

REPORT

OF THE

COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

FOR

THE YEAR 1865.

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WASHINGTON:  
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE.  
1865.

fearful, however, that some of the Pueblos, as well as many of the poorer class of the people of the country, will suffer considerably before the next year's crops are gathered. \* \* \*

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

JOHN WARD, *Indian Agent.*

FELIPE DELGADO, Esq.,

*Superintendent Indian Affairs, Santa Fé, N. M.*

No. 40 B.

MY DEAR SIR: You have requested of me my opinion relative to the damages done by the river or by the insects. Complying with this request, I have to state—

1st. In regard to the wheat, the crop of all this pueblo is an entire failure.

2d. In regard to the corn, the fields that have escaped the insects and the freshet are rather fair, enough so to afford, up to this time, some hope from them.

3d. But the greater portion of the Pueblo cultivated land, that is to say, that part lying between the Padillas road and the hills on the west, the fields in that section have been utterly destroyed by the river and insects.

4th. The river having invaded the grape patches and the orchards, carried away the grapevines and fruit-trees. Numerous poor farmers have had to lose the only support of their families.

5th. The pueblo of Isleta in former years raised much fruit, which usually afforded a great relief to the poor. But this year the frost deprived them of this dependence, wherefore they can now trust only in God for their daily bread.

Such, dear sir, is my view of our poverty. We trust that the government, which knows how to wipe away tears, will come to the relief of the poor Indians of Isleta.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

FELIZ JOURET, *Parish Priest of Isleta.*

No. 41.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENCY,

*Santa Fé, N. M., April 21, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to enclose copy of communication from John Ward, Pueblo agent, relative to the Moqui Indians. There has heretofore been but little known of these Indians. A few travellers have visited them in passing hurriedly through the country. Their description and the fabulous accounts of the Spanish conquerors savor more of fiction than reality.

John Ward, under instructions from my predecessor, Colonel Collins, visited these villages in 1861, and reports the names and population of each, viz.:

Oraiva.....	800
Sho-mon-pa-vi.....	600
Tano.....	250
Ci-cho-mo-oi.....	100

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O-pi-ji-que.....	300
Mi-shan-qu-na-vi.....	250
Sha-pan-la-vi.....	200
Total population.....	<u>2,500</u>

Total population of the seven villages, according to his estimate and that of Major Kendrick, who visited them previously, is about two thousand five hundred souls.

The towns are all within an area of about fifteen miles, and built upon an elevated plateau or table land. The idea of great stone edifices among the Moqui villages is fiction; their houses are built of adobes, and inferior to those of the Pueblos of New Mexico, mostly two stories high, and entered by ladders, and bear evidence of great antiquity. The province of Moqui, as it was termed by the early Spanish historians, was at that time, no doubt, a prosperous and powerful division of the Pueblo or Village Indians; and the fact of Montezuma having gone from his birth-place, near Santa Fé, to Moqui, when on his way to the city of Mexico, and the further fact that the people of Tanos, one of the villages, at present speak the Tequa language, which is also spoken by several of the New Mexican Pueblos, leave but little doubt as to their common origin with all the Village Indians of this country.

These villages are entirely surrounded by wild Apaches and Navajoes, who have done much to reduce them to their present destitute condition; but this, in my opinion, is not the chief cause of their poverty and rapid decline; their supply of water for irrigation is evidently failing, from causes beyond their control. According to the report of Colonel Carson and others, they have for years been in a most destitute condition for want of a supply of this prime necessity. The additional fact that other deserted ruins are found near their towns, where at present there is no water found even for drinking purposes, is proof positive that natural changes are gradually taking place that lessen the supply of water. For several years they have not been able from this cause to produce corn enough for their people to subsist upon, and hence their utter destitution and starving condition during the present winter, and the necessity of the expenditure for provisions at the Pueblo agency. Steps should at once be taken to remove these inoffensive people to a more favorable locality; and as they belong properly to the Arizona superintendency, I would respectfully ask that the proper superintendent be instructed to inquire into their condition, and to adopt some plan by which their immediate wants can be supplied and their future prospects improved.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

M. STECK, *Superintendent of Indian Affairs.*

Hon. W. P. DOLE, *Commissioner of Indian Affairs.*

No. 42.

PUEBLO AGENCY, NEW MEXICO,  
*Peña Blanco, New Mexico, April, 1865.*

SIR: I have the honor herewith to submit my accounts, returns, &c., for the quarter ending March 31, 1865, which I trust, after due examination, will meet your approval, and be by you transmitted to the proper department.