

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1896.

IN FIVE VOLUMES.

VOLUME II.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1897.

exhausted and the benevolent designs of Congress have not been accomplished. No work of any value was done by the late superintendent of irrigation, and another appropriation, to be honestly and intelligently expended, will be necessary.

On the 19th of December, 1895, I granted a mining lease for ten years of one square mile of nonagricultural land in the Carrizo Mountains to Mr. John H. P. Voorhies, of Denver, Colo. This lease has been approved by the Department, but no work has yet been done under it, although a working party is now on the ground. If the existence of valuable mineral in paying quantity should be shown, it will be my object to make as many other leases as I can with advantage to the Indians.

The mission hospital, under the superintendence of Miss Eliza W. Thackera, is now nearly completed and will be admirably adapted for its purpose. Miss Thackera has done much good in mission work and in nursing and otherwise caring for the sick during the year.

The field matrons have arduous duties on this reservation, being often obliged to ride long distances in inclement weather. Mrs. Mary L. Eldridge and Miss Laura E. Smiley have performed these duties uncomplainingly and with great fidelity.

The schools on the reservation have been well attended, and the three new ones to be established will be filled without difficulty, as the Navajoes have a due appreciation of the importance of education.

No grave crimes have been committed upon the reservation, and only a few cases have come up for trial before the agent. The Indian judges have performed their duties with impartiality and have been of great assistance to the agent in settling disputes and giving good advice to the Indians.

The Indian police is very effective and the members are zealous in the discharge of their duties.

No Navajoes have yet taken up land in severalty.

MOQUI INDIANS.

The schools on this reservation are well attended, and your recent orders requiring all children to be sent to school must be followed by the erection of more school buildings.

The prisoners from Oraibi who were confined at Alcatraz Island were released last September upon giving a promise to obey all orders they might receive from the proper authorities. They have behaved themselves very well since, but they refuse to send their children to school, assigning religious scruples as a reason for their not doing so.

The Mennonite mission at Oraibi has been continued during the year under the charge of Rev. H. R. Voth, who has gained the confidence of the people and is working with intelligence for the accomplishment of his purpose. There has been a mission at the first mesa until recently, but work there has been suspended.

No action has yet been taken upon my repeated recommendations that the allotments of land to Navajo and Moqui Indians on the Moenkopi wash be confirmed. These Indians should be given title to their lands without further delay. Continual disputes with the Mormons living in that country, growing out of unsettled claims of water rights, have arrayed the Indians against the whites, and there is much bitter feeling.

Very respectfully,

CONSTANT WILLIAMS,
Captain, Seventh Infantry, Acting Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NAVAJO SCHOOL.

FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZ., July 4, 1896.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following report of the Navajo boarding school for the fiscal year 1896:

Attendance.—The children were late entering school. They were allowed to remain home and enjoy the corn crop. All pupils were brought by parents without solicitation. As a rule, on entering school they remained until vacation, and seemed happy and contented. Very few received permission to go home on a leave of absence during the year. The enrollment for the year was 130. Five were transferred to Santa Fé normal school, Santa Fé, N. Mex., 7 to Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kans., 2 died, and several were withdrawn.

English speaking.—A great deal has been accomplished in this direction. But not as much as I hoped we might. It will require a united effort on the part of employees to break up the Navajo