

SKOKOMISH AGENCY, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,
September 23, 1873.

SIR: It becomes my duty to make my third annual report of the affairs at this agency and the Indians belonging to this reservation.

The general condition of the Indians under my charge is much the same as at the time of my last report. The year has been quiet, peaceful, and prosperous. During the month of October last I made a distribution of annuity goods to such Indians under my charge as came for them. In consequence of the great distance that most of the S'Klallams live from the agency, not half of that tribe came for their goods. Less than five hundred in all were present at the distribution. During the past few weeks I have visited most of the Indian towns of the S'Klallams. A large proportion of them live on the southern shore of the Straits of Juan de Fuca, in small villages from ten to twenty miles distant from each other. They occupy houses, some of which have floors and windows, and are as good as many whites inhabit. They subsist by fishing and working by the day or month for farmers and others. Some have declared their intention to become citizens, and have taken up claims, and are farming and accumulating property. They seem to be peaceable and industrious; but many of them often go across the straits, and get liquor in large quantities, and drink badly. Being so far from the oversight of any one, they drink without any restraint. Others live at the various saw-mills on the sound and work in them. These are doing well, except that they connive secretly to get whisky and drink badly. I have endeavored to induce them to come on to the reservation by offering to give them pieces of land of their own to cultivate. They are very slow to take in such an idea, because that, first, it removes them so far from their old homes. Then there is not a cordial good-feeling between them and the Twanas, who are in the majority on the reservation. The reservation is so small that they can have but small pieces of land, and must be thrown in close proximity with those they do not like, and who speak a different language. Then, there is not as good an opportunity to get work near the reservations as there is where they now are; and the opportunities to get and sell fish where they are are far superior to those near here. These reasons all combine to render it difficult to bring them in any considerable numbers on the reservation. They are diminishing in number, and the most discouraging feature in relation to them is that they have scarcely any children. Consequently, as a nation, when this generation passes away, they will become almost extinct.

The Twanas, who mostly live on the reservation, are improving. They are drinking less than formerly, and work more steadily. During the past year they have cut and sold 2,000,000 feet of saw-logs, which have been sold for about \$10,000. They are beginning to clear up some of their land, have cut considerable hay, and are raising some potatoes. I have distributed to them three hundred fruit-trees during the last spring, which they have set out on their pieces of ground.

The school has been steadily gaining. We report this year an attendance of twenty scholars against fifteen last year. Their progress is quite satisfactory. During the past summer the teacher has worked with the boys forenoons, and had study-hours in the afternoons. They have cultivated about four acres of garden, and cut and put up for winter use over forty cords of good, dry wood.

At the agency there was produced on the farm last year 700 bushels apples, 45 tons hay, 120 bushels potatoes, 125 bushels turnips, 110 bushels beets, 30 bushels carrots, 20 bushels parsnips, 20 bushels pears, and 25 bushels plums. This summer there has been made a dike ten feet wide and about two feet high, 240 rods long, a rail fence 300 rods long, a warehouse 20 by 36 feet, a council-house 20 by 40, also other improvements on the buildings at the agency. The crops this year are good and have been well taken care of.

During the early part of the summer I made urgent request that the reservation be enlarged, but the withdrawal of all alternate sections of land by the North Pacific Railroad Company forbid such an extension. Since that time the company have located their terminus at a point south of the desired extension, so that it is presumable, at least, that the withdrawal will be rescinded. Should such be the case, I earnestly request that such extension be made.

I would call your attention to the following facts: Some ten or twelve years ago the then acting superintendent of Indian affairs for this Territory, at the urgent request of the Indians, decided upon adding to the reservation a half-section of land which was a donation-claim of A. D. Fisher. The place and improvements were appraised and the appraisement forwarded to Washington. The place was then turned over to the agent, and used for the benefit of the Indians as a part of the reservation. A portion of it was used by them as a burying-ground for their dead. At that time the land was all unsurveyed, so that no title could be given, as Mr. Fisher had none. As near as I can learn, no notice was ever taken of the appraisement, and Mr. Fisher has never re-

ceived a cent for his place. During the past summer the land has been surveyed, and turns out to be on a railroad section. Mr. Fisher had, however, completed the requisite four years' residence, and is entitled to a patent ahead of the railroad company. Were he now paid what he should have been years ago, he could complete his title and give a good deed to the Department, and this would secure this tract of land to the Indians and also be an act of justice to the former owner. I recommend that this matter be investigated, and such action taken as will mete out justice to both parties, and secure to them their just rights.

In conclusion, I would say that the moral advancement of the Indians here is truly gratifying. The new council-house, which has been recently erected and is also used for a church, is filled every Sabbath with attentive listeners to the Word of Life, and the seeds of truth thus sown seem to be taking root. We are gratified also that the reservation is so soon to be sub-divided into small lots and assigned to the Indians in severalty. I believe this will be followed by marked improvement.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

EDWIN EELLS,

United States Indian Agent, Washington Territory.

Gen. R. H. MILROY,

Superintendent Indian Affairs, Olympia, Wash.

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QUINAIELT INDIAN AGENCY, WASHINGTON TERRITORY,

September 1, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor submit my annual report of the condition of this agency during the past year. The condition of these Indians has improved in many respects. I have endeavored by every means in my power to awaken a desire upon their part to improve, but have succeeded only to a limited extent. Some few of them have cleared small pieces of land, and planted potatoes and other vegetables.

The land is all of a nature that requires much time and labor to bring into a state available for farming purposes. The upland is covered with a heavy growth of spruce, hemlock, and cedar, of poor quality, and the river bottom, which is narrow, and subject to overflow in winter, is covered with spruce, vine, maple, and crab-apple.

When we take into consideration the fact that nature has surrounded these people with an abundance of game, such as elk, deer, and bear, and that the river abounds in salmon of the finest quality, it is not to be wondered at that they prefer to obtain a support from the river and forest, as was done by their fathers, to going into the dense forests by which they are surrounded to clear a farm. For these reasons, I am of the opinion that they will depend principally upon fishing as a means of obtaining a living. Having in view the enlargement of this reservation, as recommended by you in your report for 1872, which is entirely too small for the support of the number of Indians included under this treaty, and to inform myself as to the character of the country, in company with Lieut. S. R. Jones, United States Army, and a party of Indians to manage the canoe, we went from the agency up the river to Quinaielt Lake, some fifty miles distant, the river being very crooked, and difficult to ascend on account of rapids.

The country along the river is generally unproductive, although there are small tracts of land in the bottoms which would produce well if cleared. The lake is a beautiful sheet of water, clear and deep, so deep that at the distance of a quarter of a mile from shore we were unable to find the bottom with 300 feet of line. It is surrounded by high mountains, upon some of which snow remains the year round. The extent of the lake is about three miles in width by five in length, lying in a north-easterly and southwesterly direction the longest way. From the west side we went out into the country to see a prairie, which our guide informed us lay about three miles distant. The country over which we passed is worthless, being nothing more than a deposit of sand and gravel. When we found the reported prairie it proved to be nothing more than an old burn, covered with gravel, unfit for farming, and affording little grass, showing signs of having been occupied by elk and deer. We were informed by our guide that it was about one day's journey to the Queets River, north from where we were, across a range of mountains in sight, which he said was the divide. From the character of the country and the elevation we had attained, I think the Queets River would be reached about fifty miles from its mouth.

Knowing what I do of the country, I respectfully ask that the reserve be enlarged as recommended by you, including the Queets River on the north, the Quinaielt Lake on the east, thence from the southern extremity of said lake to the south line of the reserve as it is. This will furnish the Indians with good hunting and fishing