

Copy

Yakima Indian Agency

Acc. 976

Fort Simco H. I. Aug 16th 1876

Simco corruption of Indian word Simkui

Dr. W. F. Johnson

Dear Sir

Your letter of July 24th is rec^d. Our Reservation has an area of 40 by 60 miles and enough good land for farming purposes. The Yakima Nation of Indians number 3500 having increased 500 by births since I came among them in the fall of 1860. At that time they were poor as poverty never having done anything in farming. We now have more than 13000 acres fenced and are cultivating more than 5000 acres. Last year we raised something over 30,000 bushels of grain so the Indians sold to their white neighbors the surplus of grain. They have about 3,000 head of cattle and about 14,000 horses. They have many of them good farms well fenced and houses costing from \$200 to \$700 Dollars. They are above want and not as many beggars as are to be found among the whites of the same number. We do not issue a thousand lbs of Beef to the needy in a year they are near self supporting. Quite a number of them if we were to put a fair value upon their farms are worth from \$1000. to \$6000. We have had the children in School where they have been instructed to read write and the common branches and have been instructed in mechanical art. The Blacksmithing of the Agency is done by

a man (Indian man) who came to us a little slave. he is now an employe of the Government making his monthly Reports as other employes. so with carpenters, Hemp makers, shoemakers, and all kinds of mechanics three fourths of the work of the Agency is now done by the Indians. we have educated between 3 & 4 hundred to read write and work.

They have good horses and waggons. harnesses and ploughs and very many of them are living like white men well civilized.

We have for the pay of employes about \$15000 per annum support of schools \$3000 Repair of Buildings \$500 support of shops \$500 Repair of Mill \$500 support of hospital \$500 and \$4000 Beneficial and about \$700 accidental.

These are some of the things you ask

Yours truly
(signed) James H. Wilbur
U. S. Ind. Agent W. T.

We have 5000 Members of the M. E. Church & 2 good Church edifices & two ordained preachers.

Note - Yakima, or Eyakema. is the name given by the Okanagan Indians to the dwellers of or on the Yakima river - Their own name is Pishwan wa-pum or people of the rocky river. and Nuch-tshis-pum - people of the one - or, in a free translation, the other river - added to these, on the Yakima reservation now, are the remnants of the Whulohypum and Tai tinapum tribes all speaking dialects of the Yakima. Sometimes the syllable pum meaning people sound like Pam. W. F. Schmie