

SIXTIETH ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

TO THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

1891.



WASHINGTON:

GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE,

1891.

The services of the Indian police have, I believe, generally given satisfaction, having proved very valuable in a number of instances. I think the presence of a well-organized police force has a very good effect upon these people, serving to discourage misconduct which, without the lawful force to bear upon it, would finally produce disorder.

Respecting the allotment of lands there is some diversity of opinion among the Indians. Some of the more advanced would preserve their lands should they be allotted to them in severalty and might do well, but the major portion are regardless of the future and live only for the present time. These would sell their lands at the first opportunity, would soon squander their money, and would have to live upon the charities of their friends or that of their more wealthy neighbors.

The sawmill is located in the finest kind of timber, with abundance of water for all necessary purposes, and plenty of good grass during the summer months is found for the logging team adjacent to the mill. What is most needed is a good engine, of about 20 to 55 horse power.

There is now being erected a parsonage and church by the Methodists, and the Ladies Home-Missionary Society of New York has selected sufficient land on the San Juan to build both a church and parsonage for the Navajos. We have had the past six months' services in the schoolhouse by the Rev. Wilton.

The agency buildings have been repaired to some extent, but many are in bad condition. The completion of the new school building and the erection of the laundry building, together with the work in the new water supply, have consumed a considerable portion of time, so much so that I could not give the needed attention to these buildings that they should have received.

The Indians are gradually abandoning their old customs; dancing is diminishing, and the heathenish yearly ceremony called the "hish kohn" dance is waning and will soon be a thing of the past. There is a marked increase in the number of Indians who are adopting civilized dress.

I cherish the hope that unless some hidden or unforeseen influence swerves the Navajos from their present course they will continue to grow better; but much is to be feared from the encroachments of the white man, and I would not be surprised if in time the Nez Percés and Sioux affairs were to be repeated on a larger scale with the Navajos. These people will require the very best management in the future. The annual statistical report of this agency is herewith inclosed.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID L. SHIPLEY,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF MOQUI SUB-AGENCY.

MOQUI PUEBLO, ARIZ., August 31, 1891.

In compliance with instructions received from your office, I have the honor to submit this my first annual report for the Moqui Pueblo Indians for the year ending June 30, 1891.

The Moqui Reservation contains 2,250,000 acres. While it probably has more tillable land than the Navajo Reservation, it has not much more than the people require, for the Moqui are as a rule industrious and raise considerable grain. They have not much stock as compared with the Navajos, but are better farmers. They have their year's supply of corn, beans, etc., on hand, piled up in some of their rooms. There are 3 mesas upon which they have built their adobe and stone houses, and they are piled one upon the other for 3 stories; some of them can only be entered by means of a ladder and through the roof.

The first mesa contains the villages of Tewa, Gi-touna-wi, and Wa-ci-pi. The second, Mo-shung-ne-vi, Cipoliva, and Gi-mok-ki-pi. The third, Oribi, is still west of these, about 14 miles, and contains the largest number of people.

There is a fine Indian school of 104 Moqui children at Keams' cañon, and its management can not be excelled, but the buildings are poor and not sufficient to accommodate the pupils properly. It is the intention to erect new buildings. The Government paid \$10,000 for the claim and present buildings. There are only about 30 acres suitable for farming adjacent to this school, and that overflows badly. During the summer the additional farmer has completed about 15 new houses for these Indians in the valleys.

There is much to be said to their credit. They are kind and not quarrelsome, and so far as they understand right from wrong are inclined to follow the right. I have observed but one of their dances, termed the "snake dance," and I can not but think

it is one of the evils that lie in the way of their civilization. The dark superstitions and profane ceremonies of a system as gross as that of darkest Africa still infects them with its poison, which, unless suppressed, must sap their life blood.

The history of these people up to the time of the Spanish conquest is almost a blank. They have a few traditions, but nothing that can be relied on. The ruins in the northern portion, and the remains of ancient pottery found in large quantities not only near these ruins, but on all the plains, prove conclusively that they are the remnant of a race once powerful and populous.

The accompanying statistical report is, much of it, based on estimates. I found it almost impossible to secure correct information concerning the number of sheep and horses owned by the Indians, and the amount of corn and other produce raised, as they possess no idea about these matters themselves, and I had no way of ascertaining these facts. I am quite sure the statements made are not exaggerated.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

DAVID L. SHIPLEY,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF PUEBLO AGENCY.

PUEBLO AGENCY, N. Mex., August 26, 1891.

Sir: In compliance with instructions I have the honor to submit my second annual report of affairs at this, the Pueblo Agency.

As in past years the Pueblo Indians still pursue their peaceful avocations, chiefly the cultivation of their lands. During the past year new ground has been broken in several of the villages and sown in corn and oats. They are also turning their attention to the sowing of alfalfa for hay. Altogether, the prospect for an abundant harvest this year is very favorable. Though slowly, they are adopting and using modern tools for tilling the soil. At Isleta they have purchased, without aid from the Government, a mowing machine, and some of the Indians of this pueblo have built substantial wire fences inclosing their lands. At Cochiti the Indians have built a wire fence inclosing the bottom lands on each side of the river of about 6 miles in length.

I regret to say, however, that in my opinion, the Pueblo tribe is decreasing in numbers. Smallpox and diphtheria have been prevalent among them the past winter. These diseases have been particularly fatal among the Indians of Acoma and Taos, where large numbers of children and even grown men and women have been carried away by them. The number of deaths in some of the villages I believe exceeds that of births.

There are the following day schools under the management of the Bureau of Catholic Indian Missions: At Acoma (Acoma village), near the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad, about 165 miles southwest of agency office; at Palmate, a Laguna village, 160 miles southwest of agency office; at Isleta, 12 miles south of Albuquerque, 97 miles south from this office; at Santo Domingo, 45 miles southwest, and at Jemez, 65 miles west of agency office; at San Juan, 33 miles north, and at Taos, 85 miles northwest. The same Bureau has also an industrial boarding school at Santa Fé and an industrial boarding school for girls at Bernalillo, a small town about 68 miles southwest from agency headquarters.

The Board of Home Missions of the Presbyterian Church are conducting day schools at Saama of Laguna, 160 miles southwest of agency office; one at Isleta; one at Jemez, and one at Zuni. This board have also an industrial boarding school at Albuquerque.

Another industrial boarding school is being conducted at Santa Fé by the University of New Mexico.

The Government carries on a large industrial boarding school at Albuquerque, N. Mex., under a bonded superintendent, William B. Creager. In this school such industries are taught as carpentry, farming, cooking, baking, shoe and harness making, tailoring, sewing, laundry work, and general housework. At Santa Fé a similar school was opened last year under the superintendency of Prof. S. M. Carr. The attendance has reached 75, and during the present year it is my opinion it will more than double that number.

As far as I am able to judge these schools have been well managed and are doing good work.

There are 4 Government day schools, as follows: One at Laguna, 1 at McCarty (Acoma Village), 1 at Cochiti, and 1 at Santa Clara, the last three having been opened in the course of the last fiscal year.