

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1898.

INDIAN AFFAIRS.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.
1898.

MOQUI INDIANS.

Last year the Moquis had very good crops, and, from present indications, they will have better ones this year.

The school plant at Kearns Canyon is old and the buildings are in bad order. It would be a waste of money to attempt any repairs here, and I have recommended that a new plant be built about 2 miles below the present site.

There are two missions among the Moquis; one at the Middle Mesa, with Misses Watkins and Collins in charge, and the other at Oraibi, with Rev. H. R. Voth in charge.

As stated in my last report, the allotments of land to Indians on the Moen-kopi Wash were confirmed by the Department. This was in August, 1897, and all parties concerned, Indians and whites, were duly notified that the lands in dispute had been awarded to the Indians, and that the white claimants must refrain from molesting the Indians. The whites apparently acquiesced, and I thought we should have no more trouble; but when planting time came last spring one of the Mormon claimants reasserted his claims to part of the allotted lands and refused to permit the Indians to plant there. When this was reported to me, I directed the farmer in that district to take possession of the land and to use force, if necessary. In compliance with my orders, he took a force of Indians and planted this land. He was then arrested and tried before a justice of the peace and sentenced to pay a fine of \$300 and to be imprisoned for six months. The case has been appealed and will be disposed of next spring. In the meantime the Secretary of the Interior had been induced to suspend his order approving the allotments and to send out an inspector to investigate the whole matter. The result of this investigation has not yet been communicated to me.

I inclose the usual statistics and the report of the superintendent of the Navajo boarding school.

Very respectfully,

CONSTANT WILLIAMS,

Major, Seventeenth Infantry, Acting Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

REPORT OF SUPERINTENDENT OF NAVAJO SCHOOLS.

FORT DEFIANCE, ARIZ., June 30, 1898.

MADAM: I have the honor to submit the following report of the Navajo boarding school for fiscal year 1898:

Attendance.—During the year 54 girls and 131 boys were enrolled. At the close of the year 50 girls and 108 boys were present. However, as shown by quarterly reports, most pupils were enrolled after the 1st of October. At one time there were over 100 beginners attending school, many former pupils not returning. From this statement it will be easily seen that the work for employees has been unusually difficult. Few ran away; none during the latter part of the year. But few went home to visit parents, except within the week following Christmas and occasionally one on a Saturday or Sunday.

Nearly all girls attending school were small, only three being enrolled over 14 years of age. It seems to be against the principles of Navajoes to send large girls, partly because girls marry young and are sold by parents.

Schoolroom work.—Great stress has been placed upon the importance of English speaking. Teachers have had directions to make all lessons and recitations in some measure language lessons. Attention has been given to the fact that learning to read in English does not greatly help in learning to speak that language, only inasmuch as the eye is made to assist the ear, the theory followed being if one learns to talk he must do so by talking. Mechanical solutions, involving large numbers, have been discouraged, but making change, actual measurements, and problems within the reach of a little Indian's understanding have been advised. Songs have been committed to memory when the words were senseless things to many pupils, but ordinarily other factors of the intellect besides memory have been appealed to.

Great progress has undoubtedly been made. With a majority of the school beginners, not knowing how to stand, walk, eat, and to dress themselves well, the progress at first was slow and discouraging, but the last half of the year rapid advancement was made.

Industrial work.—The Navajo children are the best of workers. This fact has been attested to by a number of employees and others from other schools and agencies. Though we have a small garden, probably 4 acres, the boys have been kept busy repairing buildings, cutting and drawing wood, doing heavy laundry work, and assisting to keep their own building in proper order. The machines in the laundry were entirely too heavy to be operated by little girls. We have an engine which, I am credibly informed, needs little repairing. If apparatus for washing by steam could be supplied, much more profitable work could be found for boys outside of the laundry. A general utility shop is nearly ready for use, where each of the larger boys should spend part of his time, as they take great interest in any kind of mechanical work.

In the industrial work for both boys and girls the practical side has been kept in view. Employees have been asked to consider each day's work a language lesson as well as a practical lesson in useful handicraft. A decided improvement in language, manners, neatness, and ability to do work well has been evident. The girls deserve special mention in this respect, having become the best of little housekeepers, as well as being skillful in ironing, sewing, mending, and in doing kitchen and dining-room work.

The early part of the year the sewing room was more like a manufactory than an industrial schoolroom. This evil could not be avoided, as little was on hand wherewith to clothe children

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