

L E T T E R

FROM THE

ACTING SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING

In response to Senate resolution, March 30, 1886, report upon the claims of certain Indians for compensation for lands.

APRIL 9, 1886.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, April 9, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of a resolution of the Senate of the 30th ultimo, the full text whereof is found in the inclosed copy of letter of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the subject having been referred to his office for the information requested.

In replying to the resolution, which presents request for correspondence and papers relating to the removal of the Spokane, Pend d'Oreille and Cœur d'Alene Indians to any specific reservation in Idaho, Montana, or Washington Territory, and their claims for lands, &c., the Commissioner observes that the resolution does not indicate how far back the correspondence and other papers to be produced shall extend. That there was some correspondence touching the gathering and removal of these Indians to their present reservations, in Idaho and Washington Territories, many years ago, but he infers from the language of the resolution, that only recent correspondence is desired, and papers or petitions received bearing upon their claim for indemnification for certain lands formerly held and occupied by them, the title to which they claim never to have relinquished, but which lands have nevertheless been taken possession of by white settlers; and he therefore furnishes copies of all papers, petitions, and correspondence upon the subject-matter of said resolution, commencing with the year 1883; which are herewith respectfully transmitted for the information of the Senate.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully,

H. L. MULDROW,
Acting Secretary.

THE PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE OF THE SENATE.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, April 8, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt by your reference the 31st ultimo, of a resolution of the Senate of the United States of the 30th ultimo, as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be, and he is hereby, directed to furnish to the Senate, with as little delay as practicable, copies of all correspondence or petitions on file in his Department between the Upper and Middle bands of the Spokanes, the Lower bands of the Pend d'Oreille, and the Cœur d'Alene Indians, or of any Indian agent or other person in their behalf, or representing them with the authorities of the United States, touching the subject-matter of the removal of said Indians or any of them to any specific Indian reservation in Idaho, or in Montana, or in Washington Territories; and also in regard to the cession or quitclaim by any of said Indians to the United States of any lands alleged to be heretofore owned or claimed or occupied by them, and also any petition or correspondence in regard to any compensation by the United States alleged to be due said Indians for the cession of such portions of their said lands as are or have been deemed by them not needed for their own Indian reservation purposes.

It will be observed that the resolution does not indicate how far back the correspondence and other papers to be produced shall extend.

There was some correspondence touching the gathering and removal of these Indians to their present reservations in Idaho and Washington Territories many years ago; but I infer from the language of the resolution that only recent correspondence is desired, and any papers or petitions received bearing upon their claim for indemnification for certain lands formerly held and occupied by them the title to which they claim never to have relinquished, but which lands have nevertheless been taken possession of by white settlers. Accordingly, I have the honor to transmit herewith copies of all papers, petitions, and correspondence upon the subject-matter of said resolution beginning with the year 1883.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

SPOKANE FALLS, WASH., *March 23, 1886.*

REVEREND AND DEAR SIR: Many thanks for your kind favor of 12th ultimo.

Allow me to say a word more in favor of these Upper Spokanes. Troubles are going on between whites and Spokane Indians at Spokane Falls and vicinity, and Chief Louis Welsholchu is very anxious to be called to Washington and expose himself to the President their needs. Can you do anything to obtain such a permission for him? Of course he wants to take one or two more chiefs with him, and an interpreter. He insists on obtaining a piece of land, no matter how small, as their own, where they could live peacefully as a tribe, with school and church.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOS. M. CATALDO, S. J.,
Superior of Missions in Rocky Mountains.

Rev. J. A. STEPHAN,
Director Bureau Catholic Indian Missions, Washington, D. C.

[Indorsement.]

THE BUREAU CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS,
Washington, D. C., April 6, 1886.

The within copy of letter of Rev. J. M. Cataldo, dated March 23, last, and addressed to this Bureau, is respectfully referred to the honorable Commissioner Indian Affairs for his information and consideration.

P. L. CHAPELLE, D. D.,
Vice-President.

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., March 31, 1886.

SIR: The inclosed letter of Mr. Lusk and its accompanying petition from the head chief of the Cœur d'Alene Indians, not being within the jurisdiction of the select committee of the House charged with making certain inquiries touching Indian affairs, &c., was not embraced in their recent report, but is respectfully referred to your Department for consideration.

Very respectfully,

WM. S. HOLMAN,
Chairman Select Committee on Indian Affairs, &c., House of Representatives.

Hon. L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary of the Interior.

WASHINGTON, D. C., *November 24, 1885.*

SIR: By direction of this Bureau I have the honor to hand you herewith the petition of Seltise, the head chief of the Cœur d'Alene Indian tribe, in Idaho, in behalf of his people, addressed to you through this Bureau, in which he sets forth the wrongs done them by the United States in taking their lands without remuneration, and asks that you will bring the same to the attention of Congress, and that his petition, with the accompanying papers, will be incorporated in the report of your special committee to Congress.

This Bureau most cordially and earnestly indorses the prayer of Seltise, and trusts that you, your committee, and Congress will take favorable action upon the same.

Very respectfully, yours,

CHARLES S. LUSK,
Secretary.

Hon. W. S. HOLMAN,
Chairman Special Committee to Inquire into Indian Matters.

CŒUR D'ALENE RESERVATION,
Idaho Territory, October 30, 1885.

SIR: As chief of the Cœur d'Alene Reservation of Idaho Territory, I beg to say that my people and myself looked forward with much interest and hope in the firm expectation that you would visit our country and my people, as it would have given to us the most favorable opportunity to lay before you and your honorable committee our wants, and what we expect from the United States Government towards us.

In view of these facts, I, therefore, in the name of my people and tribe, now send you a copy of the petition which we have heretofore, to wit, on the 23d day of March, 1885, caused to be forwarded to the honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and we now ask you and your honorable committee that you would make due reference to our case, and that you may be pleased to incorporate our said petition in your report to Congress on Indian matters, in order that the attention of the United States Government shall be drawn to the great grievances that have been so long inflicted upon my people.

I am, sir, yours, respectfully,

SELTIS,
Chief Cœur d'Alene Indian Tribe, Idaho.

Hon. W. S. HOLMAN,
*Chairman Special Committee United States House of Representatives,
Authorized to visit the Indians and Indian Reservations, Washington, D. C.*

[NOTE—The petition herein referred to is identical with the petition accompanying Agent Waters's letter of March 26, 1885, to the Indian Office herewith.]

THE BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS,
Washington, D. C. February 19, 1886.

SIR: On behalf of this bureau I have the honor to transmit herewith letter of Capt John Mullan, commissioner of this bureau, dated the 5th instant, recommending the appointment of a commission to visit the Spokane, Colville, and Cœur d'Alene In

dian tribes, with a view to settle their land matters; and to say that this bureau recommends and indorses the suggestions of Captain Mullan, and trusts that they may receive you favorable consideration and action.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. A. STEPHAN,
Director.

Hon. L. Q. C. LAMAR,
Secretary of the Interior.

[Copy of letter from Rev. J. M. Cataldo relative to Spokane Indians securing a reservation.]

SPOKANE FALLS, WASH., *January 10, 1886.*

DEAR SIR: Several Spokane Indians came to see me yesterday, and they told me to write to you to help them to get a piece of land as their own reservation. Geary and Welsho Louis, both head chiefs, made speeches and spoke very forcibly to show their rights. Welsho Louis wants you to obtain for him the privilege to go to Washington with one or two of his men, so that he himself could tell to the President the miserable condition in which more than four hundred people of his tribe are since the coming of the whites into their territory.

The United States agents at Colville and several of the fathers have tried their best for several years to persuade them to go into some reservation, but they stubbornly objected to this; they say they want to be a nation as God made them, and if they cannot obtain that they prefer to die than to be subjected to any other Indian tribe.

Please let them hear from you as soon as you conveniently can.

They even object to go to Washington with any people of any other tribe. To hear them you would believe that their national pride is not less than that of the old Romans.

Very respectfully, yours,

JOS. M. CATALDO, S. J.

Capt. JOHN MULLAN.

1101 G STREET, N. W.,
Washington, D. C., February 5, 1886.

GENTLEMEN: I have the honor to make a report upon a letter, copy of which is hereto attached, and made a part hereof, from the Rev. J. M. Cataldo, superintendent of various Indian missions throughout the Rocky Mountain regions of the Northwest, dated Spokane Falls, Wash., January 10, 1886, and which letter has been referred to me by your Bureau for report.

In this communication I am informed that the Spokane Indians, a tribe living in the vicinity of the Spokane Falls, in Eastern Washington Territory, have recently held a council in relation to their past and present grievances, and have requested the said superintendent to write and request me to lay the said matters fully before the honorable Secretary of the Interior.

The two chiefs, Geary and Welsho Louis, seem to have spoken for their tribe.

Geary I have known for thirty-one years. He speaks English, and is now probably near seventy-five years old, for his long, silvery white hair, once so black, as I saw him last October, with a number of his tribe, at the Spokane Falls, indicates that he has seen the snows of many winters. Geary then desired me to present the matter of the wrongs of his Indians to the President of the United States.

The Spokane Indians have been wrongfully treated by the United States; for our people have been permitted to seize their lands without leave or compensation; and while it is true that a small reservation on the Spokane River has been heretofore set aside and established, by an Executive order, for that temporary purpose, yet this falls very far short of that degree of justice which these people are entitled to at the hands of the United States.

I know well that the late Isaac I. Stevens, when governor of Washington Territory, and ex-officio superintendent of its Indian affairs, was authorized to make a treaty with these Indians, with a view of acquiring title for such a portion of their lands as they had no use for, and to compensate them for the same.

I also know that in 1855 it was Governor Stevens's intentions to make a treaty with these Indians on his return from the country of the Blackfeet Indians, now situate in Northwestern Montana, the same in 1855 being Northwestern Nebraska, where in the summer of 1855 Stevens, having treated with these Blackfeet Indians, his intentions on his return toward the Pacific was to treat with the Spokanes, the Colvilles, and the Cœur d'Alenes.

I also know that when Governor Stevens had concluded a treaty with the Blackfeet Indians, and was proceeding to visit the country of Colvilles and Spokanes, and Cœur d'Alenes, intending, as I have said to make a treaty with each of said tribes, he was met near the Dearborn River, in Northwestern Nebraska, by a special courier coming from the Pacific, and bringing him the intelligence that a general Indian war was then raging throughout the western portion of Oregon and Washington Territories, which, the Indian Department will bear witness, continued for a period of two years.

In consequence of this fact Governor Stevens deemed it his duty to proceed immediately to the seat of government at Olympia, on Puget Sound, but failed to conclude any treaty negotiations with either the Colville, Spokane, or Cœur d'Alene Indians. The exact recital of some of the delays relating to this matter I now give in the words of Mr. Gustavus Sohon, who then was with Governor Stevens as guide and interpreter, and to whom I herein after more particularly refer. Mr. Sohon says:

"The treaty made by the United States through Hon. Isaac I. Stevens, then governor and superintendent of Indian affairs of Washington Territory, and concluded at Walla Walla, in Washington Territory, in 1855, included certain Indian tribes residing east of the Cascade Mountains, on the borders of Eastern Oregon Territory and Southeastern Washington Territory, and lying west of the Bitter Root Mountains. These tribes were the Yakamas, Umatillas, Walla Wallas, and the Nez Percés; and Governor Stevens, as superintendent of Indians affairs for Washington Territory, in making these treaties, asked jointly therein with General Palmer, then commissioner of Indian affairs, for the then Territory of Oregon.

"The camps of said Indians were near the council grounds, and there were also present a few Spokane Indians, with Chief Geary, although his tribe and that of the Cœur d'Alene Indians, both of Eastern Washington Territory, were not joined in any of these treaties.

"Governor Stevens next proceeded to treat with a tribe of Indians living at the extreme eastern portion of Washington Territory. He passed through the country of the Spokanes and the Cœur d'Alenes, not stopping at that time to treat with either of them, but went first into the Flathead country, where he made a treaty with the tribes living between the Bitter Root Mountains and the main ridge of the Rocky Mountains, said tribes being as follows: The Flatheads, the Pend d'Oreilles, and the Kootenays. Now, these three tribes and also the Nez Percé tribe, already treated with by Stevens at Walla Walla, were in the habit (owing to their location) of hunting buffalo in the Rocky Mountains, on the plains of the Upper Missouri and the Upper Yellowstone Rivers, and there they frequently met at war the Blackfeet tribes, making traveling always unsafe. But Governor Stevens took with him several representatives of all these tribes, and crossing the Rocky Mountains into the Blackfeet country, which, at that time, as I have stated, constituted a portion of the Territory of Nebraska, he met General Alfred Cummings, then commissioner of Indian affairs for the Territory of Nebraska, and acting jointly therein they treated with said tribes, to wit: The Piegan, the Blackfeet, the Blood, and the Gros Ventre, not only for their lands and peace with the United States, but also for peace between the several tribes on the east and those then living on the west of the Rocky Mountains. This last council for these purposes was held at the junction of the Judith and Missouri Rivers, seventy miles east and below Fort Benton.

"It was now November when Governor Stevens started on his return to the Territory of Washington and where he was to complete a treaty with the Spokane, Colvilles, and Cœur d'Alenes, but before reaching the country of these Indian tribes he met, on the Teton River, 8 miles above Fort Benton and 500 miles distant from the Spokane country, a special mounted courier, bringing him a report that the Indians at Walla Walla, and other tribes with whom he had lately treated, had broken out in rebellion and were then in open war.

"On the same night Governor Stevens procured additional arms and ammunition and started westward with his party, the governor himself, with two or three men, going in advance to the Bitter Root Valley, thereby gaining a few days' time within which to transact important Governmental business, and until his pack train should have reached Hell Gate Ronde, now the city of Missoula, in the Territory of Montana. We continued our journey across the Cœur d'Alene Mountains on November 21, 1855, and reached the place of residence of Antoine Plant, a prominent Indian of his day, then living on the north bank of the Spokane River. This was at the end of November, 1855. We found here several white men traveling, who could not proceed further on account of said hostile Indians.

"A party of Cœur d'Alenes and some Spokanes, with their chief, Geary, came to Governor Stevens's camp and asserted their friendship for the whites, though the main portions of their tribes were not present. Of course a treaty could not and was not concluded with these Indians then and under all the circumstances, but it was expected at that time by the Indians and also by Governor Stevens that he would return and attend to making a treaty with these Indians at some suitable time and in the early future; but successive Indian wars and other difficulties during the admin-

istration of Governor Stevens in Washington Territory, that lasted several years, did not afford him any such suitable opportunities to treat with these Indians or to provide for them in any proper way.

"We thereupon moved to Lapwai, in the country of the Nez Percé Indians, where those Nez Percé chiefs who had accompanied us met a large camp of their people, and here they held a council and offered Governor Stevens a company of warriors of these friendly tribes, which joined the Governor's party, when we proceeded to meet the hostile Indians. But before reaching Walla Walla we were met by several companies of volunteers from Oregon and Washington Territories, who had been sent out by Governor 'Curry, then governor of Oregon Territory, to meet and to protect us; and which volunteers had attacked the hostile Indians just the day before and had put them to flight."

I have thus at some length stated historically the exact reasons why no treaty arrangements were made with these particular tribes at that time, or since. I have to say of these Indian tribes, to wit: The Spokanes, Colvilles, and Cœur d'Alenes, that during these two years of Indian warfare in Western Oregon and Western Washington Territories, these three Indian tribes remained at peace with the United States, and when the Indian war had ended the Government of the United States made ample, if not liberal, provision for all the Indian tribes that had been then so recently at war, but it seemed then to have entirely overlooked these three Indian tribes that had remained at peace.

This condition of things continued until 1858, when two of these tribes, to wit, the Spokanes and Cœur d'Alenes, and it may possibly be some few of the Colvilles, restive and feeling aggrieved at the wrongs that the United States Government had perpetrated upon them, made a war upon the white population then in Eastern Washington Territory, and during which time the large military force under Colonel Steptoe, of the United States Army, was most signally defeated and driven from their country. The defeat of these United States forces resulted, however, in calling to the field a still larger military force, under General George Wright, United States Army, who, after a number of engagements with these two Indian tribes, finally brought them to peace. I was General Wright's aid, and was with him at this time, and so also was Mr. Sohon, as guide and interpreter.

Thereafter, the Government of the United States, by an executive order only, placed the Cœur d'Alene Indians upon the reservation which they now occupy, but it failed to compensate them or the Colvilles or the Spokane tribe, or to make any compensation for the latter two tribes for the large district of country which was then, and ever theretofore had been, their land and that of their forefathers.

The Spokane and Colville Indians are now very poor, and, in my opinion, it is the duty of the General Government to deal with these Indian tribes generously; certainly to make ample provision to compensate all three of these tribes for the large bodies of land that it is permitted to be occupied by our people. And in addition thereto they should dedicate and grant a reservation as a place for their home and permanent abode.

Having been in their country as early as 1853, and frequently since, I am therefore familiar with much that I herein state as to these people, as to their country, as to their wants, as to their wrongs; and I submit that it would be a grave injustice for our Government now to permit this condition of things long to continue. Had I the time, having as I have the disposition, I would gladly place it at the disposal of the Interior Department, without compensation, to visit these tribes and to bring to Washington City, with the permission of that Department, a delegation from each thereof, and enable them to lay their wants in detail before the proper Departments, and to enable the United States to enter into such preliminary arrangements with these Indian tribes as would finally eventuate in a proper and just treaty between them and the United States, and by which an adequate compensation could be had for the value of the lands of which, in my opinion, they have been so wrongfully divested. But I have not such leisure at this time, but I have the honor to bring to the special notice of the honorable Secretary of the Interior a gentleman whom I know to be in every respect qualified to fill this commission, to wit, the party whom I have hereinbefore named to wit, Mr. Gustavus Sohon, now living at 504 Eleventh street northwest, Washington, D. C. Mr. Sohon, during my several expeditions across the Rocky Mountains prior to 1862, acted as my guide and interpreter, speaking at that time the languages of those people. He enjoys the confidence of all those Indians, as he also does that of the whites in the city of Washington, and in the Territories of Washington, Idaho, and Montana. Mr. Sohon came to Washington City with me in 1862, and has resided here ever since. He is honest, capable, faithful, and zealous in the cause of Indian civilization, and I suggest to the honorable Secretary of the Interior the propriety of appointing him as a special agent, with authority, under the auspices of and at the expense of the Indian Department, to proceed to East Washington and Northern Idaho Territories for the purpose of there conferring with these tribes of Indians, to wit, the Spokane, Colville, and Cœur d'Alene, and to

bring back with him to Washington City a delegation of at least three to five of their principal men, with a special interpreter for each tribe, in order that they may have an interview and an understanding with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Secretary of the Interior, and the President of the United States in regard to the subject-matter of their wrongs, of their wants, and of the remedies therefor.

Mr. Sohn, having been present with Governor Stevens thirty years ago when he concluded the aforesaid treaties, he being to-day one of the very few men living who was a witness of the transactions had between the United States and the several Indian tribes herein named or referred to, is, in my opinion, the person above all others to be commissioned to execute this important trust.

In this connection permit me to invite your attention to a communication relative to one of these tribes, which has been heretofore filed in the Indian Office, and marked A and made a part hereof.

Should the honorable Secretary of the Interior desire to see me in person in reference to any of the matters herein contained, I will promptly obey any citation he may issue to me in the premises.

In support of portions of the recitals herein made relating to the several treaties concluded by Governor Stevens with the aforesaid Indian tribes in 1855, I refer you to the United States Statutes, vol. 11, p. 657 *et seq.*, and vol. 12, pp. 945 to 979; wherefore, in conclusion, I suggest and recommend that the honorable Secretary of the Interior may address a special letter to Congress, now in session, requesting an appropriation of a sum not less than \$10,000 with which to defray the expenses of the commission which I herein suggest and recommend may be created for the purpose of securing the results herein outlined.

I am, yours, very respectfully,

JOHN MULLAN,

Commissioner of Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions.

The BUREAU OF CATHOLIC INDIAN MISSIONS,
Washington, D. C.

[NOTE.—Exhibit A, referred to in the foregoing paper, is a duplicate of the petition of the Cœur d'Alene Indians transmitted by Agent Waters letter of March 26, 1885.]

SPOKANE FALLS, WASH.,
December 26, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to call your attention to a communication of mine, written to the office under date of November 29, 1884, wherein I set forth the facts concerning the state of affairs among the Spokans, Lower Calispels, or Pend d'Oreilles, Palouse, and certain portion of the Kootnai tribes of Indians in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho Territories. I ask at your hands a careful perusal of the same and an earnest consideration of the recommendation therein contained, namely, the appointment of a commission of three persons who have the good of the Indians at heart to visit the different tribes herein mentioned with a view to their settlement on the vacant lands of the Cœur d'Alene Indian Reserve. A bill was prepared by the Hon. H. Price, late Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to provide for such a commission at the last session of Congress, but owing to a press of business was not presented. The state of affairs existing among these Indians call for some decided action by the office before spring.

Many times during my administration of affairs I earnestly sought to bring about a more happy state of affairs for them, but all I could do was to keep trying. When I left my home in the East and came among these people, I made an earnest vow to endeavor to lift them up from their degradation and misery, and now I have been suspended (how unjustly) and am no more their agent. I am still their friend, and shall always strive to ameliorate their condition, and it is for this reason that I am now writing to you and seeking your aid. These Spokanes should be removed from the vicinity of the towns of Spokane Falls and Cheney and placed on the Cœur d'Alene Reserve, and furnished with agricultural implements and, in a measure, be compensated for the land the whites have taken from them. Through the influence of that d-mnable curse, whisky, the men are fast becoming vagabonds and their women prostitutes. I cannot speak in too plain language of the present condition of these Indians. I will further call your attention to the Lower Pend d'Oreilles or Calispels, who are to-day living in peace on what is called public land in the vicinity of Calispel Lake; having much too large an area of hay land for their own use, is eagerly sought for by settlers. They will not allow any one at present to settle in what they call their country. They should each be given their 160 acres of land, and homesteads platted for them where they now are, or compensated for their land and removed to the Cœur d'Alene or

Flathead Reserve. Two companies of troops visited their country this summer, but if settlers go there in the spring there will be trouble.

The lands of the Cœur d'Alene should be made secure to them, and a saw and grist mill be erected for their use. For their schools and physician and farmer they are very thankful, but they wish their lands to be secure. The progress they have made during the last five years is wonderful in the extreme, having all the latest improved farm machinery, purchased by the fruits of their own industry. I cite the Cœur d'Alene at this time as an example, and believe if these wandering remnants of tribes could be induced to settle on their reserve they would soon too become industrious, and leave their wild and vicious habits of nomadic life.

The schools at Cœur d'Alene are fully up to the standard, and the instruction the Indian children receive at the hands of the noble Jesuit fathers and sisters of charity is not lost. I make an earnest appeal to you to help these outcasts, to save them if possible (they are human beings and are worth saving). I believe that every human being has some noble qualities, and if these people are properly cared for, some of these qualities will show themselves. In conclusion I refer to the correspondence had with the office from the date of November 29, 1884, and to the petitions coming from the Cœur d'Alenes, and respectfully request that this matter of the appointment of this commission receive your early attention.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,

Late United States Indian Agent, Colville Agency, Washington Territory.

Hon. JOHN D. C. ATKINS,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

[NOTE BY INDIAN OFFICE.—In the estimates of appropriations required for the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1887, the following item occurs, viz: "Removal and settlement of the Upper and Middle Bands of Spokane Indians on the Colville Reservation, Washington Territory, \$6,000."]]

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Colville Indian Agency, Wash., March 26, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose for your earnest consideration a petition coming from Seltice, head chief, and head men of the Cœur d'Alene tribe of Indians, living on the Cœur d'Alene Indian Reservation, Idaho Territory. I also inclose papers marked A and B, and recommendation from James O'Neil, resident farmer, accompanying petition, and asking your careful perusal of the same. The Indians of this tribe, now numbering over 500, were once accounted the most cruel Indians of the Northwest, but under the teaching of the Jesuit fathers have fast approached a civilized state. They are an honest, hard-working class of people, and should receive from the Government some substantial aid. I have repeatedly asked that a saw-mill be purchased for their use, but have not succeeded in obtaining one. Their country was quite an extensive one, and although Congress as early as 1854 made provision of law and an appropriation for making treaties with all the tribes in Washington Territory, no treaty was ever made with them, or with the Spokane, Palouse, Calispel, or Lower Pend d'Oreilles, and certain portions of the Kootnai tribes of Indians.

The condition of the tribes mentioned herein, together with my recommendations for their betterment, was fully set forth in my letter to your office under date of November 29, 1884, and I know that the same received your hearty co-operation, and resulted in the draft of a bill, which for some reason did not reach Congress for action, but the time has now arrived when something must be done for these Indians. Their reservation, set aside by executive order, is looked upon with longing eyes by the whites, who are fast settling up the country owned by these Indians, for they have never been recompensed for a foot of it. Even the men whose property and stock the Indians took care of so faithfully during the Nez Percés war of 1877-78 are ready to step in and possess themselves of their reservation.

The Indians are continually hearing of petitions being circulated praying Congress to open to settlement this reservation, but before this is done these scattering tribes, who are wandering here and there without homes as prey to the vices and miseries that follow the leading of such nomadic lives, should be provided with homes on this reservation, be taught to support themselves, agricultural implements furnished them, their children given the benefit of industrial schools, to the end that they may become contented and happy. I cannot too earnestly plead for these Indians, and pray that their petition may be granted. I am thoroughly conversant with their needs, and know whatever is done for them is money well spent. They are not murderers

and cut-throats, but are human beings who plead for justice from a great Government, that they may be recompensed for their lands taken from them.

I have been constantly among these tribes since I have been their agent, and am satisfied that the Spokane, Callispels, Palouse, and Kootenai tribes of Indians will not go to a reservation until they are in a measure recompensed for the land the whites have taken from them. Shall we see them destroyed as a race by the life they are living, or shall we, as a Christian people, a great nation, lift them up from their degradation and make them a happy people? Will the cost be too much for us to assume, seeing we have taken so much from them? As their agent and friend I plead for them, and earnestly recommend that a commission be sent out at an early date, and if, under the law (no money being provided for expenses), civilians cannot be sent, then I respectfully request that two Indian inspectors be sent to confer with me, and a report of such commission be submitted in time for the action of the Forty-ninth Congress. An early reply is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

CŒUR D'ALENE INDIAN RESERVATION,
Territory of Idaho, March 23, 1885.

To the President of the United States and the Secretary of the Interior, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs:

SIRS: Your petitioners, the Cœur d'Alene Indian tribe, now residing in the northern portion of the Territory of Idaho and west of the Rocky Mountains, desire to hereby make known to you the fact that their rights as Indians have, up to this date, been very largely neglected by the proper authorities of the United States, by reason of which a large and valuable portion of their country has been taken possession of and is now used, cultivated, and occupied by the whites, and without any compensation or indemnity ever having been given them therefor.

Your petitioners are now, and for many years last past have been not only friendly to the whites, but they remind you of the fact that when Joseph's band of Nez Percés in 1877 rose in rebellion against the United States, resulting in the loss of many valuable lives of your people, and in great cost to your Government, and when a large portion of the white male population in the Territories of Idaho and Washington, with their wives and children, fled from their homes and from the country, that it was your petitioners who went to their rescue and protected them and their homes and their property, at their own expense and at the risk of their lives, until such a time as peace and confidence had been restored, and until the return to their homes of said white population; and your petitioners now submit herewith, in papers marked A and B, by copy, the evidences of said white population of the said acts of your petitioners at that time.

The boundaries of the country owned by your petitioners, and by their forefathers from time immemorial, are as follows, to wit: Beginning at a point on the Pelouze River west of a high butte now known as and called Steptoe Butte; thence extending northwestwardly to the Spokane River at a point on its north bank formerly resided at by Antoine Plant, a half-breed Indian; thence extending to the lower end of the Pend d'Oreille Lake; thence eastwardly to the summit of the Cœur d'Alene Mountains, separating the waters of the Flathead or Missoula River from those of the Cœur d'Alene and Saint Joseph's River; thence southerly along the summit of said mountains to the most southern thereof, whence flow the waters of the Pelouze River; thence westwardly along the southern rim of the water-shed of the waters of the Pelouze River to the point of beginning.

That all the lands of your petitioners, so by them owned and herein described, have been taken possession of by the whites without remuneration or indemnity, except that portion now by them occupied as the present Cœur d'Alene Reservation.

That within the country so described is situated one of the most valuable portions of the lands of Washington Territory; that it is now dotted by numerous and valuable wheat farms, with many forests of valuable timber, much of which has been and is now being cut and floated down the Spokane River to Spokane Falls and there converted into lumber; besides, there are numerous saw-mills for the same purpose at many other points therein. It also includes the Cœur d'Alene gold, silver, and lead mines, said to be extensive and rich. It includes the Cœur d'Alene Lake and Cœur d'Alene River, upon the waters of which steamers now run. It includes the

beautiful site of the military fort at Cœur d'Alene, besides numerous thriving towns and villages. It includes the line of the Northern Pacific Railroad from near Spokane Falls to the Pend d'Oreille Lake, and it also includes one of the valuable portions of the land grant to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company. Your petitioners understand that Congress in its act approved July 31, 1854 (U. S. Stats., vol. 10, page 330), gave authority and made liberal provision for negotiating treaties with all the Indian tribes then in Washington Territory, at which date all the lands of your petitioners, herein described, were situated in said Territory, all of which lands they then occupied unmolested and upon which they were then residing.

Your petitioners further understand that the late Isaac I. Stevens, then governor of Washington Territory, and *ex officio* superintendent of Indian affairs, was by the President duly authorized and empowered to negotiate said treaties, and, among other tribes, with that of your petitioners; that in the execution of this task said Stevens made treaties with all the tribes on Puget Sound and along the Columbia River, extending to the Nez Perces country, and that he was then directed to proceed to Fort Benton and there assist in making similar treaties with the Blackfeet, Gros Ventres, and other tribes of wild Indians, as provided for in that same act of Congress; that while on his way to execute said trust, in the summer of 1855, Stevens made, at the Hell Gate Ronde, treaties with the Flathead, Upper Calispels, or Pend d'Oreilles, and certain Kootenai Indians, by which the Jocko Indian reservation was established.

Your petitioners further know that it was Stevens's intention on his return trip westward to negotiate similar treaties with your petitioners, and also with the Spokanes, Pelouze, Lower Calispels, and other Kootenai Indian tribes; but that upon reaching the country of your petitioners at the above-mentioned locality, on the northern bank of the Spokane River, formerly resided at by the half-breed Antoine Plant, where a large number of our people had already met with a view to enter into a treaty with your Government, Stevens learned for the first time, by a mounted messenger, that the entire portion of Oregon and Washington Territory was engaged in a general Indian war; that he departed instantly from that portion of the country, and failed to enter into any treaty with us or meet any of said other tribes of Indians herein last named. Since then nothing has been done in regard to negotiating a treaty with your petitioners that the Government then authorized and intended should be done.

It is a public matter, within your own knowledge, that all the treaties as then negotiated by Stevens with the Indian tribes, in 1855, have been duly ratified, confirmed, and fully executed by the United States with said tribes, to wit: With the Dwamish, Squamish, and other allied tribes; with the Skallams, Makahs, Walla Walla, Cayuse, and Umatillas, Yakamas, Nez Percés, and Quinaielts, Flathead, Kootenais, and Upper Pend d'Oreilles (see U. S. Stats., vol. 12, pages 927 to 1879). Your petitioners desire still to maintain peace with the whites, and especially with those whites to whom their country, described as aforesaid, has become valuable, and by whom the same is now largely occupied.

Our people now need grist and saw mills, proper farming implements, and mechanics to help to teach us and our children proper industrial pursuits, and the use of tools in connection therewith, and, in addition to this, we need some cattle and sheep. We do not need much money, but we do need all the things therein named, all of which should be given us at an early date, and ample provision made and guaranteed for our young men and women when starting in married life.

The missionary fathers and good sisters and brothers many years ago came in our midst, and all we now know of tilling the soil and living like white people we and our children have learned from them. They have built at their own expense our school-houses and schools in our midst and for our exclusive benefit, and inclosed and cultivated the same to support our little children, whom they teach; and when this tribe removed, in 1877, to the place they now occupy, your petitioners marked off a mile square each for the fathers and sisters as farming fields and a mile square of timber, all of which we want the Government to confirm to these fathers and sisters when concluding a treaty with us.

In view of all these matters, therefore, your petitioners now ask that you may be pleased to send them a proper commission of good and honest men, authorized and empowered to consider all these facts and such other facts as their visit to us may disclose, and to provide for our present and future wants, and to make with us a proper treaty of peace and friendship, and enter into such proper business negotiations under and by which your petitioners may be properly and fully compensated for such portion of their lands not now reserved to them; that their present reserve may be confirmed to them, except such as may be confirmed to the missionary fathers and sisters, and that ample provision be made by the United States by which their compensation shall be annually made them partly in stock, tools, mills, and mechanical instruction by proper mechanics, for the permanent benefit of every member, young and old, male and female, of the Cœur d'Alene tribe of Indians. And your pe-

tioners will ever pray for the permanence of your good government and for the welfare of all those who properly administer its public affairs.

N. B.—This petition has been written by Louis Kaizewet, one of the boys now being educated at the Cœur d'Alene Indian mission school.

(Signed with cross-mark by:)

Andrew Soltis, head chief; Damas, chief; Edward, chief; Regis, chief; Bartholomew, chief; Venceslas, chief; Bernard Speknmilko; Tecomta; Peter Wils.ley; Daniel; Sebastian; Alphonse; Gregory; Charles Louis; Helarion; Pat. Davenport; Louis Sepis; Adrian; Triburtins; Ignace; Ererechin Bassau; Joseph Npagamnsn; Barnaby Chnoa; Andrew John; Nicodeme Crontons; Leo Emnteynza; Lolo Chompaskat; Peter Joseph Jahurn; Gami Grenzalkan; Leo Gnakaize; Paul Tkainse; Ignatus Ngaiana; Basil Guignizu; Alexander Chilchelgo; Stephen Thamzin; Peter Lupsqui; Henry Guistchene; Simon Chemeneme; Fidele Sermenzu; Louis Sauaualko; Isidore Npapsqua; Basil Sepnai; Peter Joseph; Eliemae Chedalem; Peter J. Syolgui; Stephen Zeotagan; Benoit Enchiezu; Benoit Tholize.

Signatures of witnesses to the Indians:

JOHN P. SWENEY,
Additional Farmer, Colville Agency.
FRANK P. CONNELL.
T. EVANS.
THOMAS J. PURCELL.
BERNARD CUNNINGHAM.

A.

PINE CREEK, NEZ PERCES COUNTY, IDAHO TERRITORY,
June 19, 1877.

To the Priest, Chiefs, and the Cœur d'Alene Indians:

GENTLEMEN: We, the undersigned citizens of Pine Creek and surrounding country, feel truly thankful to you all for your kindness toward us during the present excitement, and for the trouble and the pains you have taken in assuring us that there was no danger.

We did not leave Pine Creek for fear of you, but for fear of other Indians; and in return for your kindness we, the undersigned citizens, are willing to assist you in petitioning Government to grant you a good title to your land, that you may lead a quiet and peaceful life, and we are willing to do anything in our power to promote the peace and happiness of you, Cœur d'Alenes.

(Signed:) N. M. Morris, M. A. Morris, H. S. Fanny, R. U. Young, B. F. Price, N. T. Price, T. W. Gholson, M. E. Gholson, B. A. Truax, S. A. Truax, M. Fountain, Thomas Booton, Frank Rector, Jesse Walling, Harriet Walling, C. L. Chalwell, W. B. McJale, Caleta McJale, J. M. Pupst, A. E. Pupst, F. R. Martin, Mary A. Martin, F. E. McGrelen, W. H. Landes, Sanuk Welch, R. F. Stare, H. W. Walts, R. Price, Javah Price, G. O. Briggs, John Cummings, Martha Cummings, London C. Twine, J. F. Conkling, L. W. Davenport, Mary Davenport, John Moore, Editte Moore, Adin Davis, Jane Davis, Mary Fountain, M. W. Smith, F. C. Hayes, J. M. Woody, Lafayette Mary, Elizabeth Munes, F. M. Barm, Alrz. N. S. Barm, Lurindo Mone, Ana Mone, Sam Prere, W. T. Skigy, R. R. P. Romer, W. Brewer, Lene Brewer, Arthur Green, F. P. Connell, Miss S. Connell, F. D. Wazkeild, G. H. McQueen, L. McQueen G. W. Truax, H. Truax, W. A. Hone, S. Grumley, Selena Grumley, Samuel Mone, Susane Mone, G. Y. Quaeler, Mary Campbell, Franklin Rector, Henry Edyson, C. S. Barton, R. J. Looch, Z. Smith, J. W. Smith, Charles Mone, S. J. More, Betz More, Lidia More, Andrew A. Rice, Agnes Brallam, Minna Brallam, P. Gilbert, Enuch Peoka, Oro Rector, S. D. Young, Fr. McCarrie, Sarah McCarrie, A. J. Price, Jack Sullivan, Msj. Lemh.

B.

LEWISTON, IDAHO, August 25, 1877.

The undersigned take pleasure in acknowledging the loyalty of the Cœur d'Alene Indians, and particularly Soltise, their head chief, through all the excitement attending the outbreak of the non-treaty Nez Percés.

When the settlers from Pine Creek left their homes for fear of Indian hostilities, Soltise assured them of the friendship of the Cœur d'Alenes, and even sent some of his people to guard their property till their return. His influence is great among the

Northern Indians, and it has been used to maintain peaceful relations between the whites and the Indians.

(Signed:) W. W. Johnson, F. Rector, P. Gilbert, A. H. Davenport, Aretar Cox, Edgar Davenport, Lincoln Davenport, Benjamin Hok, Robert Twart, D. M. Ringer, G. Chambert, E. Baldwin, J. H. Billups, L. W. Davenport, Po. Canty, W. B. Sleafall, F. Hayfold, James Turner, F. E. McQueen, Willie A. Hone, W. Smith, J. Po. Lipvionil, E. C. Watkins, United States Indian inspector, M. C. Wilkinson, aide de camp, A. Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard, G. H. McQueen, J. V. Naughte, H. W. Walls, B. A. Price, James Ewart, Robert R. Hargrove, R. A. Truax, W. Brewer, H. Ephy, J. M. Propst, W. Gholson, W. H. Landes, Thomas Turner, W. M. U. Bonn, S. D. Stephen, T. R. Mastin.

COLVILLE INDIAN AGENCY,

March 26, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you that the head chief, chiefs and headmen of the Cœur d'Alenes have forwarded you a petition, to be transmitted by you to the Indian Department, wherein they give you a condensed history of their tribe and their desires. I would respectfully state that, officially and otherwise, since 1861, I have personally known many of the signers to the petition. In 1866, when agent for the Nez Perces at Lapwai, I was directed by Governor Ballard, ex-officio superintendent of Indian affairs for Idaho, to proceed to the country of these people, and learn whether they desired to remove to the Flathead Reservation; or, if not, to select in their own country a suitable place for their reservation. Upon that visit I saw that they were workers *then* when it was considered by an Indian a disgrace to work, and when it was almost impossible to procure the necessary implements to work with, but in their fences and in what little farming could be done, where they were then located, they showed thrift and progress totally unexpected in *that* day. In 1875 "Nicodemus," one of the tribe first commenced farming upon the present reserve. In the Spring of 1876 two or three more opened small farms. In 1877 or 1878 they all commenced making small farms in different localities upon the reserve from "Stallams" village, farms near the Spokane River near Crowley's bridge, running south to the present mission nearly 40 miles, embracing within that distance some six or seven villages, the largest being near the present mission (De Smet) at the head of the Latah or Hangman Creek. Nearly two hundred farms have been opened. For the first two or three years they struggled along as best they could, being poor and unable to purchase the necessary farming implements.

The only help they had was through the father connected with the mission, in furnishing plows and other tools and advice. At the present time their farms, houses, &c., show the effect of the good teaching they have received. All the males are good farmers, many of them (the older ones) having two or three hundred acres of land under a good substantial rail fence, and under cultivation. The younger men of the tribe, equally as good workers and fully as willing, but receiving no aid from the Government, except in their schools, have not the means to go ahead as they would wish. With the exception of one or two trappers (old men), all are farmers. You see no long hair worn by them, no blankets, no mococcasins, *all* men and women wearing the dress of the whites. By their own labor and exertions so far (with, as before stated, the schools excepted), they have accumulated about 150 farm wagons, 8 or 10 spring-wagons, 160 plows, harness, mowing and reaping machines, sulky-plows, &c.

They have a fine church, largely contributed to by themselves, in which about 200,000 feet of lumber was used in its construction, and costing nearly or quite \$4,000. In educational matters they are deeply interested, as you have seen when visiting their schools. With proper encouragement they can become happy and prosperous people.

To you who have accomplished so much and given them so much good advice and encouragement since you have been their agent, they look for help in this matter. They say no agent has ever done so much before for them, and I would respectfully ask of you your earnest endeavors to accomplish for them what is asked in their petition.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

HON. SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent, Colville Agency.

JAMES O'NEIL,
Resident Farmer, Cœur d'Alene.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, May 14, 1885.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 26th March last, inclosing a petition (and accompanying papers) from Chief Seltice and other chiefs and headmen residing upon the Cœur d'Alene Reservation in Idaho Territory, and asking, in view of the failure

to procure an appropriation from the last Congress to enable the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the scattered tribes or bands of Indians in Washington Territory and the State of Oregon for the cession of the lands claimed by them, and for their removal to the above-named reservation, that two inspectors of the Department be sent to confer with you in order that the claims of the Indians, as set forth in the aforesaid petition, may be properly presented to the next Congress.

In reply I have to say that your correspondence, and the papers submitted therewith, are sufficient to base a renewal of the request for an appropriation to defray the expenses of a commission to visit the Indians in question, and I shall take occasion at the proper time to urge the matter upon the attention of Congress. The inspectors, if they were to visit the Indians, would not be authorized to negotiate with them, for which reason I do not think it necessary that they should be sent.

Very respectfully,

E. L. STEVENS,
Acting Commissioner.

SIDNEY D. WATERS, Esq.,
United States Indian Agent, Colville Agency, Washington Territory.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 26, 1885.

SIR: I have received your letter of the 14th instant calling attention to yours of the 29th November last, recommending the appointment of a commission to negotiate with the scattered bands of Indians in Washington Territory and the State of Oregon for the cession of the lands there claimed by them, and their removal to the Coeur d'Alene Reservation in Idaho. You urge the importance of early action in the premises and ask to be advised as to the probable outcome of the matter. In reply, I inclose herewith a copy of a letter addressed to the Department by this office, under date February 4, instant, recommending that Congress be asked to appropriate the sum of \$3,000 to enable the Secretary of the Interior to appoint a commission to conduct the proposed negotiations. However, I learn upon informal inquiry at the Department, that the matter was not submitted for the action of Congress; consequently there is no prospect that anything will be done at present looking to the accomplishment of the purpose held in view.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
*United States Indian Agent,
Colville Agency, Washington Territory.*

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Colville Agency, Washington Territory, February 14, 1885.

SIR: I would respectfully call your attention to my letter of November 29, 1884, with reference to the appointment of the commission therein recommended, as spring is nearing us, and it is necessary that something be done with those Indians very soon. I cannot urge too strongly the importance of that letter. The Indians are looking strongly towards Washington for help in regard to the land they have lost.

If I may be allowed to suggest, I would say that Colonel Merriam or General Wheaton are fully acquainted with these Indians, and with an inspector or special agent would make a very good commission to act in the premises. I hope to hear very soon in reference to the matter.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, February 4, 1885.

SIR: I have the honor to invite your attention to letter of Agent Sidney D. Waters, of the Colville Agency, Washington Territory, dated November 29, 1884, two copies of which are herewith inclosed, recommending the appointment of a commission to nego-

tiate with the scattered tribes or bands of Indians in Washington Territory and the State of Oregon, looking to obtaining from them the relinquishment of any claim they may have to lands in said Territory and State, and for their removal to and settlement upon the Cœur d'Alene Reservation in the adjoining Territory of Idaho.

In connection with this subject I would say that I have repeatedly submitted estimates to Congress for an appropriation to remove these Indians, or some of the numerous bands to a reservation, but have failed to secure the funds needed for that purpose. I think it very desirable that some effective means be adopted to remove them, one and all, from the baneful influences which surround them. They are living, for the most part, around the villages and settlements of the whites, notably about Spokane Falls, drinking whisky and eking out a wretched half-starved existence. They claim that they have never ceded their hands to the Government, and manifest an unwillingness to remove to a reservation lest the abandonment of their present haunts might be looked upon as a voluntary relinquishment of their claims to the lands.

I have had prepared and herewith submit a draft of an item intended for insertion in one of the appropriation bills providing for an appropriation of \$3,000 to pay the expenses of a commission to be appointed to visit and arrange for the removal of said Indians to the Cœur d'Alene or such other reservation as may be agreed upon, and I urgently recommend that the appropriation be made.

Two copies of this report are herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

[Copy of draft of item referred to in the foregoing letter.]

To enable the Secretary of the Interior to negotiate with the scattered tribes or bands of Indians in Washington Territory and the State of Oregon, having no treaty stipulations with the Government, for the cession of the lands claimed by them and for their removal to the Cœur d'Alene or such other reservation as may be agreed upon, \$3,000.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, November 29, 1884.

SIR: I deem it my duty while I am in Washington to call your special attention to the fact that notwithstanding that Congress as early as 1853-'54 made provision of law and an appropriation for making treaties with all the tribes of Indians in Oregon and Washington Territory, that up to this date no treaty arrangements whatsoever have ever been made with the Spokanes, Cœur d'Alenes, Palouse, Calispel, or Lower Pend d'Oreilles, and certain portions of the Kootenai tribes of Indians. The condition of all these Indians at this time, except that of the Cœur d'Alenes, is such that, in my opinion, some immediate steps should be taken by the Department by which permanent homes should be guaranteed to said tribes; that they be removed from contact with the whites, and upon land where by their own industry and the aid of the Government they can till the soil and be made self-supporting. These tribes were accustomed to hunt heretofore upon lands, the best of which are now in possession of the whites and under cultivation. The results of a large white immigration into that country during the last few years has had the effect, therefore, to render the lives of these Indians more nomadic than ever, and day by day diminishes the prospects of their being able to maintain themselves and their families. The presence of towns and villages springing up all over Eastern Washington Territory, places whisky (that damnable curse of the Indian) within easy reach of these tribes, resulting largely in making the males vagabonds and the females prostitutes. I have called the attention of your office many times during the past year of my administration of affairs to this constantly growing evil in the vicinity of Spokane Falls, and while I have prosecuted several white men successfully, yet the Indians still remain open to the temptation of an idle, vicious life. I am informed that when instructions from your Department were issued to the Hon. Isaac I. Stevens, superintendent of Indian affairs for Washington Territory, and to Hon. Joel Palmer, superintendent of Indian affairs for Oregon, to enter into treaty stipulations with all the Indian tribes then in Washington and Oregon Territories; that after treaties were made with the Indian tribes on Puget Sound, and up to the Columbia River, and extending to the Nez Percés' country; that Hon. Isaac I. Stevens and Hon. Joel Palmer were ordered, as special commissioners, to proceed to Fort

Benton and to there meet with Hon. Alfred Cummings, and as three special commissioners to enter into and negotiate a treaty with the Blackfeet Indians; that said negotiations consumed a large portion of the summer of 1855; that when completed the said commissioners proceeded to enter into treaty stipulations with the Flathead Indians, Upper Pend d'Oreilles, and Kootenai tribes, constituting the Flathead Nation, and then, this being done, these special commissioners crossed the Cœur d'Alene Mountains, intending there to complete their labors by entering into treaty stipulations with the tribes of Indians herein named; that these commissioners met at the old Cœur d'Alene Mission, a runner bringing the intelligence that a general Indian war had already broken out in Washington and Oregon; that the dangers were then so increased that the said commissioners proceeded at once to the coast, leaving unfinished the work as ordered by your Department, as authorized by Congress, and as contemplated to be done by them; that the Indian war in Oregon and Washington lasted during 1855 and 1856; that by an act of Congress in 1857 all Indians in Washington and Oregon (agencies) were consolidated and placed under the Oregon superintendency; that the discovery of mines in Eastern Washington Territory and other causes (including the war of the rebellion) all served to divert the attention of your Department from the duty the United States owes all the aforesaid tribes of Indians. In the meanwhile the United States have taken possession of the lands of these Indians, have had the same surveyed, and to-day are selling those not heretofore granted by act of Congress to the Northern Pacific Railroad Company.

In view, therefore, of all these premises, and the condition of these tribes becoming worse and worse day by day, I therefore respectfully suggest and recommend that a commission, to be composed of three competent and proper persons who have the interests of the Indians at heart, may be appointed by your Department to meet all of said Indian tribes and enter into proper treaty negotiations with them, with a view of ceding to the United States such portions of their lands as are now occupied or may be needed by the whites, and with the view of establishing all of said tribes upon the vacant lands of the present Cœur d'Alene Indian Reservation, and where, speaking the same language as the Cœur d'Alene tribe (with whom many of the Spokanes are intermarried), they can live promiscuously with them. Seltice, head chief, has often expressed his willingness for these tribes to locate on the Cœur d'Alene Reservation, and I feel that if they are so located they will soon imitate the example of their industrious and thrifty kinsmen, the Cœur d'Alenes, who are the peers of any farmers on the Pacific slope.

The time when these negotiations might be properly entered into would be the approaching spring, but timely instructions for this purpose should be prepared and issued by your Department at the earliest date practicable.

In closing, I respectfully call your attention to the fact that the recommendations herein made by me have been referred to continuously from 1857 to 1882, beginning with Senator Nesmith, the successor of Hon. Isaac Stevens, and ending with my predecessor, Hon. John A. Simons.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Colville Indian Agency, Washington Territory, July 14, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to state that under date of April 26, 1884, and June 7, 1884, I wrote your office of the condition of the Spokane Indians living near Spokane Falls, and the urgent need of placing these Indians on some reservation where they would become of some use to themselves and less an annoyance to the people of Spokane Falls.

On account of the rapid settling up of the country, the Indians being dispossessed of their lands, they are fast becoming more degraded every day. I continually urge them to go upon the reserve, but the answer comes, "What will the Government give us for our land that the whites have stolen?" Louis, one of their chiefs (head), asks me when I shall know what will be done with them, and if he can have the strip of land for a reserve that he asks for in my letter of April 26. I tell him that the Government will not grant any more land, as there is plenty already set aside, and he and his people must go upon some of it and settle down. To this he makes answer that he desires to be heard. I think that if my recommendation of April 26 was carried into effect, that these Indians could be induced to go on the reserve, and they would very soon become self-supporting. In their present condition they are discouraged; if caught "trap fishing" they are put in jail. Disreputable

whites furnish them liquor, and the agent has much trouble from this source. My effort is and has been to place these Indians on some reserve away from Spokane Falls, and I know that if this is done they and their children can soon learn habits of industry and thrift. Again I respectfully call the attention of the Department to the condition of the Spokanes as herein set forth, and ask your careful consideration of the matter.

I am, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, July 11, 1884.

SIR: I am in receipt of your communication, dated June 26, 1884, with reference to the Calispel or Lower Pend d'Oreille tribe of Indians.

You state that they are willing to go on a reserve if "paid for the relinquishment of their country or when the land is surveyed (and they conclude to take up their land), they shall, each head of a family, have their allotment."

In reply I have to state that under the recent instructions of the General Land Office, lands in the occupation of Indians will not be subject to entry by whites.

When the lands occupied by these Indians are surveyed they can be entered by them under the homestead act of March 3, 1875.

In this connection you are informed that by a provision in the Indian appropriation act, no fees or commissions are now charged for entries under the act of 1875.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

SIDNEY D. WATERS, Esq.,
United States Indian Agent, Colville Agency, Fort Colville, Wash.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Colville Indian Agency, Washington Territory, June 26, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to report the result of an interview with Victor and Marceal, head chiefs of the Calispel or Lower Pend d'Oreille tribe of Indians. This tribe numbers about 400 people, and are located in Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho. They are the wildest of the Indians attached to this agency. Nearly all of them wear the breech clout, and are never without their blankets. They have a considerable number of horses, cultivate the soil only in a small way, and subsist in a great measure on the results of their hunting, fishing, and trapping. I fail to obtain any of their children for our school, and on a recent visit of one of the Jesuit fathers they told him as a reason for not sending their children to school that they did not want them to learn the language of their enemies.

Now, in regard to the interview, they say, "that they have a fine piece of hay land which the white man covets, and they do not desire any whites to come into the country who will try to take away their land. They know how the Spokanes have been driven from their lands, and are without any homes and do not want to be as the Spokanes are; yet are willing to let the whites come into their country, provided that if they go on a reserve they will be paid for the relinquishment of their country, or when the land is surveyed (and they conclude to take up their land) they shall each head of a family have their allotment. They wished me to submit their claim to the Department and give them an early answer as to whether they will be protected in their natural right to their homes.

The land is unsurveyed, but already settlers have commenced to go into the "Calispel country." Some three weeks ago they drove out a party who intended to settle there, telling them never to enter their country again. Last week, however, nine settlers went in, and, as they were heavily armed, they were not molested, but the chiefs came over for my advice, saying they would do as I told them. They promised me faithfully not to molest the whites, I agreeing that they should each have their homes before the whites could gain possession of them. I think they will keep their pledge to me. I earnestly hope the Department will do something for these Indians. I have managed to keep them quiet and think I can in the future. The only thing that would stir up strife would be in some white man get-

ting an Indian to drink whisky and go on his land and cause trouble. The whites are very aggressive, generally, in their dealings with the Indians. Now, in this matter, what is desired by the Indians before any land is taken from them is a chance to be heard at Washington. An early reply to this communication is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

COLVILLE INDIAN AGENCY,
Washington Territory, June 7, 1884.

SIR: I would respectfully state that I received a communication from Mr. B. Norman, one of the parties living on the Little Spokane, who has bought land of the railroad company (copy inclosed). I, deeming the exigency of the case required my immediate attention, went on the 2d instant to Spokane Falls to endeavor to get some remuneration for the crops the Indians had planted, and see if I could not induce the Indians to leave that section of railroad land and go upon the reserve. These four Indians, John, John Stevens, Simon, and Jeremiah, all were arrested two weeks ago for trap fishing in the Little Spokane River, and each paid a fine of \$10. The settlers on this section threatened that unless they immediately left the vicinity they would be put in jail again, and I found that such would be the case unless they went away at once. I estimated the value of what they had to be \$110, and received that sum from C. Compton Burnett and G. H. Belden, and paid the money over to John, Simon, and Jeremiah. The claim of John Stevens could not be settled on account of the absence of Norman. These Indians were satisfied with what they received for their improvements, only did not like to give up their land. They promised to go at once upon the reserve of Whistle-poomum (the addition to the Colville), and I expect no further trouble between the settlers on that railroad section and the Indians; but that is only one of many sections owned by the railroad company, occupied by the Indians, and the land sold to settlers nearly every week. The Spokane Indians must leave for the reserve before serious trouble occurs, and I hope that something will be done for them before this Congress adjourns. Garry and Louis earnestly desire to come to Washington and tell their story of wrong to their people, and, if it shall meet your approval and wishes, I would like to have them go on with Seltice, head chief of the Cœur d'Alenes.

I hope that my recommendations, as set forth in my letter of April 26, will prevail, and these Spokane Indians be located where they will get less whisky and be better people. I inclose voucher and subvouchers for the expenses of my trip, to the amount of \$15, and respectfully ask approval of the same, and, as the quarter is near its close, respectfully ask that the approval, if granted, be filed with my accounts when they shall be received at your office.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

SPOKANE FALLS, WASH., *May 23, 1884.*

Major WATERS:

SIR: Yours of the 16th instant, notifying the reply of the Department to the claim of the Indians on the Little Spokane to land. That decision appears to be reasonable, but is the more satisfactory from the fact that (so far as I know) no communication other than your own in advocacy of the claims has been addressed to Washington. That "\$300 is a reasonable sum for a man to leave the place where he has spent so much of his life," may or not be correct; but I must distinctly decline to hold myself responsible for any claim on this ground. I bought this land from the railroad company at the market price, not knowing sure that an Indian was or had been on the grounds. All I ask is, either possession of the land or a return of the money paid to the company. Is this unreasonable? I am advised that there would be no difficulty in settling the whole thing by legal means, and that no claim for improvements could under the circumstances hold good. Nevertheless I am willing, if the difficulty be settled without delay or recourse to the law, to pay for any improvements which

I am likely to benefit by, and I am further willing to refer the matter to and abide by the decision of any practical man or men. The only improvements I know of are upon the north side of the river, to which I crossed over for the first time last week. Ten or fifteen acres of the bottom land has been roughly fenced, plowed, and sown with grain. For the cost of this I am willing to pay, and should there be other improvements of a similar character which I may not know of the same offer applies. What the other settlers may do I cannot tell, but I think if you come here yourself, or appoint any one to act for you, you will not find them unreasonable, and the difficulty may be settled promptly.

Yours, truly,

B. NORMAN.

A true copy.

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Colville Indian Agency, Wash., April 26, 1884.

SIR: I have the honor to report the result of the council held at Spokane Falls, April 21st, with the Spokane Indians who make their homes in the vicinity of Spokane Falls. I find the Indians averse to leaving that locality for the Cœur d'Alene Reserve. Louis, their head chief, made a long statement why they wish to remain where they now are. He wishes a strip of land commencing at the fishery at the mouth of the Little Spokane River, taking in the fishery and running from thence to the present reservation of "Lot or Whistlepoosum," being the addition to the Colville Reservation, in length about 15 miles and 6 miles wide. What they ask for would be of no benefit to them whatever with the exception of the little plat at the mouth of the Little Spokane and the fishery. There is but little arable land, not enough in all to make five decent-sized farms, and with but little grazing land. The fact is the young men and many of the old prefer that their sisters, wives, and daughters shall support them in their miserable laziness by their labor and prostitution. I told them of the liberal and great offers made to them by the Government for their support upon the Cœur d'Alene Reservation, of the rich land and good homes, and the independence they could soon acquire, but their desire was that I should inform the Department of their wishes, and see what could be done. Baptiste Peone and Scul-hult, two of their chiefs, will leave, and with their families take their homes on the Flathead Reservation. Many of Baptiste's people have availed themselves of the benefits of the Indian homestead act in that locality, and will not accompany Baptiste. Those who ask for this strip of land (or the most of them) are the people of Garry, at one time a chief of much prominence among the Indians and of some note with the whites; but of late has set his own people a very bad example. He has repeatedly been told that in order to save his land he must enter it, and now he has lost it and is making the occupant much trouble. The land and fishery at the mouth of the Little Spokane is the cause of much trouble between the Indians and whites. The best portion is railroad land, and has been sold by the Northern Pacific Railroad Company to whites, although some of it for many years, nay, generations, previous to the grant to the railroad company has been cultivated by the Indians. The fishery also causes serious difficulty, the whites living up the river threatening to tear it out to enable the salmon to ascend. In this the whites have the law of the Territory on their side, and I advise the Indians to avoid a collision by tearing it up. These land difficulties are brought to my attention nearly every day, and something must be done ere long in regard to the removal of these Indians. No matter at what time I go to Spokane Falls, I can always find whisky present with the Indians. They can always obtain it from the disreputable whites always to be found in any frontier town. I do not recommend that the strip of land asked for by the Indians be set aside for them; but on the other hand do most earnestly ask that the appropriation asked for by me be granted at this session of Congress, and the Spokane Indians who have not availed themselves of the provisions of the Indian homestead act of March 3, 1875, be placed on the Cœur d'Alene Reserve to the end that they may quit their idle, vicious habits and become a happy and prosperous people. I inclose a letter from Seltice, head chief of the Cœur d'Alene tribe, showing his desire for their welfare. As near as can be ascertained, there are about fifty families or heads of families that should be placed upon the reserve. I estimate the expense attending the same about as follows:

Plowing 500 acres land (10 acres each), at \$4.....	\$2,000
Fencing 50 farms, at \$30 each.....	1,500
50 plows, at \$16 each.....	800
50 sets plow harness, at \$10 a sett.....	500
Grain-cradles, axes, saws, scythes, harrow-teeth, nails, &c.....	500

5,300

With this estimate I close my report, hoping that from this you can conscientiously ask and urge an appropriation.

I believe that if they are placed there it will result in much good to the Indians.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DE SMET, DAK., *April 20, 1884.*

Maj. SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent :

SIR: We are very glad that you take so much interest for the Spokanes; we know well that they will not understand their own good, and will not appreciate your troubles for them. We think our presence will not do much; we know well their disposition; we tell you that we are very sorry that we cannot go just now; we are very busy on our farms. The weather is getting warm, and the land dry for working; we have to take whites to plow and farm; how can we leave our houses? A few weeks later we could go, but now it is impossible; no one will leave his place. If the Spokanes come, we all are glad; but one thing we will tell you, we desire to have them, but not all in one place separated from us; we want to make only one people; they may take land (farms) among us, and this we think would be best for them, because when they are by themselves they will not leave their old habits of gambling, drinking, and so on, but when mixed with us they will soon overcome them. We would like to know the result of the council. One thing we have to tell you. Two whites were hired by an Indian to work; yesterday they ended their work, and were paid; they went to Farmington, and got whisky, and gave it to some young boys who got drunk; we punished them with 100 lashes, and some payment, but for the whites we don't know what to do. They have blankets in the Indian house; we thought best to keep them until you answer what to do. Please answer soon as possible. We can find no one to take this letter to you, so we mail it.

Respectfully yours,

A. SELTISE, *Chief (and others).*

A true copy.

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, November 24, 1883.

SIDNEY D. WATERS, Esq.,
*United States Indian Agent,
Colville Agency, Washington Territory :*

SIR: Referring to your letter of November 10, 1883, giving an account of a recent visit by you to the Indians of the Cœur d'Alene Reservation in Idaho Territory, I have to say that the desire of Chief Seltise and other chiefs or headmen, as expressed in council, that the Spokane Indians, who are hanging about the town of Spokane Falls, in idleness and beggary, should be settled with them upon their reservation, and assisted in getting a start at raising their own subsistence, is highly commendable in them and meets my hearty approval.

If you will ascertain how many of said Indians would voluntarily remove to and settle upon the reservation, in case some breaking and fencing were done for them, and report as to the quantity of land that would be actually needed by them (ploughed land), and the probable cost of breaking and fencing the same, I will endeavor during the coming winter to get a small appropriation to effect the purpose. You will give your attention to this matter without unnecessary delay.

Very respectfully,

H. PRICE,
Commissioner.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,
Colville Agency, Washington Territory,
November 10, 1883.

SIR: Referring to the letter from Chief Seltise, inclosed with my monthly report for October last, I would say that on Wednesday, October 30, 1883, I left the agency in company with James O'Neill, resident farmer for the Cœur d'Alenes, and went to the Cœur d'Alene reserve, and held a council with Seltise and ten of his head men in regard to the subject of his communication. I assured them that no petition of the whites would have any effect in your office that would result in driving them from their lands and homes. From the best information that I could obtain, I believe it to be a speculative movement on the part of the whites to obtain a part of their reservation. I found on examination that their farms were cultivated quite extensively, and that by their own exertions they were very well supplied with farming implements, and will say that I think these Indians far advanced over their white neighbors. They all have excellent fences and very comfortable frame or log houses, with the exception of four or five families who live in lodges. They only ask that they be made secure in their homes, so that their lands may not be taken from them. Seltise informed me that they are anxious to have the Spokanes, who are to be seen loafing around the Falls, settle on his reservation, and I think if a small appropriation was made to break up land and provide fencing material, many of them could be induced to leave Spokane Falls and its immediate vicinity. They are only a nuisance to the citizens, many of whom have asked that they be removed from the town. They loaf around the store doors in groups and beg for whisky, and they always find some one to give or sell it to them. If they are not removed, I think that trouble will eventually ensue. I bring this in now, as Seltise wished me to inform your office of his desire.

I inclose two petitions that Seltise wished to have forwarded to your office. I believe them to be a happy people, true to the Government.

I remain, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

SIDNEY D. WATERS,
United States Indian Agent.

Hon. H. PRICE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

LEWISTON, IDAHO, August 25, 1877.

The undersigned take pleasure in acknowledging the loyalty of the Cœur d'Alene Indians, and particularly Seltise, their head chief, through all the excitement attending the outbreak of the non-treaty Nez Percés. When the settlers from Pine Creek left their homes for fear of Indian hostilities, Seltise assured them of the friendship of the Cœur d'Alenes, and even sent some of his people to guard their property till their return. His influence is great among the northern Indians, and it has been used to maintain peaceful relations between the whites and Indians.

(Signed:) W. W. Johuson, F. Rector, P. Gilbert, W. H. Davenport, Aretas Cox, Edgar Davenport, Lincoln Davenport, Benjamin Hake, Robert Evart, L. M. Kinger, E. Baldwin, J. H. Billup, L. W. Davenport, B. Canty, W. B. McFall, F. J. Hayfield, James Turner, F. E. McQueen, Willis A. Hone, W. Smith, J. B. Lipcourt, E. C. Watkins (United States Indian inspector), M. C. Wilkinson, (aide-de-camp to Brig. Gen. O. O. Howard), G. H. McQueen, I. V. Naughte, H. W. Watts, B. F. Pierce, G. W. Chamberlain, James Evarts, Robert R. Hargrove, R. A. Truax, William Brewer, H. Aphey, J. M. Propst, J. W. Gholson, W. H. Landes, Thomas Turner, William W. Boone, S. D. Stephens, F. R. Martin.

PINE CREEK, NEZ PERCES COUNTY, IDAHO,
June 19, 1877.

To the Priests, Chiefs, and the Cœur d'Alene Indians:

GENTLEMEN: We, the undersigned, citizens of Pine Creek and surrounding country, feel truly thankful to you for all your kindness to us during the present excitement, and for the trouble and the pains you have taken in assuring us that there was no danger. We did not leave Pine Creek for fear of you, but for fear of other Indians; and in return for your kindness we, the undersigned citizens, are willing to assist you in petitioning Government to grant you a good title to your land, that you may lead

a quiet and peaceable life, and we are willing to do anything in our power to promote the peace and happiness of the Cœur d'Alenes.

(Signed:) R. Price, N. M. Morris, M. A. Morris, H. S. Young, R. M. Young, B. F. Price, W. F. Price, J. W. Gholson, M. E. Gholson, B. A. Truax S. L. Truax, M. Fountain, Thos. Proctor, Jane Proctor, Jessie Walling, Harriet Walling, C. M. Caldwell, W. H. Greener, Elizabeth Munse, A. G. Tueener, Mrs. M. Tueener, H. S. McClure, Mrs. L. Caldwell, W. B. McFall, G. H. McQueen, Sarah Price, G. A. Briggs, John Cummings, Martha Cummings, Loudon C. Irvine, J. F. Conklin, L. W. Davenport, Mary Davenport, John Moore, Edith Moore, Adin Davis, John Davis, M. Fountain, W. W. Smith, J. E. Hanes, J. M. Woody, Lafayette Munse, Sam Lowe, Mrs. N. S. Barcas, Tuinda Moore, Anna Moore, Sam Price, W. E. Shires, L. McQueen, G. W. Truax, H. Truax, W. A. Hone, S. Crumley, Selena Crumley, Sam'l Moore, Susan Moore, I. S. Tuncles, Mary Campbell, Frank Rector, Henry E. Tyson, C. S. Baxter, R. F. Leach, Z. Smith, Geo. Smith, Charles Moore, F. M. Barcas, S. J. Moore, Betsy Moore, Lydia Moore, Andrew A. Price, Agnes Brattain, Wm. Brattain, Calista McFall, J. M. Propst, A. E. Propst, F. R. Martin, Mary A. Martin, F. E. McQueen, W. H. Landy, Sarah Welch, R. F. Starr, Martha L. Atkin, R. R. Rounds, Wm. Brewer, Lene Brewer, Arthur Green, F. L. Cornell, Wm. Cornell, Fred D. Hayfield, H. W. Watts, P. Gilbert, Enoch Rector, Ora Rector, S. D. Young, F. McCann, Sarah McCamie, A. J. Price, Jack Sullivan, Mrs. Leach.

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