

# The Madras Pioneer

MADRAS, CROOK COUNTY, OREGON, THURSDAY, JULY 11, 1907.

NO. 47

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## CHARGES FALL FLAT

Officials at Warm Springs Are  
Completely Exonerated

### REPORT OF SUPERVISOR R. PERRY

Rigid Investigation By Trusted Offi-  
cial Fails To Prove Anything  
Wrong On Reservation

Some time ago grave charges were filed against the present administration at the Warm Springs Reservation, and resulted in an investigation being ordered by the Department. A copy of the report made upon that investigation, which completely exonerates the officials of the reservation, has been furnished the Pioneer. At the time these charges were filed considerable publicity was given the matter, and we believe it is but just to the officials that the report be made public. The letter from the Bureau of Indian Affairs covering the report, is published verbatim, with the exception of a few paragraphs relating to some of the more trivial charges which were found untrue, and which are omitted for the purpose of economizing space. The letter follows:

Mr. C. A. RIDDLE,  
Foreman Madras Pioneer,  
Madras, Oregon.

Sir:—Your letter of the 21st ultimo, concerning recent charges made by certain Indians and John T. Dizney, against Superintendent Covey, has been received and as you say you were instrumental in presenting some features of these to the public through the press, and now desire to be informed of the result of Supervisor Perry's investigation, your request will be complied with.

The report of the Supervisor, who is one of the most trusted in the Service of this Office, goes into the details of these charges and he says that Mr. Dizney is largely responsible for them, in that he has encouraged the Indians to bring their grievances to him and to hatch grievances when they had none; has sympathized with them and lost no opportunity to attack the administration of the Superintendent.

The Supervisor reviews in connection with the evidence, the sworn statement of Mr. Dizney, made soon after his resignation as blacksmith, and says that inasmuch as these matters have been in the public press, he has investigated them more closely than the facts brought out ordinarily would warrant. He continues:

"The complaint that the shop windows were broken answers itself, it being the custom for mechanics, with their details, to keep their shops in good repair. The blacksmith should have put in new glass. He complains of the dirt floor and thinks the shop was unsanitary, but most blacksmith-shops have dirt floors and can be kept in a sanitary condition if the occupant endeavors so to keep it. His request for tools as cited in complaint was made to a former Superintendent, who is not at present in the Service. The lack of funds probably prevented the purchase of tools and sometimes of material. A Superintendent is not able to stretch the purchasing price of a dollar.

"The affiant states that he thinks most of the milk was used by the clerk and not paid for; the records show that the clerk paid for all that he received. It is stated that the minister had an arrangement to get fresh meat from the school; this obtained under a former Superintendent and the privilege was denied the minister by the present incumbent.

"Willie Hunt and John Polk denied, under oath and in presence of Mr. Dizney, that they saw Clerk Bishop take bundles from the commissary to his house on the night of March 16, 1905, as is alleged, or on any other night or that they told Mr. Dizney that they had seen such.

"His statement that the Superintendent and Clerk generally guard inspecting officials in order that only such parties as the Superintendent desires are able to see such officials, did not hold good in any case. I rode to the Agency with Mr. Dizney, invited and urged him to be present during the entire investigation, saw all Indians and whites and gave everybody an opportunity to be heard. I find also, that Mr. Dizney and others knew that Supervisor Charles L. Davis was visiting the reservation in the capacity of an inspecting official.

"The allegation that Clerk Bishop charged the Government with the expense of a trip to The Dalles and at the

same time required the employes who were taken out, to pay the same, about July 1, 1901, is without foundation as the records show that no expense voucher was turned in covering such a trip."

Mr. Dizney alleges that when he asked the Superintendent to be allowed to lease one-half acre of unallotted land, in connection with the prospective contract of carrying the mail from Madras to the Agency, he received no reply; the Supervisor says that bids were being received by the Post Office Department and Mr. Dizney was bidding against an Indian, therefore under the circumstances, the Superintendent was justified in the course he pursued.

The Supervisor says that he cannot find that the Superintendent, or any of his employes, have been cruel, abusive or harsh to pupils, that the children informed him that they were happy at the school and treated kindly by the employes. That in the case of the punishment of the large boy, cited by Mr. Dizney, the Supervisor thinks the punishment was no more severe than he deserved, that the same boy went to the Chemawa School a year ago, was granted permission to visit his home to see his people and now refuses to return.

Referring to Mr. Dizney's affidavit that thirty-five or forty tons of hay were harvested during the first quarter of 1906 but that the Superintendent took up on his papers only eight tons, and that he noticed this discrepancy when the Superintendent appeared before him to swear to the account, the Supervisor says that upon investigating this matter with Mr. Dizney present, he found that Superintendent Covey relieved Superintendent Kirk July 29, 1905, that Kirk took up seven tons in First Fraction and Covey twenty-seven and one-eighth tons in the Second Fraction of said Quarter, making in all thirty-four and one-eighth tons. That these abstracts were not sworn to before Mr. Dizney, but he did sign them certifying to their correctness. He also signed and certified to the correctness of expenditures after same had been prepared in the Office from lists furnished by him, but now states that the expenditures were made up in the Office to suit the convenience of the clerk.

The statement that Mr. Dizney resigned as blacksmith because of his fear of bodily harm, the Supervisor says does not seem reasonable in view of the fact that Dizney, at the time, was bidding on a mail contract, which, if secured (and it was) would require him to spend six nights out of each week at Warm Springs.

Mr. Dizney also alleges that the Superintendent requires horsebuyers to pay the money for Indian horses to the trader and that the Indians are required to take part of their pay in merchandise, and he cites the case of Willie Kachia as having been required to take \$5 in trade. The Supervisor says no such condition exists, that Willie Kachia informed him that he took \$5 in trade at his own request; that buyers have been leaving funds with the trader, and after all disputes over brands are settled, each Indian is given a check covering the amount due him; that the statement that Mr. Bishop, the clerk, wanted some of the buildings to be burned, is without proof, that it is denied by Mr. Bishop and the statement, taken in the light of other charges made by Mr. Dizney, is not worthy of credence.

The claim that the Superintendent has kept in school children who are not in suitable physical condition, he says is not true, although one or two pupils have died soon after leaving school, but that not having a physician in whom he had confidence, some time ago one was called from Madras who examined the children said to be affected with tuberculosis, who reported that they were not; that the pupils of the school seemed to him to be in fair health, notwithstanding the fact that the tribe is predisposed to consumption.

The Supervisor says there has been no misapplication of funds made by Superintendent Covey, and that all expenditures have been made in strict accordance with the regulations and under proper authority from the Indian Office. That he was unable to secure evidence that the Superintendent requires his employes to serve him as lackeys and that the Indians are made servants of, nor does it appear that the Superintendent governs as a tyrant, but that he is strict and exacting both with employes and Indians.

The Supervisor says: "The Judges of the Indian Court and other Indians complain that the Superintendent has allowed certain cases to be taken into the courts while it is their desire that all cases be tried in the Indian Court. One was that of a son of one of the Judges, punished by order of State Court by imprisonment for breaking into the girls' dormitory; the father desired to have this case tried before himself and other Indian Judges. Many of the complaints of Indians were based on similar grounds: They seem much

(Concluded on inside page.)

## BIG CROWD CELEBRATES

Nothing Occurred to Mar The  
Pleasure of the Day

### MADRAS FITTINGLY OBSERVES FOURTH

Large Attendance, Interesting Pro-  
gram and Fine Weather Unite To  
Make Memorable Occasion

Madras entertained the biggest crowd ever seen here, at her Independence Day celebration, the adjoining territory and neighboring communities turning out en masse to participate in the festivities, and the big crowd, a good program for the day's sports, and fair weather united to make the occasion one long to be remembered by those who were present. The day's fun began early, with a salute fired at daybreak, and from that hour on the day was given up to the celebration of the Nation's birthday. At half past ten in the forenoon the parade was formed on Main Street, two score of pretty little girls in holiday attire, a "batallion" of vaqueros on gaily bedecked ponies, local fraternal orders in their uniforms, and several floats, leading the crowd to the grounds where the morning's exercises were held. At the grounds a large pavillion had been built for the accommodation of the crowd, and here an interesting program of patriotic songs, the reading of the Declaration of Independence by Miss Winnie Kidder, and a very able address by Mr. G. Springer of Culver entertained them during the forenoon. A game of baseball had been announced for the afternoon between the Indians of the Warm Springs Reservation and the Madras team, but as the Indians failed to appear, a game was arranged between the Madras boys and a team composed of Lamonta and Culver ball-tossers who were present, and the crowd was treated to a sample of the national game "as it should be played." The score card was lost, but Madras won the game with a few runs to spare.

After the ball game two horse races and a number of novelty footraces were pulled off, the crowds lining both sides of Main Street, which was cleared for a straight away race course. Winfred Osborn won both horse races, the first being for ponies only, and the second being a free-for-all. On his own pony, Winfred took both races easily. Lyman McCord, who is somewhat of a sprinter in spite of his avoirdupois, took the fat man's race in a canter, and to prove that it wasn't an accident, coupled up with Tom Tucker and took the wheelbarrow race, which was run on the "ride and tie" principle. Russell Clark won the 100-yard footrace, and Victor Burris won the 200-yard race, while Archie Isham and Russell Clark won the three-legged race. The boys race was won by Marion Long.

In the evening a grand ball was given at the Sanford Hall, where nearly a hundred couples enjoyed one of the best dances ever given in Madras. The music was good, and to the

(Concluded on inside page.)

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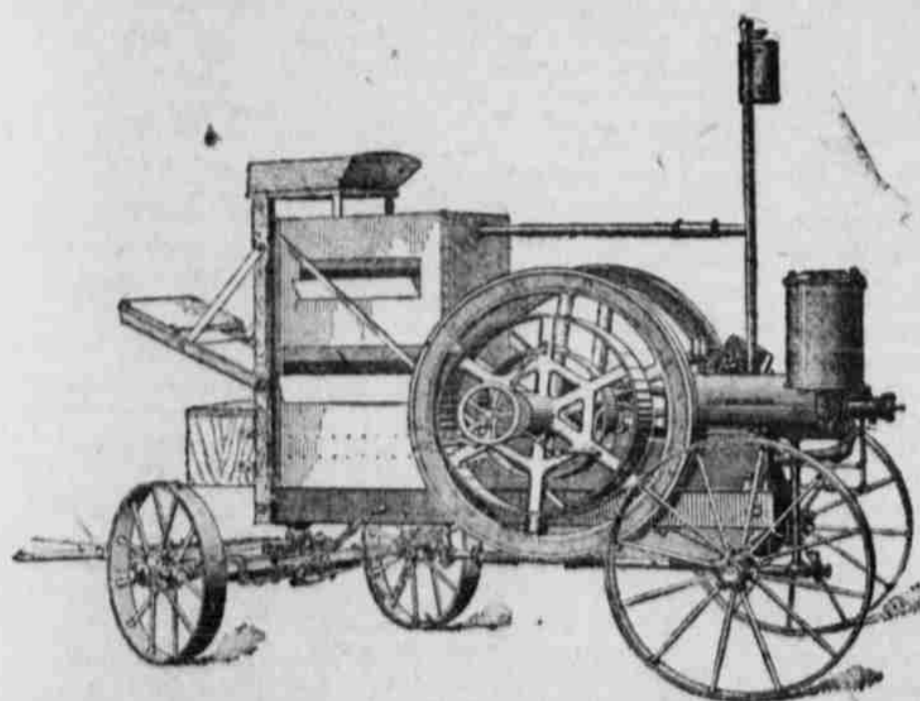
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