

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

1894.

WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1895.

support of the mission, Mr. Snider has accepted employment with Mr. Vincent, in connection with the development of water on the reservation, pending the appropriation of sufficient funds to support the work.

Mrs. M. L. Eldridge continued in her excellent work on the San Juan River, administering to and caring for the sick and assisting the Indians in every possible way. In one instance she saved the life of a woman who had been given up to die by the Indian medicine men. The benefits of her work are evident in many ways. Some of the most desperate characters of the tribe who have come under her influence have developed into steady, hard-working men. She has recently accepted the position of field matron, and will continue her work at the same place.

**Road making and repairs.**—The roads of the reservation are generally very good, and only such changes and repairs have been made as were necessary at crossings of arroyos, etc.

**Court of Indian offenses.**—The service performed by the members of the court has been very satisfactory.

**Allotments.**—No allotments have been made on this reservation.

**Irrigation.**—Work has been commenced on the development of water, construction of irrigating ditches, etc., but is progressing so very slowly that there is danger of the appropriation being consumed in salaries and the Navajoes being left little or no better off than at present.

**Events.**—So far as known only one murder was committed by the Navajoes during the year. Mr. D. M. Smith, a storekeeper, living near Defiance Station, on the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, was murdered by a party of Navajoes. The murder is supposed to have been the result of a drunken gambling row.

The event of the year for the Navajoes, and the source of many of the changes in them for the better, was a trip of a party of chiefs and headmen to Chicago in October. Funds for the expenses of the trip were raised by private subscription. Mr. Herbert Welsh, secretary of the Indian Rights Association, raised \$700; Bishop Kendrick, of the Episcopal Church of New Mexico and Arizona, contributed \$100, and the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Episcopal Church of Westchester, N. Y., contributed \$100. Through the efforts of Mr. George T. Nicholson, general passenger agent, Mr. W. F. White, traffic manager, and Mr. John J. Byrne, assistant traffic manager of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway, and the kindness of Prof. Putnam, of the Department of Ethnology, the party was permitted to camp in the grounds of the exposition, giving the Indians a great advantage in seeing the fair. This was enhanced by the marked courtesy of all the officials and exhibitors, who rendered every assistance toward giving the Indians all instruction and opportunity possible to learn and see, wherever it could be done. The benefit of this trip has been far greater than anticipated. An incident of the trip will illustrate of what benefit this trip was, aside from the educational value to the chiefs and through them to the tribe, awakening a desire to be better and more like the whites. Soon after leaving Kansas City the interpreter told me that the chiefs wanted to speak to me. They commenced the conversation by saying that they saw now that they were mistaken. They had supposed there were no white people in that part of the country. Their ancestors told them that they had been all over that country and that there were no white people there. This accounts in a most natural way for the theory prevalent among the Navajoes up to this time that they were more numerous than the whites and could whip them in war. It was only natural that these ignorant people should believe their parents until convinced to the contrary by their own observation.

**Recommendations.**—The purchase of a liberal amount of seeds, wagons, plows, and fence wire; the employment of at least 8 additional farmers next season, to enable the Indians to start after the development of the water; the Government control of the trading stores; the purchase of Navajo blankets for all Indian schools, to give the Navajoes a profitable market for their wool; the erection and maintenance of two sawmills on the northeastern and northwestern portions of the reservation. It is also earnestly recommended that the boarding school at this agency be put on a footing with nonreservation schools, given such equipment and attractions as will make it the pride of the children and their parents. If this is done promptly there will soon be an attendance of over 1,000 pupils.

The time will soon come when this tribe, which is rapidly increasing, must spread out more and more among the whites. The people are now showing a strong inclination to have their children prepared for this time, and the Government must be responsible if they are not met and encouraged.

#### MOQUIS.

**Condition.**—There is little, indeed no, improvement in the condition of the Moquis in the past year.

**Habits.**—The plan of building houses in the valleys for these Indians, with a view to persuading them to abandon their overcrowded pueblo dwellings on the high

mesas, does not seem to be a general mode of proceeding, and it is necessary to urge them to abandon

**Disposition.**—The Moquis are very friendly and well educated. They are well through the

**Education.**—The attendance at the schools averages about 100 pupils a year, and the attendance at the schools averages

**Missionary work.**—The missionaries have acquired a good knowledge of the

**Mr. Curtis.**—The second mesa.

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mesas, does not seem to be as successful as desired. Many of the houses built in the valleys are unoccupied the greater portion of the year. Their habits, customs, and general mode of living are so intimately connected with the conditions of life on the mesas that it is doubtful whether anything less than compulsion will cause them to abandon their pueblo dwellings.

**Disposition.**—With the exception of a portion of the Oreiba village the Moquis are very friendly to the whites and appear anxious to learn and have their children educated. The so-called hostile element in the Oreiba village is being overcome through the influence of the Mennonite missionary, Mr. R. H. Voth.

**Education.**—The boarding school at Keams Canyon has been maintained during the year, and two day schools—one at Oreiba village and one at the first mesa. The attendance at the boarding school was not as large as formerly of Moquis, there being about 15 Navajoes included in the enrollment. The attendance at the day schools averaged about 30, with an enrollment of about 33.

**Missionary work.**—Rev. R. H. Voth, of the Mennonite Church, located at Oreiba village, has acquired a very good knowledge of the Moqui language and seems to have acquired a good and strong influence over the inhabitants of the village.

Mr. Curtis P. Coe, of the Baptist Church, has commenced missionary work at the second mesa.

**Allotments.**—Lands were surveyed with a view to allotting them in severalty to the Moquis. The survey was completed and report made by Special Allotting Agent Mayhugh. It has been the custom for years for these people to cultivate their land in common. They plant their corn and other crops in the shifting sands of the valleys, a patch here and a patch there, wherever the sand may be for the season. Owing to this shifting nature of their planting grounds, it would be almost impossible to maintain any allotment to individuals; and the Moquis, appreciating this, forwarded a petition to the Department praying that the allotments be not confirmed and that they be permitted to continue their custom of planting and cultivating their lands. The petition was indorsed by a number of persons familiar with the customs and lands of the Moquis and interested in their welfare. Apparently no action has been taken, either on the allotments or on the petition. It is believed that the best interests of the tribe would be promoted by granting the petition.

**Recommendations.**—The superintendent of the school at Keams Canyon is practically the agent of the Moquis, being intrusted with all disbursements for the tribe, the work of building, etc., being under his supervision. He or some one else living near the villages should be the agent of the tribe, or the agent at this agency should be furnished sufficient clerical force to enable him to attend to all the business of the tribe and make frequent visits to their villages.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

E. H. PLUMMER,

*First Lieutenant, Tenth Infantry, Acting Indian Agent.*

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS:

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NAVAJO SCHOOL.

NAVAJO AGENCY,

*Fort Defiance, Ariz., August 27, 1894.*

Sir: I have the honor to submit the following report of the Navajo boarding school for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1894:

**Attendance.**—At the opening of the school, on September 1, 15 pupils were present, and at the close of the school year the enrollment was 200, which is an increase of about 100 per cent over any previous year, and all pupils were brought in by their parents without solicitation.

**Accommodations.**—The capacity of the school is 100, so that it will be readily understood that the school was very much crowded. There was not sufficient dormitory room, though all rooms available were converted into dormitories, leaving the boys with no play or sitting room, and then there were 3 sleeping in a single bed and 4 and 5 in a double bed for a greater part of the year.

The bathing facilities were poor, there being two tubs in which to bathe 145 boys; but now tubs are now being put in, which will give good bathrooms to both girls and boys.

The question of clothing was a difficult one, as the clothing furnished was poor in quality and of unsuitable sizes; many of the suits were cut over to fit the boys, yet it was difficult to have them appear neat. The supply of hats and shoes gave out before the end of the school year.

**Health.**—The health of the pupils was good for the greater part of the year, with the exception of a few cases of sore throats and sore eyes and one or two contagious diseases. The latter cases we were obliged to return to their huts or hogans for lack of proper accommodations in the school, as there was no room available in which to isolate the patients to prevent the spread of the diseases.

Toward the latter part of the year we had a number of cases of pneumonia, low fever, and bowel trouble, and that no deaths occurred is due solely, I believe, to the constant and excellent care given by the school employes as a whole.

**Educational.**—The schoolrooms were small and very crowded, one teacher having for several months over 80 pupils; but a fourth teacher was employed in March, which lightened the work, the girls' play room being fitted up for a schoolroom. But notwithstanding the crowded schoolrooms and the fact that about 150 of the pupils had never been in school before, much progress was made in English speaking and the elementary branches.