

Gukarna Indian Agency
March 31st 1881

James H. Wilbur
US Indian Agent
Sir

I have the honor to submit the following report of the operations of the Police Force at this Agency for the Quarter ending March 31st 1881.

Jan 25th The Council of Chiefs having decided in the case of Coosheas vs his wife that the woman had no just cause for a separation from her husband and directed that she return to the care of her children, on her refusal she was confined in the calaboose by order of the Council, and confined one week when on her promise to return to her home she was released.

Feb 2^d Geo Paul, an Indian doctor was murdered by Alex Thompson (Indian) at the solicitation of Chilturns & Labraham, Bill and several other Indians being accessory = Immediately ordered the arrest of all the parties which order was executed ^{by} Pierre, John Lee and Klickitat Pote and they were brought to the Agency, and in the absence of the Agent, had a preliminary examination before me, and were committed to await the action of a Council called for February

8th on which day the Council met - presided over by myself in the absence of the Agent - Evidence was produced to show that the deceased claimed to possess the power to inflict death by his incantations - He had long cherished animosity towards Chillum's and on the death of Chillum's children had boasted that he had caused their death, and would continue to kill till the last of Chillum's children had died, when he would kill himself - A daughter to whom Chillum's was much attached had been sick for one or two months, and Paul had boasted that it was his work, - When the child died, Chillum's was so exasperated, that he determined to wreak vengeance on the supposed author of his loss, and proposed to Alex Thompson who had also lost children, which he believed had been caused by Chillum's, to kill the Doctor to which he consented - Paul had some friends present and considerable feeling was developed on the trial, and at one time there seemed danger of an affray, but the matter was finally disposed of by resolving to postpone sentence till the return of the Agent - It was also determined to release the prisoners on bail, Joe Stuire becoming security for their appearance when wanted -

March 3^d - A short time before midnight the Mail carrier from Yakima City brought word that the stage had been stopped by Indians the morning of that day, in the Sattus Canon and requested protection - There being no policemen at the Agency that I could send, I dispatched a messenger to Joe Shire the Head Chief with the request that he would notify Thomas Cree who lived near him - Early next morning Pierre, Thomas Cree and Klickitat Peter started for the scene of the disturbance, and meeting the mail stage at the Topwinik bridge escorted it past the camp of the Indians who had stopped the stage, and arrested Coosia the leader and principal offender who was brought to the Agency and confined in the Guard House, and a Council called to meet next day.

March 5th The Council met and examined Coosia - It appeared from the evidence that his crime proceeded more from ignorance than viciousness. He was desirous of including the bottom through which the road ran in his field, and had extended his fence across the road, with the intention of compelling the stage to go around his field - As however he had resisted the police in their efforts to arrest him he was remanded to the Guard House - Thomas Cree deserves especial

mention in connection with this arrest for resolution and courage.

Same day Sid Wohl was arrested by Pierre accused of abducting the wife of Ke-lok-in and placed in confinement.

March 11th - The Mail carrier having made a special request for the release of Coo-sai, on account of his duty compelling him to travel each day past the camp of Coo-sai's people, and the importance to him of not acquiring their ill will, he was released.

I was satisfied that Coo-sai had no criminal intent in stopping the mail, but supposed he had a right to extend his fence across the road to include the whole bottom in his field - After his arrest his people made a good road around the disputed ground and then requested the Mail carrier to intercede as above stated.

It will be seen from the foregoing, that there have been more serious offenses than for many previous quarters, - Without expressing any decided opinion as to the reason for this state of affairs, I may say, what is evident to every observer, that for some reason, there is more of a spirit of lawlessness, less respect for authority, and ^{a more} a decided increase of petty offenses.

than I have noticed before

While always prompt to obey orders when once given, the Police, - with two or three exceptions manifest much less interest in the suppression of crime and arrest of offenders than formerly = This indifference will explain the few arrests for petty offenses, though as is well known they are much more frequent than formerly = In short the demoralization that seems to have settled on all the Indians of the Agency, has to some extent invaded the force = Your own judgement will suggest the reason for a condition of affairs that you - in common with all other observers - have noticed = The Indians of all classes manifest a feeling of uneasiness, of doubt and apprehension, while the more lawless ^{seem} disposed to throw off all restraint and defy all authority = I offer no suggestions relative to the remedy, but trust your experience may devise a means for restoring the reverence for law, which a short time ago existed

Very Respectfully Submitted

J. H. Wierfield

Chief

Examined, approved and respectfully forwarded

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US Indian Agent