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RATIFIED TREATY NO. 300
DOCUMENTS RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF THE
TREATY OF DECEMBER 21, 1855, WITH THE MOLALA INDIANS

Original P24

Isaac Palmer

Dayton O.S. Jan 12th
1856

Enc. Treaty made
with the Mollallay
or Mollall Tribe of
Inds. 21st Dec. 1855

Recd Feb 28th /56

Chk of March 7 /56

Rept to Leg. In July 9th 56

28 - Cir

Office Dept Ind Affairs
Dayton O. Jan. 12th 1856.

Sir

I have the honor herewith to transmit a Treaty of purchase made and concluded on the 21st ultimo with the Mo-lal-la-les or Mollé Tribe of Indians, claiming the country east of the purchase made of the Mispague and Calapooias on the 29th of Nov 1854.

The tract includes the western slope of the Cascade Mountains, and is drained by the waters of the North and South forks of the Mispague River, Calapooia Creek, and the North fork ofogue River. It is very mountainous, but contains it is said, good tracts of table land, and an occasional open prairie on the margin of the streams.

The intrinsic value of this tract is by no means great, so far as known. It borders however a country destined to contain a dense population, and must ultimately be the source from which timber will be obtained for use of the settlements. So long as the title to the country should remain unextinguished and these Indians reside there, collisions between them and our citizens could scarcely fail to occur and this consideration deemed to render the consummation of a treaty important.

The confederation of as many as possible of the lands, and their location upon one reservation, in accordance with the instructions from your office, have been regarded by me as of great importance, not only as regards economy, but in regard to the ultimate beneficial

results to the Indians, who would thus become a more homogenous people, and be more strongly bound together by social sympathies, than could be reasonably expected were they placed in small numbers on remote reservations.

In consideration that it may ultimately become the policy of the government to establish an Indian Territory, provision has been made in the treaties by which this object might be achieved without any violation of faith on the part of the government. Judicious and proper training, such as is contemplated in the treaties, of the greatest number possible of Indians upon the same reservation, where the energies and resources of the government can be efficiently applied for their civilization, and to habituate them to submission to authority, would I believe, at an early period, prepare them for any change in their location which may be deemed desirable by the government.

The reasons assigned in the 3^d article of this treaty for the immediate removal of the Indians from the disturbed district, were believed sufficient to justify such a promise; besides which demonstrations of a design on the part of lawless whites, to excite the volunteer forces in the immediate vicinity, as well as the settlers adjacent, to an attack upon their camp, under the pretence that they were keeping up a correspondence with the hostile bands, endangered the safety of the Indians.

At one time matters had gone so far, that a part of one of the volunteer companies stationed in the neighborhood, were marching upon this defenseless and unarmed camp, with the avowed design of cutting them off. But the

Scheme was frustrated by Nicholas Day, one of the settlers, who was well acquainted with their feasible intentions, and entire destitution of fire arms, ~~which~~ prevailed upon the officer in command of the forces, to first accompany him to the camp, where the condition of the Indians afforded ocular demonstration of the absence of the ability or intention of the Indians to injure the settlers.

This movement was occasioned by a representation of some one that in passing near the Indian encampment, three shots had been fired at him by concealed Indians. This man afterwards acknowledged that it was a ruse or hoax on his part. It came well nigh accomplishing what interested parties earnestly desired, the extermination of those bands.

Reports of a similar character were almost daily circulated, keeping the Indian camp and the entire neighborhood in constant excitement and alarm.

Several of the Indians belonging to the Muppen and Calapoin bands embraced in the Treaty of Nov 29th 1854, have made considerable progress in farming and were unwilling to abandon their fields and houses unless some guarantees should be given them, that land suited to agricultural purposes could be secured them, and as they had heard that the coast reservation contained but a small extent of country suited to the growing of wheat, they were reluctant to go there on that account. The provisions of the 6th article of the treaty submitted removed that objection.

The farms, ^{to be} purchased for this object are on the extreme

ends of the Grand Grand Valley which extends into a range
of the coast range of mountains and is walled in on the North
by an elevated and extremely broken ridge, and on the
South by a lofty and almost precipitous spur entirely pre-
venting ingress in that direction. The only practicable
route for a road from the Willamette valley into this
Grand Grand ~~valley~~ is by a narrow opening between
the hills through which flows the south fork of the Yam
hill river. This valley is nearly equally divided by a
partially timbered ridge extending from the ridge ^{on the} North
in a southerly direction and terminating in an abrupt
precipice on the bank of the Yam Hill river, the
lands purchased and to be purchased lie west of this
ridge and extend into the opening of the coast range,
by which the ocean is reached, by following the course
of the Nechesne or Salmon river.

This is the only and nearest point approachable from
the coast, adapted to the production of wheat in sufficient
quantities to supply the Indians to be located on the North
ern portion of the reservation. Situated as I have
stated at the extreme verge of the settlements, remote
from populated portions of the Willamette valley, its
occupancy for the objects designed, will in the least
possible degree, interfere with the white settlements.

I regard this tract as the best location
for the residence of an agent, and admirably adapted
to the establishment of a manual labor school,
and the erection of a flouring mill to manufacture

The wheat produced on these farms, which by the labour to be performed by pupils attending the school and the employment of a few Indians, would be ample to bread the Indian bands confederated by this treaty.

In the treaty with the unspigas and calopous of the 29th Nov 1854. no provision was made for the erection of mills, or for the purchase of materials to be used in a smith and tin shop, nor for the establishment of a manual labour school, these provisions being deemed requisite, and the limited annuity provided by said treaty being insufficient to justify its application for such objects; the terms of this purchase now effected are changed to supply the defect.

No specific provisions for similar objects were incorporated in the treaty of the 10th January 1855. with the Indians of the millauke valley. As it has been contemplated locating in the neighbourhood of the improvements referred to, some of the more trust-worthy and civilized of those bands; and others of a similar character, at the nearest suitable point on the western slope, this school would afford facilities in common, for the children of all those bands.

In former communications, I have given my views of the fitness of the spot selected as the coast reservation, and am well convinced that no other distinct part of the Blue Mountains can be found of sufficient capacity, for affording so few advantages

Advantages for white settlements.

It has been represented that this reservation includes the valley of Tillamook where a considerable settlement has been made. This is wholly incorrect. No part of that settlement is within its limits, and unless there be a few white families on the head waters of Alsea, which is yet undetermined, as the surveys are not yet extended so far, no settlers reside within the limits of the reservation.

Should the coast treaty be ratified, the purchase of the farms previously indicated, the purchase price of which has been estimated for, I regard as of the utmost importance to the successful carrying out of the policy of the government, with those tribes, a failure to accomplish which would nearly render nugatory the entire labor of the two last years, and destroy the confidence of the Indians in the agents of the Government.

I am not unadvised of the action of the present legislative assembly of this Territory, in urging that the superintendent may be restrained from locating the Indians in the midst of the white settlements and declaring me "visionary and foolish" in attempting to carry out the policy of the Government.

I need not say that I have never contemplated locating Indians in the settlements. The policy I have pursued I have regarded as being within the line of my instructions, and as such will tend

See

to advance and civilize those Indians, & come close
with them, and economize the expenditure of the General
Government.

At least one section of land should be
decided in the neighborhood of the Grand Round for the
tribes included in each of the following Treaties, &c.

Treaty of June 10th 1855. with Colapocas, Molales and
Chachams, Treaty of Nov 29th 1854. Timpuos & Colapocas
(now confederated with Molalales, the Postern Coast Tribe,
and friendly bands of Rogue River Valley, embraced in the Treaty
of 10 Sept 1853. and 19 Nov 1854. Also an additional
section for the use of a manual labor school for the
benefit of all the above named tribes.

The tract adjacent to those sections may be
occupied by members of the bands now residing in this Valley,
who have made considerable progress in agricultural knowledge,
and would be useful as a link between the main settlement
of Indians upon the reservation and the white settlers.

It may be permitted to reiterate here, what
I have stated in other communications, that I feel well satisfied
that there can be no hope of carrying out the policy of the
Government among those tribes or enforcing the Intercourse
laws upon tracts situated in or near the mining districts,
nor in the heart of the white settlements, and the expenditure
of public funds in the erection of buildings and other
improvements upon those temporary reservations, would
be attended with no corresponding advantages to the
Indians, nor further the objects of the Government.

Upon

Upon ascertaining the location of the prairies on the
head waters of the St. Charles and St. Louis Rivers by actual surveys,
if they are found to be within the limits of the coast
reservation, they may be made useful as wheat farms
for the tribes to be located upon the southern half of the
reservation.

With these memoranda I submit this Treaty
to the President and his constitutional advisers,
suggesting that, as early action and decision
upon this and the coast Treaty, would put at rest
many questions hanging as an incubus, and tending
to hinder and all efforts on the part of agents of the Government
to maintain promises solemnly ~~pledged~~ made
to these people

I am Sir your
obt. servant

Lucas Palmer
Supt Ind Affairs

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Hon. Sec. W. Mangum
Commissary Ind Affairs
Washington City
D. C.