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ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR

THE YEAR 1886.

ARIZONA PIONEERS HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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The lumber and hardware materials furnished by the Department in June, to aid and assist such worthy Indians who expressed a desire to build better and more comfortable houses for themselves, provides one of the most encouraging steps looking to the advancement of this people. Of the 22 stone houses thus to be built 12 have been completed and the others under course of construction, the work being done by the Indians, with the exception of such assistance as the agency employés are able to give aside from their regular duties. The erection of these houses has caused many others to ask for materials to enable them to construct buildings of like character, and to abandon their hogans of sticks and mud. This is a good sign, which should be taken advantage of, and sufficient appropriations made to carry such improvements forward, to the end of changing the migratory character of the Navajo to that of a local and permanent habitation. The 22 houses mentioned are built of stone, one story, and containing two to three rooms. The actual cost to the Government was $930.40.

I desire here to say that in point of great economy all the lumber and shingles required at this agency should be sawed in the pine forests within the reservation, which could be done by a portable saw-mill at a cost not to exceed $5 a thousand, while lumber otherwise purchased and brought in costs from $35 to $60 per thousand.

With the exception of the commission of a few minor offenses, mostly petty thefts, the past year was marked by general peace and quiet within the boundaries of the reserve. But as between Indians and white persons along the borders frequent troubles have occurred, mostly growing out of disputes concerning stock and water; and in two instances, where white men were grossly to blame, threatened serious retaliation was only averted by the prompt interference of the agent. One was the killing of an Indian by a cowboy named Cooper, without cause, at Tanners' Springs, just outside of the south line of the reservation, in November last. This case was settled and quieted by my predecessor, but the guilty party was permitted to escape trial or punishment for the crime. The other was the shooting and the killing of an Indian at the town of Gallup, on the railroad, by a cowboy named Davis, on the 22d of July last. The Indians assembled in force, threatening to destroy the town. Upon the request of the citizens, by telegraph, I went to the scene of the threatened trouble, and by the aid of troops sent from Fort Wingate the matter was peaceably and satisfactorily adjusted by the payment of civil damages to the family of the dead Indian, but saving the right to prosecute the murderer under the laws. Davis, upon a preliminary examination, was acquitted. So bitter is the feeling of cattlemen and cowboys having herds and ranches near the reservation towards the Indians that such troubles and crimes are likely to occur at any time. And it is always the Indian who gets hurt. It is difficult to convict a white man for an offense committed against an Indian in the localities I have mentioned.

The threatened troubles between the Indians and white settlers over disputed rights of possession to certain lands along the San Juan River last spring, by the aid of an assistant sent to quiet the Indians, and the subsequent restoration of the disputed lands to the reservation by executive order of the President was also peaceably adjusted.

The last annual census, taken in July last, shows the entire population as follows;

Males over eighteen	3,322
Females over fourteen	6,344
School children between six and sixteen	6,439
Total number of males and females as numerically enrolled	17,358
Increase since last census	164

The agency industrial boarding school is in a prosperous condition. The principal and employés are wide awake to a sense of their several duties. The pupils in attendance number 45, an increase of 20 since last report. The prospect is flattering to increasing the number to 75 or 80 by the close of the current fiscal year. As a universal rule these Indians have a great aversion to sending their children to school, and it is only by means of strategy and incessant efforts by way of persuasion by the agent and teachers that a child is secured at all.

More attention will be given to instruction in the industrial branch of education this year than last; carpenter-work, blacksmithing, and gardening will be taught the boys by a competent instructor, and needle-work, cooking, and housekeeping the girls.

Since taking charge of the agency, the 1st of April last, fully one-half of the tribe has visited the agent to become acquainted with him and to meet in council to speak of their wants. A very friendly feeling appears to prevail toward the agent and the Government. They are a people who, to a very great extent, maintain and support themselves in their limited way under many disadvantages. The generous and liberal hand of fifty-five millions of a free and enlightened people is only needed to raise them to a higher plane of usefulness.

Respectfully submitted.

S. S. PATTERSON,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

NAVAJO AGENCY, NEW MEXICO,
September 1, 1886.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following as my annual report concerning the Moquis Indians under this agency. The census of this tribe, taken June 30 last, shows the population to be:

Number of males over eighteen years of age	704
Number of females over fourteen years of age	703
Number of school children between the ages of six and sixteen	512
Total males and females	1,919

The Moquis are a singular people. For three hundred years they have lived on high mountain tops, from 500 to 700 feet above the bottom lands of the surrounding country, in seven villages, their houses built of stone, often one upon the other, to the height of three stories, reached by means of ladders. They carry all water, fuel, and subsistence on their heads and by burros up the steep sides of the mountain.

Their farm lands lie in the valleys beneath, of which they cultivated last year 1,000 acres, raising 1,000 bushels of wheat, 5,000 bushels of corn, 200 bushels of onions, 50 bushels of other vegetables, besides a large quantity of melons. They have peach orchards, but little or no crop this year. Owing to the dryness of the season their corn crop is also short.

The twenty wagons and other farming-tools issued them are being put to good use, and more are wanted. A desire on the part of some to cultivate more land and build houses near their farms is growing upon them.

The most important and notable events in connection with the future improvement of this people were developed at a large gathering or council of the chiefs and head men, held by the agent in the fore part of August. At this council they expressed a strong desire that a school be established at their villages for their benefit, and promised in positive terms to send sixty to seventy of their children, as soon as opened. Whether they will stand to their promise in this I am unable to say, but after seeing and speaking with a large number of the heads of families in five of the villages, I am favorably inclined to the belief that they are sincere in what they say respecting the support of the school.

The other item mentioned was the expressed desire of eight Indians with their families to move down from their mountain tops into the valleys, provided they could have assistance from the Government by way of lumber, doors, and windows to enable them to build other houses there, and being too poor to do this without such aid. A movement of this kind once commenced would no doubt be gradually followed by others, until perhaps their entire population would eventually abandon their old dwellings altogether. This and the matter of establishment of a school should receive prompt and earnest attention of the Government.

Nothing has occurred during the year to break the usual peace and good order of the tribe, save the loosening of a horse now and then, taken by some Navajoes; but in every case of this kind the property has been returned to the owner.

Respectfully submitted.

S. S. PATTERSON,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

PUEBLO INDIAN AGENCY,
Santa Fé, N. Mex., August 27, 1886.

SIR: In compliance with circular letter of July 1, 1886, I have the honor to submit my second annual report.

During the past year I have visited all the pueblos under the control of this agency except Zuñi. I found the majority of the Indians in the different pueblos engaged in agricultural pursuits, and taking good care of their stock, which are their principal means of support.

The pueblos situated on the valley of the Rio Grande have this year suffered a great deal on account of the overflow of the river, but more so the pueblos of Santo Domingo and Isleta. In the former the river carried away both of their ancient churches built over two hundred years ago when they were conquered by the Spaniards, and also about one-third of the houses of the pueblo proper, and in the latter the Rio Grande overflowed the wheat and corn fields, and the vineyards, causing serious damages to the former and partly destroying forever the latter. The overflow of the river in Isleta was also caused in part by the construction of the railroad grade and bridge over the river near Isleta of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railroad. The attention of the railroad company has been called to this fact by the Indi-

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