

Office Dept. Ind. Affairs

Dayton O. O. July 5th 1856

Sir,

Since my letter of 26th inst. Mr H. Umacuer came down, And as we have no definite information relative to the result of your resignation and his appointment, no action could be had changing the present relations of accountability. I have suggested to Mr H. Umacuer that it is perhaps better to return to the Dalles, ascertain precisely the condition of Indians.

A correct census list, the articles of Merchandise required, &c &c. And in the event of your business being such as to render necessary to send an Agent to make the necessary purchases, I would meet him at Portland - and supply the funds to meet the demands, Merchandise can be had upon drafts on the department but it is very difficult obtaining Coin. As a reward for good conduct some little attention should be paid to the Indians in your district, who have resisted the temptations of our Enemies. It might also be a good lesson to make a difference in treatment towards, ^{them} and such as may come in and deliver themselves as prisoners. at the same

time due ^{attention &} discretion should be used and not give such treatment as to preclude a possibility of others coming in. It is not the present always that we should look to but its effects in the future management of Indians. And in connection with this subject I am sorry to say that circumstances appear to indicate a departure from that rule of action calculated to insure a rigid adherence or acquiescence in regulations established for the future government of Indians. The laxity of manner and lenient treatment extended towards the tribes along the Coast by the Military department will not be likely to deter them from a repetition of similar offenses. Their reception upon an unconditional surrender when it was understood that it meant to be escorted to the Reservation, fed, clothed, and taken care of is not such treatment as the conduct of many richly deserve. but with the limited amount of Troops in the field and the difficulty attending the prosecution of a war with them it may be policy to receive them, but when received and placed on the Reservation what else can we do than to treat them as Friends; it is a bitter pill but how shall we avoid it? Efforts have been and still are being made to impress the Community with an idea that I have

been anxious to screen murderers - but the truth is I would rejoice to see them all executed. but if in doing that it involves the lives of an equal number of our Citizens, we should pause and try some other remedy. we whose duties have been to watch the movements and rate the conduct of our own people as well as Indians, in their intercourse, know full well the reasons those ignorant Savages have for acts of retaliation, and if we lay aside our prejudices, cannot but admit that they have much to palliate as a people. Still they must be taught the folly of attempting to redress their own wrongs, if they would hope to exist. Try and adopt such measures as will secure a continuance of amicable relations between the Whites and the Indians at your Encampment.

By R. B. Thompson Esq.
Indian Agt.
C. 17

I am Sir Very Respectfully
Your Obedt. Servt.



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July 5th 1856

R. R. Johnson

Proctor Agent.

Entered April. 1850

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