirm the treaty with them. As I have stated before in my report, they cannot understand this long delay; it is impossible to make them understand it properly. Most of them are doubtful of the intentions of government, yet I think there are some who still think the Bojans will do right by them eventually.

Many deaths have occurred among them during the last eight months; the diseases among them most prevalent are old age, consumption, and venereal, (secondary;) there were twenty-two deaths, within my own observation, from the 18th of February to the 22d of March; there were probably double that number of deaths, as they never mention the names of persons deceased, and would say nothing about them, unless asked. I should not be likely to know of them, unless I inquired after some one.

Squy Quy, who is now head chief, and bearer of these returns and report, is a good friend to the whites, and, I think, will exert a good influence with his people; he is dignified and manly in his deportment, and has heretofore been considered one of the most influential chiefs of the tribe.

In a letter of instructions I received from Mr. Nesmith, superintendent of Indian affairs, dated June 3, 1857, he instructed me to dispense with all employes not actually required, and to make any suggestion that I might deem proper. I take the liberty, therefore, of suggesting the propriety of doing away with the location at Penn's Cove, as far as closing the house and discharging the assistant is concerned. My reasons are, that, in the first place, if no food or goods

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are not disposed to encourage visits from the Catholic missionaries, and their women are much given to prostitution both among themselves and the whites.

*Puyallup reservation.*—The health of the Indians here has much improved since my last report, and I know of but few cases of illness at present in the whole tribe. They still remain very religious; and I have every reason to believe that they are truly sincere in their professions. I have no trouble with these Indians on the score of whiskey drinking, and seldom any difficulty growing out of vice or immorality. I have to report the completion here of the agency building and twelve Indian houses. There are twenty acres of land in cultivation on this reservation. The Indians appear much pleased with their houses, and their crops look well.

*Nisqually reservation.*—The Indians here are much given to drinking whiskey, which they obtain at the town of Steilacoom, and elsewhere in considerable quantities. A portion of the Upper Nisquallies, who were out with the hostiles in the late war, appear very restless, and in constant dread of the whites. There are four indictments pending against Indians of this band for the murders of whites. It is much to be regretted that our civil authorities do not take some definite steps in the matter, either to prosecute these indictments to final judgment or dismiss them. The pendency of these indictments is one great cause of these Indians being restless and uneasy. I have to report the completion of five Indian houses, as per contract with John Carson. There are fourteen acres of land in cultivation here, and the crop looks well.

In the matter of annuities due to the Indians parties to the treaty of Medicine creek, I have to recommend that the second year's annuity, which was due June 30, 1856, be applied towards clearing and fencing land, building Indian houses, &c. And for the third year's annuity, I would recommend that it be applied towards the purchase of blankets and clothing for the Indians.

I have to report the death of a Snohomish Indian, on the 5th instant, by a white man, on Nisqually bottom, near the reservation. A Mr. Packard had set a trap attached to a loaded gun to kill a hog which was in the habit of breaking into his garden. The Indian chanced to walk along that way, touched the trap, and was shot in the leg. His companions fled in terror, leaving him alone to bleed to death. The affair created considerable excitement for a time; but Mr. Packard having made presents to the tribe, according to their usages, the difficulty has been amicably arranged.

Much mischief has been created by the soldiers at Fort Steilacoom, who are in the constant habit of giving whiskey to Indians who visit the town of Steilacoom in passing up and down the Sound. The commanding officer has been repeatedly informed in reference to this, but without any apparent diminution of the evil. If military officers cannot keep their men under proper control, it is certainly not to be wondered at that Indian agents cannot at all times manage the Indians under their charge.

Mr. J. S. Jaquith, the employé heretofore stationed at Steilacoom, has been this day discharged, and the number of employés in my dis-

interest. Their sympathies are all with the governor; for they say that he understands the Indian's *tum-tum*, (heart or mind,) knows all about what they want, and if he goes to Washington he will know what to ask for, and will be able to effect something for their benefit. They look upon the question which is to be determined at the ballot-box in this Territory on the 13th July next as one of great importance to them as well as to others. I mention this matter not in a political spirit, (although the fact certainly forms no mean eulogium upon the official career of our late superintendent of Indian affairs,) but merely to show that the Indians here are not asleep, but wide awake to any and all questions which even remotely concern them.

I am, sir, very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

W. B. GOSNELL,

*Special Indian Agent, Washington Territory.*

Col. J. W. NESMITH,

*Sup't of Indian Affairs for Oregon and*

*Washington Territories, Salem, Oregon Territory.*

No. 141.

FORD'S PRAIRIE, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,

June 30, 1857.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of Indian affairs, as special Indian agent, in charge of the Indians of the western district of Washington Territory, for the year ending June 30, 1857. The western district embraces an Indian population of about twelve hundred souls, consisting of the following Indian tribes, viz: the Upper Cowlitz, Lower Cowlitz, Upper Chihalis, Lower Chihalis, Quenoith, Quehts, Quilehutes, and Shoalwater Bay Indians. The Lower Chihalis consist of the Clickquamish, Satsop, and Wanoolchie bands, as well as the Indians living at Gray's Harbor, which latter are the Lower Chihalis, properly so called. In like manner the Shoalwater Bay Indians comprise the Willopah and a number of other small bands now nearly extinct. The Indians of my district, when I first became acquainted with them; (in the spring of 1846,) numbered at least four thousand. This decrease in population is owing to diseases which have raged among them at different times since then, and the introduction of alcoholic liquors by the whites. Great mortality has been occasioned by the smallpox and measles, which have twice visited them during this time; by the flux which has raged malignantly among them repeatedly; and, lastly, by venereal disease in different forms, and sickness, accidents, fights, and murders, growing out of the immoderate use of ardent spirits.

No events of any importance have occurred during the past year which have not been promptly brought to the notice of Governor Stevens, the late superintendent for this Territory, in my monthly reports. I deem, it therefore, unnecessary to recapitulate; but as I may have occasion to speak of those events, I shall deem it sufficient to advert to them in general terms, respectfully referring you to the monthly reports themselves for particulars.

There is, at present, a system of petty warfare carried on between

and Simcoe rivers, and along the main Yakima, who have been declared friendly by the military authorities.

The following table gives the names of the chiefs, the location of their respective bands, also the number of adult persons in each band:

Names.	Location.	No
Swon-tie.....	Fort Simcoe.....	75
Su-pu-lia.....	Yakima river.....	60
Shoo-shus-skin.....	Nachess valley.....	80
So-kup-pee.....	.....	50
Skalmow-a.....	Simcoe valley.....	100
Cut-throt.....	.....	75
Total number.....	.....	440

These people were partly supplied with provisions during the past winter and spring, and will require some assistance from the department during the coming autumn and winter. They manifest a strong desire to remain on friendly terms.

There are also nine hundred and twenty-three friendly Indians located at the Dalles. They are divided into three principal bands, namely: the Wish-hams, Click-a-hut, and Skien bands.

The following table gives the names of the chiefs and principal men, and the proportion of men, women, and children, in their respective bands:

Names of chiefs and principal men.	Males over 12 years.	Females over 12 years.	Children 5 to 12 years.	Total number.	Name of the band to which they belong.	Remarks.
Col-wash.....	20	26	14	60	Wish-ham.....	Head chief.....
Son-e-wah.....	51	59	29	139	do.....	Principal man..
Hy-as-sam.....	7	4	2	13	Click-a-hut.....	Chief.....
Mo-nan-nock.....	38	52	41	131	Skien.....	Head chief.....
Elet-Palmer.....	35	31	25	91	do.....	Principal man..
Foo-e-ah-what-tee.....	18	28	11	57	do.....	do.....
We-shut-nip-its.....	26	24	18	68	do.....	do.....
Se-ah-cat.....	15	11	5	31	do.....	do.....
Looney.....	33	34	16	83	do.....	do.....
Wis-con-vey.....	35	20	12	67	do.....	do.....
Gov-e-nor.....	31	34	27	92	do.....	do.....
Tarkill.....	32	38	21	91	do.....	do.....
Total number.....	341	361	221	923		

The Wish-hams, as will be seen in the above table, have two chiefs, Colwash and Sonewah; of these, Colwash possesses the greatest influence, and is recognized as the head chief of the band. They were

formerly a large band, but their numbers were greatly diminished by the smallpox in the year 1854.

Of the Click-a-hut band, as is shown above, there are but thirteen; these are the remains of a large band which, like the Wish-hams, were depopulated by the smallpox in the same year.

Of the Skien band, Mo-nan-nock is the head chief. He and one hundred and thirty-one of his people, together with the Wish-hams and Click-a-hut bands, are highly deserving the favorable consideration of government for the steadfastness with which they held their position during the war as friends of the whites, notwithstanding the persecutions of the balance of the tribe, from whom they suffered many wrongs, such as the stealing of their horses, destroying of their property, and continuously threatening to attack and burn their villages, and take them prisoners, if they did not forsake the whites and join them in hostilities.

The remainder of Mo-nan-nock's band is divided into eight different villages, each village having a chief or principal man, as is seen in the above table. They were all actively engaged in the war from the commencement of hostilities up to the autumn of 1856, when they surrendered to the military forces, were disarmed, and turned over to the officers of the Indian department as friendly Indians.

From their deportment since they have been under my charge, I am led to the belief that they are reliable friends of the whites.

These three bands (Wish-hams, Click-a-hut, and Skien) claim that portion of the district lying along the Columbia river from the mouth of the Yakima down to a point three miles below the Dalles.

They were partly subsisted by government during the past winter and spring until such time as they could gather roots and subsist themselves, which was about the first of May.

I have used every possible means to encourage them in laying up a good supply for the winter; notwithstanding, they will require some assistance during the coming autumn and winter; and should the fall run of salmon fail, of which there are some fears, they will be almost destitute, and, if government aid is not extended to them, they cannot escape starvation.

Many of them manifest a strong desire to engage in agricultural pursuits. A few hoes and a small amount of potatoes and garden seed were furnished to some of them last spring, and they have taken a very great interest in cultivating a number of small patches, and will probably have this fall from two hundred and fifty to three hundred bushels of potatoes.

They are very desirous that government should take some action in their behalf. In their present situation their woes are fast increasing; and notwithstanding they were the first aggressors of the treaty negotiated with them by Governor Stevens and General Palmer, in June, 1855, yet I deem it my duty, in their behalf, to most earnestly recommend the early confirmation of that treaty, as I am fully confident that another could not be made with them on as liberal terms for the government, or that would result in as much good to themselves.

Portions of their country are rather inviting to settlers, and is des-

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No. 149.

GRANDE RONDE AGENCY, OREGON TERRITORY,  
July 20, 1857:

SIR: In obedience to the requirements of the Indian department, I submit the following as my first annual report of the condition of the Indians at this agency.

I took charge of this agency on the 25th of November, 1856, and found the number of Indians on the reservation to be one thousand eight hundred and ninety-five, according to the last census taken by my predecessor.

They are divided into a great many tribes and bands, differing widely from each other in their habits, manners, and customs.

The confederated tribes of the Rogue River and Shasta Indians, temporarily located on this reservation, were, at the time, by far the most numerous, numbering, in all, nine hundred and nine persons.

They are a warlike race, proud and haughty, but treacherous and very degraded in their moral nature, and the diseases which they have contracted from the whites, with whom they have had more or less intercourse for some years past, have contaminated the greater portion of them, and even the children, and many of them, suffering from the vices of their parents.

The large number of sick, from this and other causes, formed one of the greatest difficulties I have had to encounter. Nearly every case of sickness among them being attributed to some ill-disposed person, who sought their death, and who, they believe, has ample power to destroy their victim, either instantly or by a lingering disease; indeed, so thoroughly are they imbued with this belief, that, upon the death of any of their number, the relatives of the deceased will immediately wreak vengeance upon some "doctor," either of their own or another tribe, against whom they have an ill will, which has been the cause of frequent serious quarrels, and has nearly resulted on several occasions in open warfare between them and other tribes on the reservation, particularly with the Umpquas; and all my endeavors to put a stop to this horrible and superstitious practice has been in vain.

Early in the month of May the greater portion of the Rogue River and all of the Shasta Indians were removed, with their own consent, to the Siletz coast reservation, under the immediate charge of Agent Robert B. Metcalfe, leaving only two hundred and sixty-seven of the above stated tribes at this agency, as will be seen by the census list of June last; of those remaining only fifty-eight are men, and these are by far the most peaceably disposed of the whole tribe.

The principal chief is Ko-ko-kah-wah, Wealthy, (or Sam,) an Indian whose principal object is personal aggrandisement.

In the spring of 1856 all of these Indians surrendered themselves to the officers of the United States, and were brought to this reservation, with the exception of about seventy-five, who refused to come in. About the middle of January last these Indians were discovered by the settlers in Rogue River valley in a most miserable condition; on

cient power in my hands to control this traffic, but beyond these bounds I can do nothing; and unprincipled scoundrels, knowing the difficulty of actual and positive proof, will bring liquor and sell it to the Indians almost up to the very limits of the reservation itself.

At the time I entered upon my duties at this agency, I found the hospital in operation under the charge of the resident physician, who had received his appointment from the late superintendent of Indian affairs.

The expenses of this department were enormous, the Indians being most of them sick, and the hospital was crowded.

Of the actual number of sick, either in the hospital or in camp, at that time, I have no official information, as the physician was directed to make his monthly and quarterly reports to the office of the superintendent. I believe, however, a great deal of deception was practised upon the hospital, by the Indians coming there and reporting their friends sick in camp, and asking for medicine as an excuse, and then begging for rice, sugar, dried fruit, &c.

Not having received any specific instructions in reference to this matter, I continued the practice of my predecessor, which was to issue such supplies as were called for by the physician, on his certifying to me that they were actually necessary for the use of the sick.

But on the receipt of his report the superintendent informed me, under date of February 18, that he had directed the physician to make his reports in future to me, in order that I might be enabled to judge of the necessity of such large issues as had been called for by him. Shortly after this the then physician left the service. On the appointment of his successor the expenses were greatly curtailed, and the Indians are now enjoying, comparatively, good health, as will be seen by his reports.

The two schools established on this reservation under the treaties with the several Indian tribes have now been in operation for nearly a year, and the reports of the teachers are forwarded with this.

The plan of educating Indian children by teaching them to read and write, and to instil into their minds a knowledge of religion with a view of civilizing them and weaning them from their savage mode of life, is one that has been tried in this country for nearly twenty years; and what has been the result? The Methodist and Catholic missions both made great efforts for a number of years, but have all abandoned their schools, and it is notorious that those upon whom the experiment was tried are now as bad, if not worse, than any Indians in the country.

The expense of carrying on the schools at this agency has been large, and every encouragement in my power has been given them, but I cannot see what corresponding good has been effected. By these remarks I do not wish to reflect upon the teachers, but upon the whole system.

There are now three boys who have been working in the shops for some time; there are two in the blacksmith shop and one in the tin shop. These boys have made considerable progress, and in time, with proper encouragement, can be made fair mechanics. There are many other boys on the reservation who could be taught to work with good success.

About this time there was some sickness among the tribes which the doctress was not able to cure. She must therefore assign good reasons for her failure, or forfeit her life. The Indians believe that life and death are at the volition of the doctress. On my way to school one morning I met a chief, who told me he did not wish school any longer. The doctress said she distinctly saw the sickness that afflicted the tribes issue from "the trumpet which I sounded to announce the hour of school, and settle like a mist upon the camp; and should I continue to sound it, in a few days all the Indians would be in their graves—the camp desolate! I was not such a monster as to sound it again, so the Indians "still live."

JOHN OSTRANDER.

J. F. MILLER, Esq., *Indian Agent.*

No. 151.

GRANDE RONDE, *July, 1857.*

SIR: I will endeavor to make you a brief report of the state of the Willamette school. It is not as flourishing as it was last spring; many of my best students have moved to other parts of the reservation; some are gathering berries, and others are too lazy to come to school. At the beginning of the session, the school numbered fifty students; at present it does not exceed thirty, and by far the larger portion of these are fluctuating. In a few days the school loses the charm of novelty, after which it requires a great deal of effort to induce them to come. I have made and issued a great many garments, which have greatly improved the appearance of the children. While they are in school, their progress is as good as could be expected; but as long as they are free to attend school or remain at home I have no hope of their being constant. The Umpqua and Willamette children are mild and easily governed. Parents and children are anxious to adopt the custom of the whites. A great obstacle to the success of my school is the prejudice of the Indians. It seems that most of the children of the mission school died, and those that lived became most consummate villains; hence, many whites and Indians are of the opinion that education renders an Indian mischievous. It may be observed, that a good education implies moral as well as intellectual culture, and any person of any clime or hue that receives such will be better. I shall not inquire at this time whether the Indian is susceptible of receiving a good education; but I say without hesitancy that circumstances are not favorable for me to impart such. In my first report I spoke of the inefficiency of our schools, and urged the necessity of establishing them on a different basis before they could be of any lasting utility; my experience since has increased my convictions of the necessity of such a measure. Believing that you will adopt the best means to improve the condition of the school, I will add nothing more.

MARY C. OSTRANDER.

J. F. MILLER, Esq., *Indian Agent.*