

**Restrict the Reserve.**

If the government does not see the wisdom of abolishing the Indian reservation system altogether, and encouraging the Indians to settle upon homesteads and become amenable to the laws the same as white citizens, we sincerely hope and trust it will be made to appear proper for the government to abridge the limits of the present reservation of the Nez Perces, now that the tribe has been diminished to one-fourth of its number existing before the war. 900 square miles of the best lands of the country is too much for the remaining 200 heads of families of the Nez Perces. Throw open the west and south portion to settlement by whites. Cut the present boundaries by a due south line from the forks of Clearwater to Lawyer canyon, which would be about the middle of township 33 north, of range 1 east, according to Idaho surveys, and let that be the west line of the reserve. Then as a south line, from that point run due east to the northeast line of the present reserve boundaries. Then follow this northeast line to north fork of Clearwater. Then run down the north fork to place of beginning. These boundaries would include Kamia, all the hunting lands east of the south fork and all the grazing lands to the west of said fork to near the Boise meridian. This remaining reservation area will leave for the Indians nearly 480 acres of land for each and every man, woman and child on the reservation. If any of the Lapwai Indians desire to homestead any of the west or south portion of that thrown open to settlement by the whites, let them have the same privilege as do the whites. All of this land so thrown open has been surveyed into townships and sections, and hence no new survey would be required, and the local Land Office could at once receive filings under existing laws and regulations. We think there would be no objection to such an abridgement of the reservation, on the part of the Indians, unless put up to it by interested white persons, and the whole could be effected with a very small outlay on the part of the government, far less than the annual expense incident to the maintaining the Lapwai Agency.

**Affidavit of Census.**

TER RITORY OF IDAHO. }  
County of Nez Perce. } ss  
Joseph Craig having been duly sworn on his oath says: I am the son of the late William Craig deceased, my mother was a Nez Perce woman. I am a competent witness in the courts of the United States and of Idaho Territory. I reside upon land adjacent to the donation claim of my father. I have a house and improvements thereon of my own creation, valued at \$1,500. I have resided there for many years and have a family. I am well acquainted with most of the tribe of Nez Perce Indians, and know the places of residence of those residing on reservation, since the late war with the Nez Perces. I have visited these residences within the last twenty days, and taken an enumeration of all the Indian men, women and children remaining on said reservation, and the following is a faithful and correct representation of their number, as obtained from an actual bona fide census taken by myself in person:

No. males over 16 years of age.....185  
" females " " ".....311  
" males under 16 years of age.....95  
" females " " ".....135

Total Indian population on the reservation.....726

From other Indians in different localities on the reservation, I learn that about 35 were absent on Salmon river and other places, who belong to families on the reservation and are expected soon to return.

J. CRAIG.  
Attest to signature, A. LELAND.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 2d day of November 1877.

In witness whereof I have hereunto set my hand, and affixed the seal of the District Court of the 1st Judicial District of Idaho, in and for Nez Perce county.

H. SQUIER,  
Clerk.

By D. J. WARNER,  
Deputy Clerk.

**Looking After Postmasters' Bonds.**

OMAHA, Oct. 23.—Special Mail Agent Furay, whose territory comprises Nebraska, Dakota, Wyoming, Utah, Idaho and Montana, has received orders from the postoffice department to inspect official bonds of 70 postmasters, the object being to ascertain responsibility of sureties. Investigation so far resulted in finding many utterly worthless bonds—straw, informal, etc. The investigation will involve forty thousand miles travel.—Tel of Oregonian.

This investigation may involve 40,000 miles travel and much expense, but if it should result in hereafter preventing straw bonds, it will purge the government of a serious evil.

**Jumping Land.**

In several instances where men had filed on land before the outbreak and commenced their improvements, but on the outbreak had left and gone with Howard in pursuit of the Indians, other parties have jumped and filed upon the same land, and on coming back find these intruders upon their premises. There can be but one reasonable conclusion as to the rights of these parties, and that is that men who acted in good faith before the outbreak and had only temporarily absented themselves when demand for their service came to defend the country, ought now to be permitted to return to their lands and perfect their titles if they desire to do so. Any other ruling would be gross injustice.

**Weather Signs.**

The corn-husks are thin, indicate a mild Winter; the woods full of mast, an unfailing sign of a long, hard Winter; there are myriads of spiders, mild Winter; acres of caterpillars, hard Winter; the squirrels are noisy and busy, hard Winter; the squirrels are idle and listless, mild Winter; the goose bone is white and gray, mild and hard Winter; the woodchuck has gone in, mild Winter; the woodchuck stays out, hard Winter. It is indeed, only a question of time when the system of weather prognostications will become one of the exact sciences.—Ex.

The above gives a fair sample of hard and mild Winter predictions.

**They Seek for a Sign.**

Republican senators and representatives friendly to the administration are earnestly endeavoring to draw from the president an authoritative interpretation of his order concerning officeholders' participation in politics, which shall officially state that it was not intended to forbid officeholders actively supporting party nominations, but only to prevent their dictating whom the party should nominate, and these

friends of the president have advised two members of the cabinet that if he does not take some such action the Republicans will certainly lose all the states in which elections are to be held next month, after which, they intimate, he need expect no consideration with his party.—Tel. of Oregonian.

If any party's success depends only upon the meddlesome interference of officeholders who are under pay from the government, then we say let that party go to the wall, the sooner the better for the country.

**Appointments.**

Some of the lower papers announce the appointment of Rev. Mr. Fee to the Warm Spring reservation and speak of his success and efficiency while among the Nez Perces. It seems that he and Agent Monteith clashed much in their views while he was among the Nez Perces. He, we learn is the man who told Dave Johnson, after Joseph had commenced his murders, that he did not blame Joseph for making war upon the whites. If he can encourage a similar rebellion among the Warm Spring Indians he will surely become "successful and efficient." Such religious teachings will not go far towards christianizing the red man.

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