

Belety, Ind Agency Jan 2^d 1879

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I have the honor to submit this my report for the month of December 1872. The month has been one of more than ordinary excitement and interest to these Indians for reason that an effort has been made to establish a tribunal among themselves and by their own election - To try and decide matters of differences between individuals - and to adopt a code of laws by which the arbitrators or court thus selected should be governed. General councils have been held and after a free discussion of the importance of such a measure - The following plan has been adopted for the time being - To elect a court of arbitrators consisting of five persons to serve one year. The Tribes residing at the upper farming station consisting of Orange Thimbo, Galere encels, Coquills & Cistivalls - to elect one arbitrator - The Ilamoths and Casatanos to elect one - The Tribes at the agency station consisting of Prototrations, Jostomas, Mashamotus & Chetres - to elect two - The Tribes at the lower farming station - Sipes, Engenos & Nultmatanes, to elect one - The Tribes at the different stations as above, elected and reported to an adjoined meeting - The names were submitted to the general convention, and approved they then elected an officer to serve as a sheriff for the same period. They also elected a head chief for all the Tribes. The rules governing this court are not made and might be criticized and perhaps ridiculed by lawyers among a civilized and enlightened people. But the object aimed at is to teach self

self reliance, and secure the ends of justice
 The people take hold of it with a good deal of interest
 and in some of the trials just held by this court manifest
 a good deal of fast and shrewdness. And the decision
 of the court has thus far been generally approved
 by the people. I have deemed it wise to throw the responsibility
 of settling controversies by their own action - rather than
 to ~~always~~ submit to a decision by the agent -

According to the rule adopted the complaint is to
 be first made to the agent - and he is to let the judge
 as to whether it is a matter of sufficient importance to
 warrant the assembling of the court. if so he
 notifies the sheriff to notify the arbitrators and
 witnesses and fixes the time and place of meeting
 and for a time, I preside ^{at their meetings} so as to maintain order and
 assist them to the usage of civilized rules
 something of this kind appeared indispensably necessary
 for them is no one tribe of sufficient influence and
 power to adopt any general rule - and the petty
 jealousies and hereditary prejudices existing
 among them renders it well nigh impossible to maintain
 harmony without some recognized authority - besides
 it will be an encouragement for them to think and to
 act for themselves. I have reason to believe that if
 this effort be encouraged, and managed judiciously, it
 will contribute in great good to these people.

We may adopt a code similar to our Justice
 court for the settlement of petty differences - as being
 less expensive. An appeal from the present
 arbitrators court - is to a court consisting of

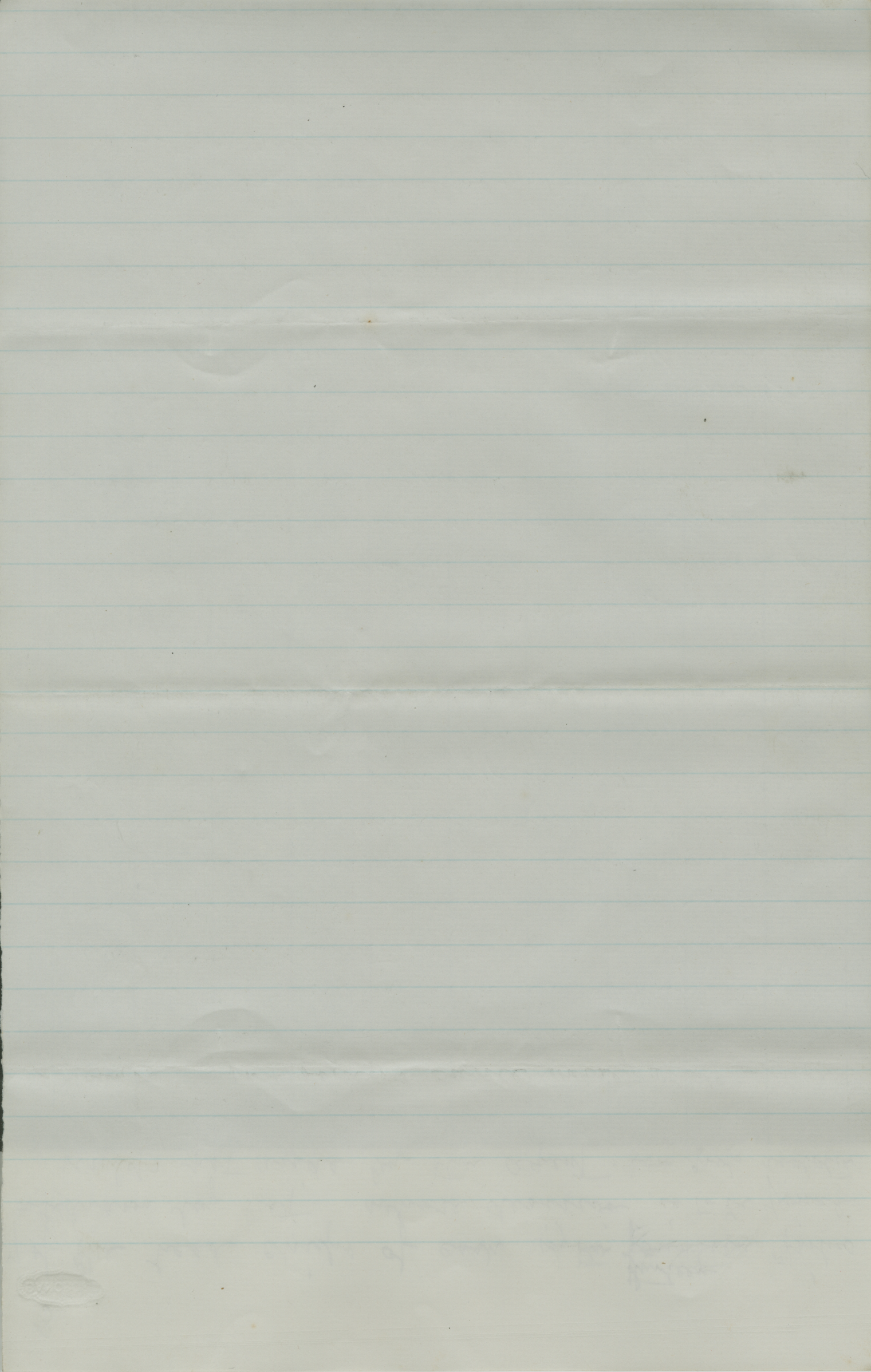
7 of the head chiefs of each ~~with~~ ^{thirteen} ~~fourteen~~ tribes
 to be drawn by lot - whose decision is to be final
 unless set aside by the agent - for gross violation
 of justice -

The delapidated condition of nearly all
 the buildings upon this reservation renders a voyage
 here at this inclement season of the year very unpleasant
 and it must continue to be so until funds
 can be obtained to construct a sawmill -

We have arranged and put in running order
 the small home mill for grinding wheat and
 are now manufacturing an article of course
 Graham flour that answers a very good purpose
 using a ^{hand wire} sieve for separating the course brand.

On Monday Night of the 23rd Dec^r was one of the
 severest wind storms ^{here} that I have experienced in
 a residence of nearly 28 years in Oregon - barns
 and barns were unroofed - a number of
 timber broken and uproot - more than one
 half the entire fencing upon the reservation
 blown down - Post & mail, Pistnut as well as
 morn ^{mail} fence - all roads and trails more
 blockaded with fallen timber - It gave
 the entire agency a very delapidated
 appearance - and to add to the difficulty we
 have no nails with which to repair

An idea may be formed of the severity of the storm
 when many clapboards on roofs of houses and barns
 sloping to the south and west mailed on being



Laid 2 feet and some twenty inches to the weather - broke square off at the tent of the struggle lapsing over them - This was not an isolated case but in numerous instances -

^{outside the agency}
 Many of the settlers cattle were fatally injured by falling timber - great numbers had their horns knocked off - ~~upon the route it has been a furious inland storm -~~ progress -

A great excitement among a portion of the white settlers along Yukon River & Bay became known to me a few days since - upon receiving a petition signed by twelve persons - alleging an combination between the Indians of this Agency Alsea & Grand Bend Agency - for the purpose of making war upon the white settlers - This report has become known to the Indians and has necessarily caused a little ^{among them} excitement. The report is in my opinion without the least shadow of foundation. There is no such combination nor ^{in my opinion} has there been an intimation by any Indian of such a nature.

It is more likely the whim of those having a guilty conscience for wrongs done these people and who apprehend that a retaliation would be lent justice - strengthened and incouraged by those who are looking with longing eyes to the time when the reservation will be thrown open to settlement - The Run with the Modoko Indians being deemed a favorable time to urge

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Monthling Budget
Feb 1872