Navajo Agency.

Fort Defiance, Arizona, August 29, 1895.

Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D.C.,

Sir:

I have the honor to submit the following annual report of this Agency:

The general failure of their crops last season left the Navajos without sufficient food to carry them through the winter, and great suffering resulted; the issue of limited quantities of flour to the destitute doubtless saved many lives. A special appropriation by the last Congress for the purchase of seeds and farming implements will go far towards setting them on their feet again; they have planted more this year than ever before, and the prospect of a good harvest is very promising at present.

During last winter they lost many sheep and ponies from cold and starvation; besides which, they were obliged to kill and eat a large number for want of other food. This decrease in their sheep coming at a time when wool brings them but little has turned their minds to agriculture. This disposition should be encouraged by a

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storage of the water-fall in the rainy season and its economical distribution for farming purposes at the proper time, to the end that all the arable land available may be cultivated. An appropriation of money for this purpose has been made by Congress, but, unfortunately, the execution of the work has been intrusted to a person who is not familiar with the proper methods; it is to be hoped that recent investigations made under the orders of the Department may result in his dismissal and the appointment of a competent man in his place.

The Agency boarding school and the day school at Little Water have been over-crowded with pupils during the past year, and there is a general request all over the reservation for more schools. By next winter there will be built five new schools with accommodations for two hundred pupils, and more will be added if the demand justifies it. The enrollment at the two schools now in operation is about one hundred and eighty, and the pupils are apt and intelligent.

There is a Mission of the Methodist Episcopal church, under the charge of Miss Mary A. Tripp, on the San Juan river, where a good work is going on; here the material, as well as the spiritual, wants of the Indians have been attended to. The Mission at the Agency has been abandoned, but only temporarily, owing to the ill health of the missionary.

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The work of Mrs. Mary L. Eldridge, the Field Matron on the San Juan river, cannot be too highly commended; her life is one of hardship and devotion, and whatever she undertakes she does well.

The building of a mission-hospital by the Woman's Auxiliary of the Episcopal church is now going on under the supervision of Miss Eliza W. Thackera, the Superintendent, and its completion will provide a much needed place for the proper care and treatment of the sick. In the meantime Miss Thackera renders valuable assistance to the Agency Physician.

The Court of Indian Offences relieves the Agent from the investigation and settlement of many disputes, and no appeal from its decisions have been made.

No serious crimes have been committed upon the reservation, but outside there have been two cases of homicide, one being in self-defence and the other a murder not yet fully investigated by the authorities; in both instances all the parties engaged were Indians.

No allotments of lands in severalty have been made upon this reservation.

The Navajos are cheerful, lively and talkative; exceedingly generous to one another; and they are not quarrelsome. There is great affection between parents and children, and the latter are

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rarely punished. They are extravagant and improvident, and gambling is common. There are many industrious men among them who set a good example for the rest, and as a rule the men do their share of the work.

Moqui Indians.

These Indians have been taught by experience to store up corn in good years, so that they suffered comparatively little for want of food last winter. Their crops will be large this yee .

The school at Keam's Canon is well attended, as are also the day schools at the First and Third Mesas. There is no school as yet at the Second Mesa, but I hope to start one soon.

The Mission at the Second Mesa has been abandoned, but the Mennonite Mission at the Third Mesa (Oraibi) is still maintained under the direction of the excellent Missionary, the reverend Mr. H. R. Voth, who is earnest and untiring in his work.

In the pueblo of Oraibi there are two factions, called by the whites the "Friendlies" and the "Hostiles", in about the proportion of one to two. The Friendlies send their children to school, and are willing to adopt civilized ways; the Hostiles, under the bad influence of the Shamans, believe that the abandonment of the old ways will be followed by drought and famine, to avert which they wish to drive the Friendlies out. Last fall they took away the fields at Moen-kopi from the Friendlies and threatened to do

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the same thing at Oraibi in the spring. They said they would resort to arms if necessary, and I was obliged to call for troops to assist in arresting the ringleaders. Nineteen men were arrested and turned over to the military by whom they are now held in confinement at Alcatraz Island in San Francisco harbor. This action settled the question, at least for the present.

No allotments on this reservation have been confirmed; and it is not advisable to confirm any, for reasons already laid before the Department. Some allotments have been made at Moen-kopi, off the reservation, of lands which have been tilled by the Indians for many years; these allotments should be confirmed without any further delay, to settle false claims of white men. It is my firm belief that there will be a conflict of arms at this place next spring unless this long-pending land question is settled. The delay is not the fault of any one in the Indian Service, and if there should be trouble the responsibility will properly be laid at the door of the Land Office.

I am, very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,

Constant Williams,

Captain 7th Infantry,

Acting Agent.

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