

State of Oregon
County of Crook

SS.

4-16-1892

I, C. H. Walker, just being duly sworn depose and say that I have carefully read over the statements made by Jason Wheeler late U.S. Indian Agent at Warm Springs Agency Oregon, in his affidavit made at Albany Oregon July 12th 1890, and that I believe them to be true, and am personally knowing to most, if not all the facts set forth in said affidavit.

That I tried to persuade said Agent Wheeler not to resign hoping that the Indian office might yet yield to his requests to have a change made in the Superintendents of the Reservation Boarding Schools, but that he insisted it would be of no use to make further contest, and the longer he remained in the service the worse it would be for him financially, so resigned.

That I am knowing to the fact - that an inventory of the property was made as early as in September 1887, and many articles of clothing &c. were reported "Short" - and there was abundant time before the transfer of the property Jan 1 1888 to have accounted for nearly all, if not all, these losses, but I have no knowledge of any effort being made so to do, by the employes whose duty it was to expend articles issued to scholars, or used in the schools, or to make the necessary affidavits in order to satisfactorily account for the shortages. Not being an employe, ^{and} - being a strong friend of Agent Wheeler's I was selected by him to

represent his interests in taking the inventory of property in December 1887, preparatory to its transfer to Dr William W Dougherty, his immediate successor

That Chas L Dougherty son of Agent Dougherty and myself, made as careful and thorough a search for all articles of property as was possible at the time, ^{and} difficulties under which we labored.

That while taking this inventory Agent Wheeler brought me a note which I recognized as D. J. Holmes's hand writing, making a dishonest proposition. (Note herewith filed as 001). Though we knew many articles would be short, we indignantly spurned the proposition, and in fact showed the note to Dr Dougherty and his son.

That I firmly believe there was a well settled purpose on the part of Agent Wheeler's principal employes, especially D J Holmes, to bring him out - short, and that threats were made to bring him out - ^{*}behind in his accounts. (See letter of M J Anderson filed herewith as 002)

That as an employe under Agent J. L. Luckey, I assisted in taking an inventory during June 1890, of all the property, and as a result, many articles were found in excess, and Agent Luckey in place of taking them up as "gains in issues", gave Mr Wheeler the benefit of the surplus.

That I account for the excess for

several reasons, viz

1" That ^{partly and} in December 1887, most of the school employes were living in houses apart from the regular Boarding School buildings, for want of room in said buildings; and ~~as they were~~ ^{being} unfriendly to Agent Wheeler and ~~as a result~~ ^{as a result} they did not give in all the school property they had in use.

2" Some articles of property were actually found in the possession of the Indians, when last inventory was taken, that were not found in Dec 1887

3" That the Government property being mainly stored at two different points 20 miles apart, and tools ~~are~~ ^{were} stored at the saw mill some 15 miles from either of above points, and weather being cold and snow on the ground, no doubt some articles were not found.

4" During the subsequent administrations of Agent Dougherty ^{and} Agent D W Butler extending from Jan 1" 1888 to July 17 1889, many articles, as tools and implements ~~are~~ ^{were} expended by the employes as "worn out" &c, that were subsequently "disallowed" by the Indian office, as "not expendable" More or less of these articles were no doubt still on hand, and Agent Wheeler, in our last inventory got the benefit of what his successors are chargeable for.

5" Unlike Agent Wheeler, Agent Lucket had a set of employes that were all friendly to him and carefully guarded his interests.

At the same time all these parties were friendly to Mr Wheeler.

From my more than twelve years experience in the Indian service at this Agency I know where ~~great~~ ^{the} pains were taken to keep an Agent ^{fully} at ~~last~~ even, there are often "Gains in issues" and no doubt many articles were in excess on this account, subsequent to Agent Wheeler's transfer of property, and more particularly after Agent Luckey took charge.

6" The unfriendly feeling entertained by Agent Wheeler's employes towards him in 1887, no doubt extended by their influence, in a greater or less degree, to the Indians, and property taken away or concealed by them, as was likely the case, may have been returned after Agent Wheeler left the Agency.

That as to the loss of Blankets, ^{and} Bed quilts, as far as my knowledge extends there has not been an Agent-in-charge at this Agency, ~~unless~~ it was Agent Dougherty who was in service but a short time, ^{had} but what ^{was} lost, more or less of the above articles.

There are many "I D" Blankets now to be found among these Indians, but when questioned regarding them, they claim they got them from the Yacima Indians or other parties, where they no doubt, were many of them stolen from the Government.

As to School books, with the value of which
ex Agent Wheeler is ^{still} charged. I know that
they are not now in use in the Indian
schools at this Agency. That many of such
like books have been boxed up and held to
await some future disposal of them. Many
of them are long out of date and would
hardly bring any more at a Government sale
than so much waste paper.

As to flour. I
know that ~~ex~~ Agent Wheeler purchased and
had delivered at this Agency before Dec 1st 1887
^{quite a quantity} of flour, at his own private expense, to
replace a shortage in that article, caused as
I believe by flour having been stolen, and
also by being given out to Indians without
receipts being taken. I know it was charged
that W. H. Brunk Superintendent of the Simerwah
Boarding School, had thus given out flour,
after he was reinstated by order of Indian Office.
The 1041 lbs still charged I believe was stolen.
I also know it was the usual custom to tear up
all old bed sheets, ticks, pillows &c. for dish ^{and mop}
rags ^{and} &c. expend them as "worn out" upon proper vouchers.
If this was not done there would be a shortage
and I fully believe what losses there
were of these articles occurred largely if
not altogether in this way. The Regulations
of the Indian Office require ^{that} all losses

The Regulations of the Indian Office require that all losses reported by an Agent must be supported by the affidavit of his employes, ^{that they occurred} and through no fault or neglect of themselves or Agent ^{the}

In this case these employes were inimical to him, ^{and} there was no way provided in the regulations for compelling them to make out such papers. Even had they ^{done so} could they ^{have} sworn the loss was not their fault? If ever an Officer of the U S Government was held accountable under bonds for its property, and then was rendered powerless to properly take care of it and satisfactorily account for it when missing; it was Agent Wheeler.

I truly believe it is the duty of the present accounting officers of the ^{U.S.} Department to if possible, relieve or Agent Wheeler from all further accountability, and in addition ^{to} allow him his salary for 4th q^r 1887.

C. H. Walker
(Formerly Agency Clerk)

Subscribed and sworn to before me at
Warm Springs Oregon this 16th day of April 1892

J. C. Luckey,
U. S. Indian Agent