

Portland, O. J. 9<sup>th</sup> Nov 1855

Dear Sir

I have collected all the  
Insects on the south side  
of Columbia River, between  
the mouth of Sanda and the  
Willimette River together  
encompassment three miles  
above Mr Switzlers No more  
100 - all quiet and friendly  
no fears of outbreaks enter-  
tained on the part of the  
whites, They are providing  
for their selves, no expense  
for provisions as yet,  
I started vessel the differ-  
ent bands of Indians as per  
your instructions on the south  
side of Columbia River  
from the mouth of the  
Willimette River to Clatsop  
plains, On arriving ~~at~~ at  
St Hellins I found some  
trouble there, Reports had  
come from the opposite  
side of the River opposite

that place that some  
Indians had collected those  
deserting from Vancouver  
12 in number with the intent  
to join the enemy, based  
upon this information some  
of the citizens accompanying  
Smith went over and  
arrested 12 boats to St. Helens  
and confined them, for the  
particulars I refer you to  
Smith's letter in the Times  
I told Smith that he had  
no right in Washing Territory  
as an officer & had done wrong  
as the Indians had not  
committed any depredations on  
the part of the whites  
I ordered them at once  
to be taken to Vancouver  
and turned over to the  
proper authority. ~~and~~  
~~my~~ ~~self~~ went with them also  
Smith on arriving at that  
place Smith found out  
by some one that he was  
about to be arrested on account  
of said Indian difficulty.

left as once on the steamer  
for Portland, I delivered  
over the Indians to Secular  
Weather 10 of whom was  
sent to the encampment  
and two was put in the  
gard house as prisoners  
one of which will probably  
be executed by the chief  
of the band.

I found the Indians about  
St. Johns 17 in all under  
the charge of T. H. Smith  
all quiet and well cared  
for expense for flour  
about \$1 per day - There  
was a rumor that Indians  
was making some trouble  
on Sages Island - I went  
there & found no just cause  
for complaint Tomass McKay  
and his little band have  
mover out to Wapeta Lake  
and are quiet - I will  
start down the River  
on Monday next to attend  
to the rest below  
I am for making the

Indians provided for their  
subsistence as far as circum-  
stances will permit  
I have been quite busy  
and find much to do  
I paid Smith some money  
on my return I will  
make out a full report  
of different Tribes to be  
also expense of feeding

I am Sir  
yours obt. servt

Joel Palmer Lt. Whitecomb  
Supt. Dist. Special Sub  
"Ind. Affairs" Ind. Agent  
O. J.

Let Whitecomb's  
letter of Mar 9<sup>th</sup> 55  
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