

informed ; but presume that they do, as they have been permanently settled for a great number of years.

Since the date of my last annual report, the Kiowas and other Indians of the Arkansas river have made several expeditions into this Territory, in which they have killed a number of the Mohuach Utahs, and it is believed several whites, and taken a considerable amount of property. About the 16th instant a war party of Kiowas, consisting of ninety-five warriors, arrived at Albuquerque, in this Territory, having passed to the centre of the settled portions thereof. They represented their objects to be to see our people and country, and to make war on the Navajoes. On consultation between General Garland and myself, orders were given to Major Carlton, commanding at Albuquerque, to turn these Kiowas back, and direct them to return to their own country, and, in doing so, they committed several depredations before leaving the settlements.

With regard to estimates for the necessary appropriations for this superintendency during the next fiscal year, I beg leave to refer you to my estimates for the present year, which were transmitted to your office with my last annual report, as these estimates are equally applicable to the next fiscal year.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

D. MERIWETHER,

*Governor, and Superintendent of
Indian Affairs in New Mexico.*

Hon. G. W. MANYPENNY,

Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City.

No. 72.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Olympia, W. T., May 31, 1856.

SIR: I have received your communication of the 19th April, giving me authority to draw upon the department for \$10,000 per month, commencing with the month of December, 1855. This amount will not, however, cover the expenditures which have been incurred, and I will ask authority to draw for an additional amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per month. My original requisition was for \$15,000 per month. It must be borne in mind that I am actually feeding, in whole or in part, 5,350 Indians ; that the number will probably increase ; that the expenses of expresses are very heavy ; and that I have to take the responsibility of incurring expenses when it is a question of peace or war. The views of the department, having, as they do, the hearty concurrence of my judgment, the result of my personal experience here, shall be faithfully and zealously carried out. They have been my governing principles of action, not only during the pendency of the war, but from my first entrance upon the duties of the superintendency.

I am gratified to be able to report that the policy of protecting the

friendly Indians and preventing their taking part in the war has not only been completely successful, but that the policy of kindness and mercy to submissive and unconditional prisoners has been practically enforced, and has the concurrence of public opinion in the Territory.

I will ask the indulgence of the department in presenting a brief view of the history of the superintendency from the commencement of the war. The war broke out early in October, confined first to the Yakimas and Klikatats; it gradually extended to the Tyh, Deschutes, John Day's, and Umatilla Indians of Oregon, to the Cayuses and Walla-Wallas of Oregon and Washington, and to the Palouses, all east of the Cascades, and to detachments from several bands at or near the head of Puget Sound, west of the Cascade mountains. Being absent in attendance on the Black Foot council, the duty of meeting this difficult emergency devolved upon Acting Governor and Superintendent of Indian Affairs Mason.

The circumstances of the defection of the Indians on Puget Sound were so extraordinary as to excite universal alarm and consternation through all classes of the community, and to create a universal distrust of the fealty of all the tribes. The Indians who took up arms had been but a few days before visited by Acting Governor Mason and several gentlemen connected with the Indian service, and had assured him that all the reports of their meditating an outbreak were false, and that they were the fast friends of the whites.

The uniform good conduct, moreover, of all the leaders of the party referred to had been such, that gentlemen best acquainted with the Indians reposed the utmost confidence in them.

Leschi, the leader of the hostiles on the Sound, was familiarly known to most of our citizens; had in part adopted the habits and usages of civilized life, was a good farmer, an expert hunter, and believed to be an honest man.

Nelson, the monster who perpetrated the massacre on White river, was in like manner treated and respected by the inhabitants of the county of King.

The other leaders were held in similar trust. I have never heard of any charge that they had been maltreated by the settlers. I know they were treated with consideration and respect.

Recollect, Leschi lived within three hours' ride of Olympia, and two hours of Steilacoom; that he frequently visited both places; and Nelson was a welcome and frequent visitor to the town of Seattle, and so with the other leaders. Conceive, therefore, of the consternation of this whole community, when the Indians, believed to be the most reliable, in direct violation of their solemn word, commenced the war by the massacre of an entire settlement.

McAlister and Edgar were betrayed and shot by their own guides. McAlister went with his neighbor Stahi to see Leschi, believing that their old friendship of ten years could be appealed to to induce Leschi to continue friendly. Stahi treacherously betrayed and shot him on the road, and joined the enemy.

Were it necessary, I could give many cases. Moses and Miles, returning from the east of the mountains with several other gentlemen, passed through the camp of Leschi, on White river, believing them to

be friends. They met as such, shaking hands and exchanging friendly greetings; but as soon as their backs were turned the Indians fired upon them, and Moses and Miles, prominent citizens, the first the inspector of customs at Nisqually, the latter a lawyer of Olympia, and one of the colonels of the territorial militia, were the first martyrs of the war. Fortunately, though the Indians on the Sound outnumbered the whites nearly two to one, we have a law-abiding population, and we had a superintendent, Governor Mason, and an agent equal to the emergency.

Would it have been surprising if in the universal alarm, for all the Indians began to show unequivocal signs of hostility, the inhabitants had sought safety in the indiscriminate massacre of all Indians? Could it, even under the circumstances, have brought upon them the imputation of cruelty? I shall not answer these questions, but I put them as the most significant method of presenting the case.

The people took no such course. They sustained the course of Governor Mason and agent M. F. Simmons, in protecting all Indians not actually in the hostile ranks; and through difficulties and discouragements of the darkest character the Indians, four thousand in number, were moved from the war ground on the Sound to reservations, where they have since remained. Not an Indian was killed or molested except in battle.

This was not done by me; it was done in my absence. It has excited in my heart profound emotions of gratitude and admiration. All honor I say to a people and to officers who, in such dire vicissitude, have so nobly done their duty.

My work was elsewhere. On my way home, as I have reported, I conciliated all the tribes east and west of the hostile bands, appointed discreet agents for all, organized the Nez Percés to resist the attempts of the hostiles, and prevented a large number of Indians from joining in the war.

Whether motives of humanity and a high and disinterested sense of duty governed me, or whether I simply trimmed my sails to catch the breeze of popular favor, in setting my face homeward and boldly fronting the perils of the passage of the mountains in winter, and of the attacks of the Indians reported to be in arms, is for others to decide. I did cross the mountains in snow, I did conciliate the Cœur d'Alenes, the Spokanes, the Colvilles—all highly excited. I organized the Nez Percés. I sought to raise up a wall of adamant against the extension of hostilities, by securing the confidence of these tribes. I have done my whole duty with an honest heart. I challenge investigation and inquiry.

I have given and now give my positive testimony, that the Walla-Wallas, the Cayuses, the Umatillas, were bent on war; that the advance of the Oregon volunteers did not precipitate them into war, and that it and it alone opened a safe road for my party.

On my reaching the Sound, I had nothing to do but to carry out the Indian policy initiated by Gov. Mason.

Expresses were organized soon after my return, to communicate weekly with all the reservations. Bands of Indian auxiliaries were organized. The Indians were struck. Prisoners were treated with

mercy. None were killed, except leaders and murderers. I point to the two hundred brought in from back of Seattle by the volunteers, now happy on a reservation, as a proof of the humanity of our people. My last communication informed you that those against whom there was evidence were being tried at Seattle. They were tried, and tried by volunteer officers, and have all been found *not guilty*, and they are now secure on the reservation.

Enclosed you will find a copy of the proceedings of the military commission, which, though a part of my executive proceedings, I will transmit as illustrative of the care taken to act with mercy and justice.

Some two months since I received overtures from Tieas, a prominent Yakama chief, stating that he never countenanced the war, and had been all winter with his camp high up the Yakama, out of the reach of the hostile bands. He desired to come to the Sound with all his people, and be placed on a suitable reservation till the war was over.

I despatched Agent Simmons, and one of my aids-de-camp, Lieutenant Colonel E. C. Fitzhugh, to the Falls of the Snoqualmie, to communicate with Tieas, and to arrange his moving over. The messengers found that Tieas' camp had been moved, and they returned without seeing him. Messengers were despatched a second and third time, and last evening I received the welcome intelligence that Tieas had sent two chosen men to communicate with me. The messengers of Tieas are now at Holmes' Harbor, and the agent, Colonel Simmons, is on his way there to bring them to Olympia. They are expected here on the 3d of June.

I feel bound here to commend to the department the services of Agent M. S. Simmons, who has shown through all these difficulties a humanity, a courage, and a sagacity, equal to the emergency. It was Simmons who superintended in person the removal of the Indians. It was Simmons who practically tested the safety of employing Indian auxiliaries. It was Simmons who, in any threatened outbreak of the friendly Indians, was always at the point of danger to pacify and conciliate them. Yes, Simmons was even at the post of danger, and his infamous calumniator, J. S. Smith, whose falsehoods prevented his appointment of agent for a year and a half, has abandoned the Territory, and gone to Oregon for safety.

Difficulties have been experienced in procuring the services of suitable local agents, and some changes have in consequence been made. Of the five local agents on duty on my return only two remain, and at one of the agencies a suitable person was not found till two persons had been successively displaced. The present agents are all faithful and efficient, and several of them are remarkably efficient.

Captain Sydney S. Ford, jr., and Lieutenant W. Goswell, successfully led Indian auxiliaries the past winter, and they showed a judgment and sagacity which pointed them out as suitable persons for local agents. Captain Ford has charge of the local agency opposite Steilacoom, and Lieutenant Goswell of that near Olympia. On

these reservations are 1,100 Indians. They are all connected with the hostiles, but are now entirely happy and contented.

The father of Captain Ford, the Hon. S. S. Ford, sen., an honored citizen of the Territory since 1846, has been throughout the war the local agent of the Upper Chehalis, and I have since appointed him to the charge of a district, including the Upper and Lower Chehalis; the Indians on the coast and the Cowlitz Indians are in charge of special Agent Simon Plomondeau.

Both the upper Chehalis and the Cowlitz have been repeatedly on the verge of hostility, especially the upper Chehalis. Special Indian Agent Ford had lived with them ten years, and when all his neighbors believed, for many weeks, his life was in danger, he remained at his home with the Indians about him. Just, prudent, and intrepid, through the long nights of a dreary winter, did this good old man stand at his post, his neighbors all living in block-houses, and kept his charge faithfully. Leschi had three friends in the camp, who used every exertion to precipitate the tribe into war. On my return from the Blackfeet country Judge Ford gave me their names, and explained his plan of preventing an outbreak. His Indians kept guard every night. The suspected Indians were simply not allowed their guns. When his son, Captain Ford, took charge of a party of Indian auxiliaries, he selected two of these suspected persons. *They attempted to kill Captain Ford on the road. They led him by wrong paths. Once they cocked and levelled a gun at him. Were Ford killed, it would have been imparted to the whole party. The instigators would have said, you will be killed anyhow, join the hostiles with your tribe and let us fight the whites;* and this was the plan of these fellows to get the whole Chehalis tribe to join the hostiles. But Ford, an admirable specimen of the American youth, of quick eye, powerful frame, manly presence, exquisite tact, and courage equal to all emergencies, brought the gun down by a single calm glance, and with death menacing him on all sides made his scout and brought his Indians home. The two would-be murderers have since become reliable men for Indians. They went with him frequently on scouts afterwards.

Lieutenant Gosnell had a similar experience. On organizing his party, after consultation with me, it was determined to place, as the chief of the party, the Indian John, who had threatened to join the war party, believing that he simply needed a field of activity to make him contented. Not only did it have the desired effect, but it tended very materially to quiet and conciliate the whole body of Indians now on the reservation near Olympia in charge of Lieutenant Gosnell.

If the infamous calumniators of the people of this coast could have been present at some of the interviews and consultations between Simmons, the two Fords, Gosnell, and myself, they would hang down their heads for shame for the remainder of their lives for having so grossly perverted the truth of history.

I trust that your own practical experience with Indians will show you there must have been thought, and work, and sagacity, and firmness, and a steady purpose, and a determination to direct and not follow public opinion, which has led to the present condition of things on the Sound.

I turn now to the local reservation in charge of Simon Plomondeau. It is near the Cowlitz Landing, in the county of Lewis. A considerable portion of the inhabitants are Canadians and half-breeds, between whom and those of American origin there is much jealousy. The Canadian population have confidence in the Indians. The Americans have not. It has been believed by the latter that the Indians have several times been on the eve of an outbreak; yet not only have peace and good feeling been maintained, but not a case has occurred of individual ill treatment.

Look now to the Nez Percés. The agent, Wm. Craig, has been with them the past winter and till lately, and so long as the Oregon volunteers occupied the Walla-Walla valley they have been entirely friendly. I have written them from time to time and have had messages sent to the Spokanes and adjoining tribes, to which proper responses have been made.

June 3d.—The messengers of Tieas and Ouhi arrived to-day. They left the hostile camp in front of Colonel Wright, on the Naches, on Friday, May 23d. They report that Ouhi, Tieas, Layhite, Schlome, and Schoaway are for peace. That Kam-i-a-kin has gone to the Palouses to tell them to stop fighting, and that The Five Crows and the hostile Cayuses are in the Spokane.

I have sent back word to Tieas and Ouhi that if they desire peace they must submit unconditionally to the justice and mercy of the government, and that those who have encouraged the war and been engaged in murders must be given up to punishment.

Colonel Simmons is instructed to go with them up the Sno-ho-mish to the large prairie above the falls of the Sno-qual-mie, to send them over to the camp, and to say to them, "Come to the prairie, above the falls of the Sno-qual-mie, and give yourselves up. The governor is desirous to spare the shedding of blood, therefore, come quickly."

I am of opinion that whilst Tieas and Ouhi are probably in favor of peace, the remainder are not. That Kam-i-a-kin has gone to the Palouse to beat up recruits; had his object been peace he would have sent a messenger. That Schlome and Schoaway, his brothers, are left behind as a blind and to watch Ouhi and Tieas. This is my opinion, and I shall act on it; hence my stern decisive message to the camp.

Colonel Fitzhugh is ordered to accompany Colonel Simmons to the falls to make arrangements with the troops, to the end that the friendly Indians may come in safety to the place of meeting, and I shall immediately push up a large quantity of provisions for their sustenance.

June 4th.—My express, this evening, brought letters from the Indian chiefs in the Spokane, stating that they were friendly to the Americans, and would not join in the war. Gary, the Spokane chief, says the Cayuses, Five Crows, and the Young Chief, acting for the tribe, desire peace. He thinks it would be right to make peace with the Cayuses, but not with the Yakamas.

The friendly feeling of the Spokanes is confirmed by George Montour, the interpreter, living in the Spokane.

I have doubts about the condition of things in the Spokane. The Five Crows is one of the most vindictive enemies of the whites, and one of the original instigators of the war. In my mind his presence

there is indicative as much, or even more, that the Spokanes are ready to join in the war, as that the Cayuses are desirous of peace.

This evening I, accordingly, wrote letters to the river, urging the Walla-Walla expedition forward with all possible energy. All the information thus far derived goes to satisfy me that the condition of things in the interior is bad.

June 5th.—An express sent by my orders to the camp of Colonel Wright, on the Naches, reached me this evening, with information going to confirm my previous impressions as to the condition of the interior. The express left the volunteer camp at Camp Montgomery, on Thursday, May 22d, proceeded over the Naches Pass, and reached Wright's camp on the morning of the 27th, leaving that camp on Saturday, May 31st, he reached the Dalles on June 1st, and this place on the evening of the 5th.

I have not time to write at length. The whole interior is ripe for war. One-half of the Nez Percés are about to join the war party. The Spokanes, Cœur d'Alencs, Colvilles, and Okiakanes have accepted horses as the price of their services. They say to the friendly Nez Percés, join us in the war against the whites or we will rub you out. A portion of the Snakes have joined them.

Colonel Wright met the hostiles on the 8th. My express left his camp on the 30th. The Indians had not been struck, but there had been parleying about peace. What is the result? Kam-i-a-kin has, perhaps, effected a combination of all the tribes, including one-half of the Nez Percés, and the general Indian war, of which I have been apprehensive, is about to burst upon us, and in consequence of the inactive and bad management of the regular troops. There should not have been a word about peace till a blow had been struck and the enemy beaten.

I enclose a copy of a letter of the 27th May, received from Lieutenant Colonel Craig, in the Nez Percés country. It tells the whole story. It shows what the Oregon volunteers effected in the way of preserving peace by their occupancy of the Walla-Walla valley. It confirms the absolute necessity of my course in organizing and pushing forward the Walla-Walla expedition.

I shall, to-morrow, visit the camp at Montgomery, to confer with Colonel Shaw in regard to the expedition over the Naches into the Yakama; and on Monday go to the Dalles to urge forward, with all possible energy, the expedition to the Walla-Walla.

I hope, sir, to save the Nez Percés and the Spokanes. It can only be done by the presence of troops to protect them from the hostiles.

I beg you, sir, most attentively to weigh the letter of Colonel Craig, and bear in mind that he is a man of nerve, judgment, and great experience.

Consider, too, the words of Lawyer, the head chief of the Nez Percés, who considers the greater portion of his tribe unreliable.

Truly and respectfully your most obedient,

ISAAC I. STEVENS,
Governor and Superintendent.

HON. GEORGE W. MANNYPENNY,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.