

REPORT OF NAVAJO AGENCY,

NAVAJO AGENCY,

Fort Huachuca, Arizona, August, 18, 1899

Sir: I have the honor to submit this my first annual report of the affairs of this agency for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1899. The condition of the Indians on this Reservation are not as good as would be desirable, from the fact that the last winter was very severe and the snow was unusually deep this being considered a mild winter was something of a surprise when the mercury registered twenty four below. However there were no Indians starved nor frozen but many of their flocks of sheep and horses starved on account of the deep snow and being able to find any grass the sage brush which is their principle food for winter was mostly under snow. It is estimated that fully 20% of the sheep on the reservation either froze or starved, hence the spring clip of wool was reduced an effort has been made to ascertain as near as possible the number of pounds of wool sold and shipped the product of the Indians, also of sheep pelts and goat skins, as the result of the investigation, I have the following estimate furnished by Mr. C. H. COTTON, Indian trader and shipper of Indian products, who is located at Gallup, N. M., but has other trading posts, his estimate is as follows,

Navajo, 2.

For the year ending August 1st 1899, shipments between the two points of Flag staff, Arizona, and Mitchell, N.M., on the Santa Fe R R Wool, 1,000,000 lbs, prices varied from 8. to 12. cents during year Sheep pelts, 150,000 lbs, at from 6. to 7 1/2 cts per pound, Goat Skins, 80,000 " price about 22c per pound, NAVAJO, Blankets, \$50,000

There are 320, Navajos, working on the Rail Road since early in may who are earning about \$7000, per month,

There were 302, Navajos, worked for the same Company last winter until they earned some \$20,000

Considerable complaint has been raised by the R.R.Co about the Indians quitting work just as the Company had them taught to understand how the work should be done.

It should be understood that this product and labor does not by any means all come from Indians residing on the Reservation, it is not probable that over one third of it does, and I very much doubt about there being over one half of the tribe now or at any time residing on the Reservation,

From the best information I can gather they extend over a territory of over two hundred miles through Arizona, and New Mexico, many of them never come to the agency, true some of them do though only when they expect some issue or for the purpose of having the agent settle some trouble that exists among themselves, which is usually adjusted to the satisfaction of all,

NAVAJO, 5.

Stock Raising?

This Reservation is adapted to the sheep and goat. in fact they are the main support of the Navajo, while many of them raise large herds of Indian Horses, more of the latter than should be as they kill out the grass much more than the sheep and goats do but we cannot yet get them to understand this.

The sheep Goat and pony constitute the main food product for the tribe, they seem to think as much of the horse meat as they do of the mutton or goat, and many live for days and weeks on horse meat alone, the same may be said as to the sheep and goat, as many do not raise corn enough to furnish them bread from one crop to the other, and in winter the stock become so poor that they are not fit to market hence they often have no means with which they can buy flour, those who have plenty of sheep and weave the Navajo blankets are always able to dispose of them and buy food but very many have no flocks, they are the poor,

it is very difficult to get an estimate of the number of their flocks, they have no idea of numbers, neither have they of distance, Habits and Disposition,

The habits of these people in some respects are not desirable many of them are habitual gamblers, and of that class they are averse to labor this of course does not apply to all but to more than it should this does not apply alone to the men but to women

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NAVAJO, 4.

A very unfortunate condition exists relative to their marriage vows separation of Man and Wife are of quite frequent occurrence they have no legal mode of divorce and there is no limit of time as to when they may take up with others and consider themselves remarried.

The disposition of these Indians is usually good they have their Disputes and differences but as a rule they are easily settled There was one murder committed about one hundred miles from the Agency claimed to have been in self defense which will be fully Investigated.

Three deaths from Small Pox occurred on the reservation last winter but we had no general epidemic.

On January first an Indian killed his wife with an ax then committed suicide we brought them in to the Agency and gave them proper burial, Jealousy was supposed to be the cause of the tragedy Three of the school children died during the year neither of them however at the school, but were brought in and properly buried. The crops of this year are not very promising on account of the drouth in early spring and summer we have had no rain to wet the ground between september 98 and the tenth of july of this year, on account of the dry spring many of the Indians did not plant, others planted two or three times and will have but light crops in a few localities the corn promises to yield fairly well

NAVAJO, 5,

But as it is quite green yet no one can tell what the yield may be,

The trouble which has heretofore existed near Tuba City between the Indians and Mormons or white settlers, has been amicably settled by Inspector, Mc Laughlin, and no further trouble relative to the land and water question in that part of the country is anticipated.

Road Work, there has been about ten miles of new road built on the northern part of the reservation by the Indians leading over to the new ferry on the San Juan, river, and about the same amount of road repairing done.

Missionary Work, the Christian Reform Church have two missionaries located here at the agency, Rev Mr. Fryling, and Rev Mr. DeGroot who are doing all that any people can do for the Indians, they expect soon to establish a mission at the Little Water School to which one of them will move

Saint Michaels Mission located about eight miles south of the agency at La Cienega, just off the reservation was established in October 1898, two Franciscan Fathers the Rev, Juvenal Schnorbus, O. F. M., superior, and the Rev, Anselm Weber, O. F. M., together with the Lay Brother Ven Placidus Buerger, O. F. M., of the province of St John the Baptist at Cincinnati Ohio opened a Catholic Mission for the Navajos.

NAVAJO, G,

the Methodist have a Mission at Two Gray hills Mrs, Cole in charge and Miss, as teacher they desire to build a small school building at the mission, Miss Trip is located on the San Juan River with Mrs, Mary L, Eldridge the Field Matron all of whom are doing good work,

Improvements about the Agency! Consist of extending the water main to the Barn also to the rear of one agency building putting in hydrants making better fire protection putting down 1000, feet of new side walk grading and leveling streets building new and repairing old fences putting good substancial floors in jail and police quarters building a good and substancial shed 18x100, feet for storage of tools and wagons have ditched and drained a pond that lay in the rear of the girls dormitory which contained some five acres this was done to prevent sickness by the stagnant water standing also to prepare it to be fenced for pasture next season,

Many complaints are coming in from parties who reside in the two Territories of Arizona and New Mexico as well as from Utah in regard to the Indians going over on these countries with their flocks, I am unable to find a remedy, for this reason there is not vegetation nor tilable land enough on this reservation to support more than one half of the tribe, and I would most respectfully recomend that the reservation be extended to such proportions that this trouble may be remedied, I

NAVAJO,7.

There is great need for a new Dormitory for the Boys at this School which will no doubt be erected this year as the bids for the same are to be opened on the 20th, of this month and it is to be hoped the contract will be let.

Also that of Little Water as the capacity there is not sufficient to accommodate the children at that school.

I herewith transmit the report of the Superintendent of the NAVAJO BOARDING SCHOOL.

In conclusion I desire to return My sincere thanks to the Indian Office for support and kind assistance rendered me during the short period I have had charge of this Agency.