

PROPOSED INDIAN RESERVATIONS IN IDAHO AND WASHINGTON TERRITORIES.

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING TO THE HOUSE

A draught of a bill to provide for the establishment of a reservation for the Indians of the Colville agency, in the Territory of Washington, and for the Cœur d'Alêne Indians, of the Territory of Idaho, with additional papers.

JANUARY 23, 1874.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., January 14, 1874.

SIR: I have the honor to present herewith, for the consideration and action of Congress, the draught of a bill to provide for the establishment of a reservation for the Indians of the Colville agency, in the Territory of Washington, and for the Cœur d'Alêne Indians, of the Territory of Idaho.

A copy of a report, dated November 17, 1873, of the Hon. J. P. C. Shanks, Governor T. W. Bennett, and United States Indian Agent Henry W. Reed, special commissioners appointed to investigate Indian affairs, under instructions from the Indian Department, and copy of letter of Commissioner of Indian Affairs of the 13th instant, submitting the papers to this Department, are also herewith transmitted.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

C. DELANO,
Secretary.

The SPEAKER *House of Representatives.*

A BILL to create a reservation in the Territory of Washington for the Cœur d'Alêne and other Indian tribes therein named.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That for the Cœur d'Alênes, Upper and Lower Spokanes, Lakes, San Poels, Colvilles, Okinakanes, Colespells, Pend d'Oreilles, Kootenays, and Methews, and such other persons of Indian blood who belong to said tribes or bands of Indians, and who reside within the limits of the United States, there is hereby reserved and set apart a tract of country as a permanent reservation, bounded as follows: Commencing in the middle of the channel of the Columbia River, opposite the mouth of

the Okinakane River, in the Territory of Washington; thence along the middle of the channel of the Columbia River to a point opposite the mouth of the Spokane River; thence along the middle of the channel of said river to a point opposite the mouth of Hangman's or Lotow Creek, or opposite the mouth of the stream through which Hangman's or Lotow Creek empties into the Spokane River; thence along the middle of the channel of Hangman's or Lotow Creek to the line that divides the Territories of Washington and Idaho; thence south about two miles along said line to the summit of the dividing ridge between Hangman's or Lotow Creek, and Pine Creek; thence easterly along the crest of said ridge to a point five miles distant, and in a direct line east from said territorial line; thence due north to the boundary line between the United States and British Columbia; thence west along said line to the middle of the channel of the Okinakane River to the place of beginning: *Provided, however,* That the United States hereby retain the right to improve the navigable waters and to establish post-offices, and military posts, and build military and post roads within the boundaries of said reservation: *And provided further,* That no artificial obstructions shall be placed or maintained in the Columbia or Spokane Rivers which shall interfere with or impede the free range of fish in said streams; nor shall the Indians herein named be deprived of the right to take fish from said rivers within the limits of the reservation herein provided for them.

SEC. 2. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and required to cause an appraisement to be made of all improvements belonging to white persons located on lands within the limits of the reservation, and of all claims to land within said limits at their fair cash value, and to report to Congress the amount necessary to compensate such persons for said improvements; and when an appropriation shall be made sufficient for this purpose, the Secretary of the Interior shall cause payment to be made to such persons, as aforesaid, upon the delivery by them respectively of written proof of title to said land and improvements, and a quit-claim deed from said owner to the United States of all interest in said improvements and premises: *Provided,* That improvements made by the Hudson Bay Company, or by any employé of said company, and included in the estimate and payment by the United States under the treaty with Great Britain of July 15, 1863, and paid for by the United States, including the mill in Colville River, and the buildings constructed by the British government near Kettle Falls for winter quarters for the parties engaged in surveying the boundary line between the United States and British Columbia, shall be exempted from appraisal, and no claim for compensation by persons who may have taken possession of such improvement shall be allowed.

SEC. 3. Whenever any head of a family belonging to any of the tribes or bands of Indians named in the first section of this act, or who shall be removed to said reservation by the Government, shall desire to commence farming, and shall designate the locality where he or she proposes to make his or her permanent home, it shall be the duty of the Secretary of the Interior to cause to be allotted to him or her not exceeding one hundred and sixty acres of land, for which allotment the Secretary of the Interior shall cause to be issued a certificate which shall secure to such persons and to his or her descendants the title to said land, to be held by such allottee against all persons whomsoever. And to such Indians as shall, under the provisions of this act, in good faith, manifest a willingness to cultivate the soil for a livelihood, there shall be furnished such seeds and farming implements and building material as may to the Secretary of the Interior seem proper. And whenever, in his opinion, the condition of the Indians will justify him in so doing, the Secretary of the Interior may, in his discretion, cause school-houses to be erected and teachers to be employed to educate the teachable youth, whether of full or mixed Indian blood, residing upon the reservation created by the first section of this act.

SEC. 4. That every child by a white man, born of an Indian woman, or of a woman of mixed Indian and white blood, shall be entitled to inherit from the estate of the father, on proof made before any court having jurisdiction of the said estate; and, in determining who is or was the wife, and who are the children of such white man, evidence that he and the Indian woman have cohabited together, or associated as husband and wife, and so continue to cohabit or associate at the date of the passage of this act, and who may hereafter cohabit or associate as husband and wife, whether any ceremony of marriage has been performed or not, shall be deemed sufficient proof of marriage, and from the obligations belonging to such relations the father shall not be released, except by due process of law before some court having competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 5. The Secretary of the Interior shall cause that portion of the boundary line of said reservation hereinafter named to be surveyed and marked with stone posts, at intervals of not more than one mile, with corner stones, when the same can be placed as follows, viz: Commencing at the middle of Hangman's or Lotow Creek, on the line dividing Washington and Idaho Territories; thence south along said territorial line to the summit of the dividing ridge between said Hangman's or Lotow Creek and Pine Creek; thence easterly along the crest of said dividing ridge to a point that is five miles due east of said territorial line; thence north to the line of British Columbia.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
January 13, 1874.

SIR: Referring to Office report of the 4th ultimo, transmitting for the action of Congress an agreement concluded with Cœur d'Alêne Indians, for the relinquishment of their claim to all the tract of country claimed by them, and the establishment of a reservation for their use in Idaho Territory, I have the honor to submit herewith a copy of a report of Hon. J. P. C. Shanks, Governor T. W. Bennett, and United States Indian Agent Henry W. Reed, special commissioners, together with a draught of a bill for the establishment of a reservation for the Indians of the Colville agency in the Territory of Washington, and the said Cœur d'Alêne Indians of the Territory of Idaho. The reservation thus provided for supersedes the reservation provided for in the afore-said agreement, and I respectfully recommend that the said report and draught of bill be submitted to Congress for action, as indicated therein.

Very respectfully,

EDW'D P. SMITH,
Commissioner.

The Hon. SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH TERRITORY,
November 17, 1873.

To the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs:

The special commission, consisting of J. P. C. Shanks, T. W. Bennett, and H. W. Reed, directed by you, under the attached instructions of July 1, 1873, (while inspecting matters connected with the Nez Percé reservation at Lapway, on the Clearwater River, Idaho Territory,) received from General Milroy, superintendent of Indian affairs for Washington Territory, the inclosed letter, bearing date July 31, 1873; and on the 3d day of August, 1873, General Milroy came in person to Lewiston, Idaho, at the mouth of the Clearwater River, to meet the commission, for the purpose of securing its attendance at the Colville Agency, Washington Territory. Having been instructed by you to examine the condition of Indian affairs in the Territory of Idaho, and report thereon; and believing that the Calispells, Pend d'Oreilles, Kootenays, and Spokanes, who inhabit the northern portion of Idaho, would be interested in a council to be held at or near Colville, and interested in a reservation that had been set off, including the Colville Valley, and which reservation had been changed to the west side of the Columbia River by the action of interested white men; and insomuch as we were instructed to ascertain and report the causes of complaint by the Indians against white people, and of white people against Indians, the commission deemed it proper to send one of its number with General Milroy to examine and report the facts, so far as he could, touching the matter of complaint, and accordingly sent J. P. C. Shanks, of the commission, on that duty.

The commission herewith incloses his report made to them, together with a record of the council held with the Indians interested who were present, and make both the record of the councils and the report of Mr. J. P. C. Shanks part of this report to you, and ask your attention to both, as showing the condition of our Indian affairs along the line of British America, and to the great injustice done to these peaceful Indi-

ans by the interested action of white men; and especially to the conduct of their ex-agent, Park Winans, in procuring a change of reservation through selfish motives; and to the more important fact that the reservation as now located is in a frigid and high latitude, where farming is impossible, while the lines of the reservation cut the Indians off from the Columbia River and remove them from the Spokane River, the only sources from which they could procure a livelihood by fishing, game being nearly exhausted; so that without fish or game, and in a location where farming is impossible, as proven to by white men, who having settled on the new reservation, and abandoned the country on account of frost, &c.

The act of compelling these Indians to go to the reservation west of the Columbia River is either to annihilate them or make them a perpetual tax on the Government; while they are industrious and desire to make their own living by work.

The commission recommends to the Government that these Indians be permitted to remain where now situated, for the reasons set forth in General Shanks's report to the commission, herewith filed as stated, and that the boundaries thereof be as follows: Beginning at a point in the channel of the Columbia River, opposite the mouth of the Okinakane River; thence up the center of the channel of the Columbia River to a point opposite the mouth of the Spokane River; thence up the center of the channel of the Spokane River to the mouth of Hangman or Lotow Creek; thence up the center of Hangman or Lotow Creek to the line dividing Washington and Idaho Territories, as recently surveyed; thence south on said line to the top of the ridge between Hangman or Lotow Creek and Pine Creek; thence easterly along the summit of said ridge to a point which is five miles in a direct line east of said territorial line; thence in a direct line north to the dividing line between the United States and British Columbia; thence west along said line to the Okinakanekane River; thence down the center of the channel to the place of beginning.

That this reservation shall be a permanent reservation—a home for the following tribes, and such parts of these tribes as may be proper, namely, Cœur d'Alènes, Upper and Lower Spokanes, Calispells, Pend d'Oreilles, Kootenays, Lakes, Colvilles, San Poels, Methoms, and Okinakanes—ten in all.

A reference to General Shanks's report to the commission will explain this matter more in detail.

The commission is informed of the following facts by an order from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs:

Odenal, then superintendent of Indian affairs of Oregon, and J. B. Monteith, Indian agent at the Nez Percé reservation, were directed to negotiate with the Cœur d'Alènes, and to set off a reservation for them.

Odenal did not go to see these Indians, but it is stated that he made a report to the Department from information received of D. P. Thompson, but without counseling with J. B. Monteith. Under the instructions to the commission to visit the Indians in Idaho, Shanks and Bennett, in company with J. B. Monteith, agent, met in council the Cœur d'Alènes at Hangman or Lotow Creek, on the 29th day of July, 1873, and entered into a written agreement with the Cœur d'Alènes for a reservation, conditioned that it should be approved by Congress. This agreement is in the hands of J. B. Monteith, and, perhaps, has been reported to you.

The commission did not desire to go beyond its authority in this matter, and only joined Mr. Monteith as there seemed to be a necessity for

it at the time. But the commission, after an investigation of the whole subject, now recommends that the agreement entered into with the Cœur d'Alênes be not confirmed, but that the reservation recommended by the commission for the nine tribes, including the Cœur d'Alênes, be adopted.

All of which is most respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. C. SHANKS,
T. W. BENNETT,
HENRY W. REED,
Commissioners.

COLVILLE, STEVENS COUNTY, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,
August 14, 1873.

Hon. T. W. BENNETT and H. W. REED :

GENTLEMEN OF THE SPECIAL COMMISSION : I left Lewiston, Idaho, at the mouth of the Clearwater River, as you are aware, on the 3d day of August, 1873, by steamer, down Snake River, accompanied by General Milroy, the superintendent of Indian affairs for Washington Territory, and landed at the mouth of the Pelluce River, where we met John A. Simms, agent at the Colville agency.

From the mouth of the Pelluce we proceeded by wagon to Fort Colville, in Stevens County, in Colville Valley, Washington Territory, where we arrived on the 7th of August, 1873, and on the following day proceeded to the Kettle Falls, on the Columbia River, and crossing that river passed up Kettle River and the Sne-whack, to a point near the line of British Columbia, and returning from this point by the Columbia, held a council August 12, with the following tribes in general council, held at the old British trading-post, about one mile above the Kettle Falls : The Colvilles, Lakes, San Poels, Okinakanes, Upper and Lower Spokanes, and Calispells. The following are the facts as I found them :

1. All these people are peaceable, quiet, and industrious, and express a loyalty to the United States Government, as simple, confiding, and faithful as children.
2. They are divided into Catholics and Protestants, the majority of the latter being Presbyterians, and are very zealous in their faith, respectively. In the aggregate, the Catholics largely outnumber the Protestants.
- 3 Their agent, John A. Simms, is a Catholic, and the Indians, irrespective of faith, have confidence in his integrity, and speak well of him.
4. They all, as irrespective of religious faith, condemn their ex-agent, who immediately preceded Simms, one Park Winans, a merchant at Colville.
5. All these Indians desire a permanent reservation, schools, churches, &c.
6. They generally labor either on farms of their own, of which there are a considerable number, or for others, which is the general rule. Many who had farms before the recent influx of whites have sold their farms to whites and now work by the day for a living.
7. The whites have encroached on the Indians very much, and are continuing to do so.
8. In these encroachments their late agent, P. Winans, was a principal and participant, and still continues to be their exponent and principal operator. He was a partner in a trading-house dealing with the Indians while agent, from which whisky was given to secure bargains in furs, which is the principal trade in that locality. And when the reservation was set off east of the Columbia River he concealed that fact from the Indians, and busied himself to have it changed to the cold, dry highlands west of that river, where white men have abandoned the country, after trial, and failed to farm, owing to frosts and other difficulties in the way.
9. The reservation has been, by interested and, in many cases unscrupulous, men, relocated from east to west of the Columbia River, and from the advantages of the salmon fisheries on the Spokane and Columbia to west of the Columbia, only coming to the west bank of that stream, and that without any privilege of fishing in that river, literally robbing the Indians of their country and their food.
10. There are numbers of white settlers in the Colville Valley, where the Indians now are, the Indians not having been removed west of the Columbia under the late unjust assignment of reservation, and I hope never will.
11. These whites are the same persons who procured the change of reservation, and are not entitled to any sympathy, as they obtained an unjust order against the Indians, knowing that the new reservation was unfit for habitation, and, avoiding it themselves, procured an order that gave them the Indians' homes, and drove the Indians where they would not reside themselves.

12. These Indian tribes are now situated adjacent to each other and have been so since time immemorial.

13. These tribes speak the same language, the same as spoken by the Flatheads and Cœur d'Alènes.

14. The Kootenays, who were not in the council, but who reside in Northeast Washington, North Idaho, and Northwest Montana, speak the same language and should be included with these tribes.

15. These tribes desire reservation together, beginning as follows: At a point in the channel of the Columbia River opposite the mouth of the Okinakane River; thence up the center of the channel of the Columbia River to a point opposite the mouth of the Spokane River; thence up the center of the channel of the Spokane River to the mouth of Hangman or Lotow Creek thence up center of Hangman or Lotow Creek to the line dividing Washington and Idaho Territories, as recently surveyed; thence south on said line to the top of the ridge between Hangman or Lotow Creek and Pine Creek; thence easterly along the summit of said ridge to a point which is five miles in a direct line east of said territorial line; thence in a direct line north to the dividing line between the United States and British Columbia; thence west along said line to the Okinakane River; thence down the center of the channel of said Okinakane River to the place of beginning.

16. These Indian tribes propose surrendering their title to all the country south and east of the country as named. This gives the United States all that beautiful country along Pine Creek, and from the Pelluce to the proposed line which you have seen and which is more valuable than all they desire to retain.

17. They ask no money or clothing; all they wish is that their homes be secured to them.

18. They say if the United States has money to give, let it be given to the whites for their improvements. The Indians will make their living if protected in their homes.

19. The country they wish to retain is, with the exception of the Colville and Hangman's Creek Valleys, mountainous and poor, except small spots; but the fishing is good, and it is their cherished homes and much desired by them.

20. It would be expensive, troublesome, dishonorable and wicked, to drive these people away from their homes, where they have lived from time immemorial, to give place to cunning men who have supplanted them and procured the action of the Government against them.

21. None of these Indians have been in hostility to the Government at any time except the Spokanes and Cœur d'Alènes; and they only were when they defeated Steptoe; and were in turn conquered by General Wright.

22. These people generally dress as white people do, and are anxious to improve in agricultural pursuits. They ask for nothing but their homes and for these they plead as children. There has been no treaty with these tribes, for whom this reservation is proposed, and their title to all the country from Steptoe's Butte to the Flathead country, and British line, and to the Sierra Nevada, to Snake and Pelluce River is theirs yet. All this is to be relinquished by them except that included in the proposed reservation.

I left General Milroy at Colville on the 14th of August, 1873, preparing to carefully examine that part of the new reservation lying west of the Kettle River; this part of it, lying between Kettle and Columbia Rivers, having been examined by Mr. Milroy, Simms, and myself, as stated above. General Milroy will make report to the Indian Department of his further investigations, to which I respectfully ask attention.

The Colville agency is one difficult to manage, for the reason that it is not on a reservation. The reservation was changed from east to west of the Columbia River by executive order, but the Indians, and consequently the agency, remain east of the Columbia River at Colville, within the limits of the reservation as first set off. This leaves the agent no controlling power over bad white men who may wrong or intrigue with the Indians, other than such as the courts can give under the intercourse law, leaving the agents or courts no power to prevent the association of bad white men with the Indians under his charge.

The better class of white people see and feel the effect of this condition of things, and have spoken to me of it quite freely.

At the general council held near Kettle Falls on August 12, 1873, Antoine, chief of the Colvilles, speaking for his people who reside in the Colville Valley and around Colville, and the old trading-post where the council was held, said (among other things of deep interest) to General Milroy, Agent Simms, and myself, "We want you to take our part, the liquor is coming up to our knees; we tie our people up for drinking, but the whites do not tie up or punish their people for selling liquor to Indians. I wish you who come from Washington would take our part and stop this selling liquor to us."

Another ground of serious complaint is the prostitution of their women by bad white men under the plea of marriage. These white men take the advantage of the

difference between the marriage ceremonies of white people and the simple voluntary association which is the Indian form of marriage, and while the poor Indian woman believes she is married to a white man he treats it in the light of cohabitation only and which he breaks off at will, often abandoning both women and children with impunity, and with gross indifference. The speeches of the chiefs at the council will explain fully the condition of things in this regard around Colville during Park Winans's agency.

Agent Sims is doing all he can to prevent this evil, and has done much. Judge Lewis, United States judge of that district, has set his foot, in unmistakable earnest, on these offenders, and those who sell and give liquor to Indians, and the good effect is very perceptible; a number have recently married the squaws (with whom they had families) to avoid prosecution.

Antoine, chief of the Colvilles, when speaking at the council, in presence of the Indians, and of many whites who had collected there, touching wrongs inflicted on Indian women by bad white men, said, "I want you to take pity on us and help us; bad white men have taken twenty of our squaws from us, and when they have borne children to them the white men take all the property and leave the squaws and children. They leave no property or food for the squaw mother or children, but leave them on us, so we must maintain the mother and raise the children. When I want to get my daughter or my sister from those white men they will not let me have her, and when I then ask them to marry our women whom they took they would refuse to marry them, but would keep them in sin. What shall we do? We want your help. I am raising plenty of white men's children; white men whom I am looking in the face now." (Then addressing himself to Winans, former agent, Sherwood, Winans's former white agent, who has a squaw in adultery and two children, and Dr. Perkins, who has a deaf and dumb squaw in adultery and three children, and Smith, who wanted the agency, who has a squaw in adultery and two children, and other squaw men present, Antoine said :) "White men, I am talking to you of your action. I am raising your children on my poor food, my roots and berries and fish and rotten salmon, (rotten salmon being those found dead along the river,) and when I have raised them these white men demand them and take them. I am poor, and this is very hard."

The Indians complained that Winans permitted some bad Indian women to keep places of ill-fame at Colville, near his place of business, and that he did not try to prevent it, but that Agent Sims at once prevented it when he arrived. Numbers of white men stated to me the same facts, and Winans did not deny any of these and other charges made by the Indians in his presence at the council against his administration, and though privilege was given to Winans and other whites, as will appear by the record of the council, to speak in reply to the severe charges made against them by the Indians, (and which charges were confirmed by white citizens,) they all declined. General Milroy said to the whites present, "Insomuch as the charges are made in your presence, perhaps you should answer in the presence of the Indians," but they declined, saying they would put any statements they wished to make to the Government in writing. This will prevent the Indians from seeing or confronting them, and that is the desire of these men.

In relation to the removal of the reservation from east to west of the Columbia River, the Indians charged Park Winans, and in this they are sustained by the whites and by his own confessions, that when the order setting off the first reservation reached Winans, their agent then, he concealed the fact from them until he could, and did, manipulate the change.

Taking Winans's acts, surroundings, and associations, and it proves him to have been an unworthy agent and dishonorable man. He is charged by white people with having sold Indian goods from his store, and by paying his individual debts out of Indian supplies. Some of those who with Park Winans labored to change the reservation are acting in bad faith to the Government, as well as to the Indians. For instance, a Mrs. Myers wrote to the President, pleading for her home as though she had no protection and as though she was a sufferer. This letter was referred to Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and answered to her by him. This letter I saw in the hands of her husband, (for she has a husband.) The facts are these: Myers and his wife reside on 160 acres of land in what was the reservation, and which they aided to change, (I have been on the place,) while Myers has possession of another 160-acre tract, including the old Hudson Bay mill property; so the wife claims one, and the husband the other. Such are the fraudulent actions of these pursuers of the Indians of Colville Valley. I have seen Myers, his wife, and home, and had his own explanation as to the two claims. Mrs. Myers is a white woman, and he a white man.

The records of the councils held at Kettle Falls, Stevens County, Washington Territory, and at the Spokane bridge, July the 12th, 14th, and 15th, 1873, are herewith presented and made part of this report.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. C. SHANKS,
Special Commissioner.

NOVEMBER 11, 1873.

My attention was called to the discrepancy between the laws of Great Britain and those of the United States touching the sale of intoxicating liquor to Indians.

General Milroy, superintendent of Indian affairs for Washington Territory, Judge Lewis, of Walla-Walla, and whose district includes Stevens County, in which lies Colville Valley, Mr. Simms, Indian agent at Colville, and other white persons, and some Indians, also request the attention of the Government to this subject.

British Indians are British subjects, and it is claimed that our restricted statutes will not reach the sale of liquor to a British Indian, and hence, sales to these have been permitted, which furnishes an excuse for selling to any who claim to be British subjects. The British law prohibits selling or giving liquor to any North American Indian, and our statutes should be made similar to it in this respect.

Respectfully submitted.

JOHN P. C. SHANKS,
Special Commissioner.

NOVEMBER 11, 1873.

(Diagram here in copy.)

WALLA-WALLA, WASH., *July 31, 1873.*

MY DEAR GENERAL: This is the third letter I have written, beside two telegraphic dispatches, in trying to reach you and get in communication with you. I heard of your being here about ten days ago, and have been using every exertion possible to reach you, to have you attend a great council of the new treaty Indians, that I am on my way to, to be held at Kebble Falls about the 10th of August. It is of the most vital importance to peace, justice, and humanity, that you should be at that council, to see and hear from those Indians the grievances they complain of. I have been here two days trying to learn your whereabouts, and have come to the conclusion that possibly you may have gone from Cœur d'Alene to Colville, so I have concluded to send a messenger on your trail to hunt you up with this letter, while I push on to Colville with Agent Simms, in hope of meeting you there. If this reach you elsewhere, don't fail, for Heaven's sake, to come on to Colville. I will hold on and delay the council till I hear from you. I feel very sure that there is no Indian matter west of the Rocky Mountains of so much importance and so worthy of your attention, as you would see and hear from the 3,000 Indians you will meet at Kebble Falls, near Fort Colville. Don't fail to come, "if it takes all summer." I am certain that you cannot do more important service to the Government or to the Indian cause.

Come, come, come, and very greatly oblige, your friend, with much respect,

R. H. MILROY,
Superintendent Indian Affairs, Washington Territory.

Hon. J. P. C. SHANKS.

FORT COLVILLE, WASH., *December 10, 1873.*

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find a list of the white inhabitants living in Colville Valley, and the amount of assessible property, as taken from the assessment-roll of the county. I have taken the liberty of sending it to you, thinking it might be of some service to you in determining the reservation question. I accompanied General Milroy in his careful and thorough examination of the reserve north of the Columbia, and, without knowing his opinion or what report he has made in regard to

the matter, I feel no hesitation in saying that I consider it as totally unfit for agricultural purposes, and unsuitable as a permanent home for the several tribes of Indians supposed to belong to it; and so well are the Indians convinced of that fact that, they will not remove to it without compulsion, and would not remain without a large military force to keep them there. To speak plainly, the Indians know they could not subsist themselves on the reserve as now defined, and their refusal to remove to it would be in obedience to the first law of nature.

From what I saw of the reservation, I am convinced that there is not more agricultural land on it than would suffice for the two tribes already residing there, namely, the Okanagans and San Poels, while the Colvilles, Spokanes, Pend d'Oreilles, and Lakes are to be provided for. In your two days' ride on a portion of the reserve I think you saw a fair average of the whole. On one, the Okanagan, where Smith told General Milroy "thirty thousand Indians could be located," there is not farming land enough to make a respectable garden; and if Smith and "Buck John" had to depend upon their farms for a living, they would surely perish. You know Smith acknowledged that his family had to resort to fishery. No, general, the arable land is not on the Okanagan, nor on the Nespelun, nor on the San Poel, nor on Little River, nor is it anywhere on the reservation in sufficient quantity for four or five thousand Indians to subsist themselves by agriculture.

As to the propriety of buying out the settlers in Colville Valley and adding it to the present reservation, it is a matter for the authorities to decide, although the sum necessary to accomplish the object may seem considerable. I consider that it would be well expended, and would accomplish more good for these Indians than three times the amount expended in trying to locate them north of the Columbia. Colville Valley will accommodate but a small number of white settlers at best, and is by no means a desirable place for a white settlement, surrounded, as it is and would be, by Indians, without a market, and without the remotest prospect of railroad or water communication with any other settlement, while it would afford comfortable homes for thousands of Indians. I hope you will remember us when the appropriation bill comes up. There are more Indians belonging to this agency than there are to the Yakama or Simcoe agency, and yet, if you notice, there is quite a difference in the amount appropriated for the two agencies. I would not mention this, were it not that the Simcoe agency is so often spoken of as the *model agency*, and that so much is being accomplished there for the good of the Indians. Give us more school-houses and agricultural implements, and I will guarantee that the Indians of this agency will soon be as proficient in the arts of civilized life as their more favored neighbors, and soon become self-sustaining. I am sorry to learn that General Milroy has got into trouble about his official accounts, (as the papers say.) I certainly believe that the general is an honest and conscientious man, and that his good nature has been imposed upon by unscrupulous parties. I regret very much his removal from the superintendency of this Territory. He had made a very favorable impression on the Indians in this section, and, I think, would have accomplished a great deal of good.

* * * * *

JOHN A. SIMMES.

General J. P. C. SHANKS,
Washington, D. C.

PROPOSED INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

Census of the white inhabitants residing between the Spokane and Columbia Rivers, together with the whole amount of assessable property of those owning real estate.

No.	Names of heads of families.	Children.	Total.	Taxable property.
1	Abramson, Peter.....	4	6	\$1,256 50
2	Brown, Henry.....	3	5	623 00
3	Brown, Thomas.....	4	6	2,556 00
4	Brown, W. V.....		1	7,706 00
5	Bruce, Robert.....		1	2,239 00
6	Clugsten, John.....		2	4,034 00
7	Charette, Antonie.....	5	7	845 00
8	Douglass, R. A.....		1	1,653 00
9	Dupies, Nobia.....	4	6	824 00
10	Duplessiss, Mrs.....	(Half-breed.) 3	4	5,297 50
11	Dupies, Moses.....	2	4	1,134 50
12	Feken, George.....		2	1,430 00
13	Flett, Magnus.....		1	548 00
14	Ferguson, L. D.....	3	5	675 00
15	Fitzpatrick, B.....	3	5	4,305 00
16	Flett, Thomas.....	8	10	650 00
17	Frazier, George.....		1	150 00
18	Garrick, John.....		1	1,183 00
19	Gremier, Arthur.....	5	7	200 00
20	Hames, Gup.....	2	3	2,885 00
21	Hayden, Matthew.....		1	440 00
22	Harvey, George.....	1	3	560 00
23	Hall, Winston.....	4	6	638 00
24	Heller & Waite.....			3,134 00
25	Herring, George.....	(Half-breed.) 4	6	683 00
26	Hilburn, L. G.....	1	3	293 50
27	Houser, John.....		1	1,655 00
28	Hosstetter, John W.....	3	5	2,414 00
29	Hughston, Andrew.....		1	3,491 00
30	Jougram, Joseph.....	(Half-breed.) 4	6	672 00
31	Jukston, John.....		1	834 50
32	Jacobs, Catherine.....	(Indian.) 5	7	810 00
33	Joudrou, Alexander.....	3	5	436 00
34	Kinsley, John R.....		2	690 00
35	Keiling, Fred.....	1	3	503 00
36	Kempt, James.....		1	1,476 00
37	King, Peter.....	6	8	1,780 00
38	Little, Muchelle.....	(Indian.) 4	6	238 00
39	Leprey, Joseph.....		2	3,596 00
40	Lamrents, Joseph.....		1	370 00
41	La Fleur, Michale.....	5	7	1,107 00
42	Marshall, Hannah.....	2	3	255 00
43	Martin, Joseph.....	2	4	1,323 00
44	McDougal, La Louise.....	(Half-breed.) 2	3	400 00
45	Montgomery, C. H.....	1	3	10,936 00
46	Myers, L. W.....	2	4	3,403 00
47	McKay, Robert.....	(Half-breed.) 4	6	257 50
48	Mathew, Louis.....	4	6	190 00
49	McKenzie, Patrick.....	2	4	714 00
50	McCloud, Donald.....	6	8	1,285 00
51	McRea, George.....	1	3	1,151 00
52	McNoughan, James.....	1	3	3,326 00
53	Montgomery, Monaghan.....			1,055 00
54	Morell, Joseph.....		1	575 00
55	Mendoza, Joseph.....		1	375 00
56	Mowatt, Andrew.....		1	497 00
57	Montgomery, L. R.....		1	40 00
58	Oppenheimer, M., & Co.....			17,705 00
59	Oppenheimer, Samson.....		1	10,000 00
60	Paridis, A. M.....	2	4	1,241 00
61	Perro, Louis.....	2	4	2,173 00

PROPOSED INDIAN RESERVATIONS.

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Census of the white inhabitants, &c.—Continued.

No.	Names of heads of families.	Children.	Total.	Taxable property.
62	Probell, John.....		1	\$908 00
63	Peone, Louis.....	9	11	474 00
64	Peltier, Solomon.....		1	400 00
65	Reiray, John.....		1	906 00
66	Roberts, Joseph.....	4	6	3,037 00
67	Richard, Coon.....		1	3,727 50
68	Reimer, George.....		1	650 00
69	Stensgar, John.....	2	4	490 00
70	Stensgar, Thomas.....	5	7	4,933 00
71	Sherwood, S. F.....		1	500 00
72	White, David.....	4	6	1,146 00
73	Winans, W. P.....	1	3	9,165 00
74	Wellington, H.....		1	4,000 00
75	Yulier, Francis.....			2,362 00
76	Young, H. E.....	1	3	1,830 00
77	Arnold, Adam.....		1	
78	Britton, George.....		1	375 00
79	Beslow, Alexander.....		1	
80	Berlan, Battiste.....	1	3	
81	Braley, Daniel.....		1	
82	Pelton, Milo.....		1	
83	Chemefield, Victor.....		1	
84	Cook, Henry.....		1	
85	Curry, Thomas.....		1	
86	Casgrove, John.....		1	
87	Dunlap, Alfred.....		1	
88	Fox, William.....		1	
89	Godfrey, John.....		1	
90	Hubbard, Henry T.....		1	
91	Hubbard, W. A.....	2	3	
92	Jones, John.....		1	
93	John, Frank.....		1	
94	Keeting, Henry.....		1	
95	Laputtrie, Louis.....		1	390 00
96	Leo, Thomas.....		1	
97	Longshore, S. F.....		1	
98	Longsway, Fabrian.....		1	
99	Miller, Charles.....		1	
100	Mergrein, Louis.....	1	3	
101	Norris, Phil.....		1	
102	Noyes, A. R.....		1	
103	Oppenheimer, J. V.....		1	
104	Pate, Philip.....		1	
105	Sudbrink, Henry.....		1	
106	Shaw, John.....		1	
107	Pingstone, Albert.....			
108	Wait, George.....	4	6	
109	Woolf, Francis.....		1	5,255 00
110	Winne, John.....	3	5	1,226 00
111	Heller, Thomas.....	4	6	
112	Simms, John A.....		2	
113	Frederick, Louis.....		1	
	Total.....	159	318	164,700 00

Have no farms.