

REPORT
OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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ARIZONA SUPERINTENDENCY.

No. 232.

New York, April 1, 1863.

Sir: I have the honor to acknowledge the notification of my appointment as superintendent of Indian affairs in the Territory of Arizona, and before setting out upon my mission beg to receive specific instructions, as it will be difficult to communicate with the department from that remote locality.

In passing westward to my field of labor, the first Indians coming within my superintendency are the

GILA APACHES.

Your department is well informed that these Indians have successfully resisted all attempts for their civilization by the Spanish, Mexican, and American governments, and have successfully driven the people of each nation from the vicinity of the mountains which they inhabit, and when an unfortunate civil war caused the withdrawal of the United States troops from the country, they proudly boasted of having chased the Americans from their domain, never more to return.

From the commencement of the war to the entire depopulation of the country west of the Rio Grande, I could enumerate the most horrid atrocities committed by these savages, resulting in the death of more than one hundred and fifty of our people, some of them burned alive, and culminating in the destruction of the mining establishments near the Santa Cruz valley, surrounding the town of Tubac, which was also abandoned with valuable stores of machinery, supplies, and material.

The arrival of the California column under Brigadier General Carleton, in June, 1862, found the country between the Colorado and the Rio Grande a desolation, marked by new-made graves. The general in command, who is well acquainted with the country and its inhabitants, soon took measures to chastise these ungrateful savages for their breach of faith with our government and atrocities upon our people, and has been partially successful in the performance of this high duty.

These Indians have been treated with great kindness by our government. Agent Steck having distributed bountifully to them corn, meal, and clothing, during all which time they continued their depredations in the western part of the Territory, and made constant incursions into Mexico, coming back laden with spoils, for which they found a ready market on the Rio Grande. They hold one of the great emigrant routes across the continent entirely at their mercy, and never fail to take from the unwary emigrant or unprotected trader their toil of blood and plunder. They are now well armed with lances, guns, and pistols, having in their possession some of the finest repeating arms made in our armories, and take care, by fair or foul means, to keep themselves well supplied with ammunition to suit their arms. Their horses are superior and well cared for, so that upon a foray or retreat they can only be overcome by superior mettle, skill, or endurance.

The country they inhabit affords the most nutritious grasses and pure mountain streams of water, where they rear their animals and feast upon the spoil of the last foray until the next fall of the moon affords them opportunity for another raid upon their defenceless neighbors. These lordly mountaineers tauntingly say that the Americans are their husbandmen and the Mexicans their herders. Why should they labor when they can gather in abundance? It remains with the military department of the government to teach them the first great lesson, "that by the sweat of their brows they shall earn their bread," and when they come with an humble spirit and beg assistance from the government it will be time enough to repeat their threadbare farce of making treaties with the faithless, and bestowing charities upon people entirely devoid of moral sense. The beautiful theory of moral suasion does not work well with hereditary robbers and plunderers; nothing but the strong arm of military power can restrain them, and that imperfectly.

THE PAPAGOS

inhabit that triangular space of arid land bounded by the Santa Cruz, Gila, and Colorado rivers, and the Mexican boundary line. Their first and principal village is at San Xavier del Bac, a church erected by the Jesuits in 1698, and here they have lived, and planted and watched their flocks and herds ever since, resisting the barbarous Apaches, and assisting their Spanish, Mexican, and American protectors in many campaigns against the savage Indians.

They raise wheat, corn, barley, beans, peas, melons, and pumpkins, and are expert in the manufacture of pottery and willow-ware. In harvest time they spread all over the country as reapers and gleaners, returning with their wages of grain for winter. They gather the fruit of the *cereus giganteus*, which they call *petayah*, and after expressing the juice for molasses, put up the pulp in cakes for their winter's store. They have horses, cattle, sheep, poultry, and great numbers of dogs.

As these Indians were found in possession of the soil they cultivate, and have maintained themselves there continuously ever since, it would seem equitable that their rights should be recognized by the government of the United States. They are naturally anxious on that subject, and an allowance of land and adjustment of boundaries, at an early day, may avoid difficulties and complications with Americans who may ignorantly or maliciously encroach upon their ancient

possession. I presume a league square around the mission church of San Xavier would include all the land they have in cultivation, and the water necessary for its irrigation. They have guarded this grand old church with religious reverence, and naturally look upon it as their property held in sacred trust.

I beg authority to make this reservation at an early day, and an allowance of means to pay the expense of a survey, and permanent landmarks to be erected at the four corners of the boundary.

The Papagos within our jurisdiction live in eighteen different villages, and are estimated as follows:

	Souls.
San Xavier del Bac	500
Santa Rosa	400
Caluabia	350
Fresal	250
Cojota	500
Tecolota	500
Cumero	500
Poso Verde	350
Sou Saida	250
Sonoita	500
Mesquit	500
Periqua	400
Chuba	250
Poso Blanca	300
Quejotoa	500
Nariz	250
Alcalde	250
Quotovaquita	250
Total	<u>6,800</u>

The most of these villages are watering-places, around which these simple-minded people gather for the scanty sustenance accorded them by nature. Water, water, water, is the great desideratum.

The requirements of these Indians would be, first, the implements necessary to increase their supply of water and prepare irrigating ditches, then agricultural and mining implements. They wash considerable gold in the rainy season, which commences in June and lasts two or three months, with occasional showers in the winter. A number of very rich silver mines have recently been opened in their Territory, and questions are already arising as to the rights of Americans, Mexicans, and Indians to the mines, wood, water, and grass in the vicinity.

In former times rich gold placers have been worked here, and as the drifted gold must have had some origin, it is probable that gold mines will be discovered in the vicinity.

The region abounds in copper ore of great richness, which, from its proximity to the Gulf of California, will soon be mined for transportation.

The Indians can be made useful to the Americans, and derive benefit from their enterprise, if their interests can be harmonized and protected.

The Mexicans of Sonora, to the number of several thousand, of the worst class, are mining and carrying off the ores and precious metals from this region, without paying any tribute to commerce or government. It scarcely seems proper to pay ten millions of dollars for a territory, and then allow the natural enemies of our race and nation to carry away the most valuable property upon it without let or hindrance.

I should be glad to receive specific instructions as to the rights of Americans, Mexicans, and Indians in this exposed portion of the public domain.

If population should increase in this region without a corresponding increase in water, the Indians must perish. I have in the dry season of former years had the horror to see them perishing for water, and but for good male flesh, and great powers of endurance, would have shared their fate.

The Indians would no doubt be satisfied if secured in the possession of their watering-places, fields, and fruits, and the whites ought to be restrained from trespassing upon them.

No written treaties have ever been made with these Indians by the Mexican government, and none by the United States authorities. They have great anxiety and uneasiness on this subject, and the inauguration of civil government in Arizona seems a fit time to determine what views the government will take of these people; what rights accord to them, and what policy pursue. If they are secured in their possessions, and aided a little with implements and seeds, they need be no further expense to the government; on the contrary, they would soon raise enough for their own consumption, and to spare.

If they could be supplied with some common arms, they would be valuable auxiliaries against the Apaches.

An agent for the Papagos ought to be appointed, to reside at the mission of San Xavier del Bac, where their principal chief lives.

THE PIMOS AND MARICOPAS,

living on the Gila river, are well known to our government, from the many favorable reports of their character and condition from the different military expeditions and boundary surveys that have passed through their villages since the commencement of the war with Mexico. They have been uniformly friendly to our authorities, and hospitable to our emigration. They live entirely by agriculture, and have extensive fields of wheat, corn, and barley, watered by irrigation from the Gila river. They also raise cotton, and manufacture a very superior cotton blanket, besides many other articles of clothing; and this branch of agriculture should be especially encouraged by the introduction of new seeds and some primitive cards, wheels, and looms. They also need a renewal of seed wheat, beans, peas, and corn, with a supply of agricultural implements.

The Pimos and Maricopas combined number about five thousand souls; have one thousand laborers, and seven hundred warriors. If they were supplied with some common muskets they would be valuable auxiliaries against their hereditary enemies, the Apaches. An application made to the War Department in their behalf, by Brigadier General Carleton, has not been answered. Will your department solicit a favorable answer?

A reservation was surveyed for these people by Colonel A. B. Gray, under the direction of Special Agent Bowry, but the Indians claim a much larger space than was allowed them. If, in the eager rush for farms or embryo cities, the land above them should be occupied by Americans, and their supply of water reduced, it might produce discontent.

An agent for the Pimos and Maricopas should be appointed, to reside at or near the Pimo villages, with authority to employ a blacksmith and carpenter for their benefit.

THE COCOPAS,

living between Fort Yuma and the mouth of the Colorado river, number some three thousand souls, (3,000.) They are about equally divided between California, Lower California, Sonora, and Arizona. They have heretofore considered the military authorities at Fort Yuma the representatives of the government, and rendered them their homage. They plant in the bottom lands of the Colo-

rado river, and gather mesquite beans for their subsistence. They render some service to the Colorado Steamboat Company, and the persons in their employment, for which they receive compensation.

Their wants are but few, and nature here has supplied them with fish, mesquite beans for bread, and a rich alluvial soil for whatever they may have the industry to plant.

If the Cocopas are included in the superintendency of Arizona, they could be under supervision of the agent near Fort Yuma.

THE YUMAS OR CUCHAUS,

at the junction of the Gila and Colorado rivers, have heretofore been included in the superintendency of California, but the majority of them living and haying their fields on the eastern bank of the Colorado, come within the limits of Arizona. They have diminished rapidly since the location of Fort Yuma brought them within fatal contact with the whites, but are a manly, stalwart race, and, if forced to cultivate the soil, would no doubt reap the just reward of labor in improved condition.

The land is fertile, and in that temperature will produce abundantly. They depend entirely upon the overflow of the Colorado, which renders their crops precarious. A reservation ought to be set apart for them in the delta of the Gila, and some facilities allowed them for irrigation, so that they might have a safe dependence to reap where they have sown. They should have a local agent.

THE NAMPAS,

living on the Colorado, at the mouth of the Bill Williams fork, are but little known, never having been visited by any of our authorities, except the Pacific railroad surveyors and the exploring party of Lieutenant Ives, when ascending the Colorado river. Their numbers are estimated at two thousand to two thousand five hundred, and their condition very poor, inhabiting an inhospitable region, and remote from any of the markets for supplying themselves with clothing or implements of husbandry; they have no means of improving their condition if they would. A small supply of clothing and some seed, agricultural implements, and fishing tackle, would give them an earnest of our good intentions, and afford them an opportunity of improvement. The agent for the Yumas could also have them in charge.

THE CHEMIDUEVIS

live on the Colorado river, above the Bill Williams fork, a small tribe and quite unknown. They number, perhaps, two thousand to two thousand five hundred souls, and cultivate the valley of the Colorado for subsistence, finding also some game and fish. A reservation of their lands should be made at an early day, and some assistance given in agriculture.

THE HEMPAS

live in the almost inaccessible mountains on the Upper Colorado, and are but little known; they may number one thousand five hundred or two thousand, but cannot be accurately estimated.

THE PAUTES

are also included within the boundary of Arizona. They have a very bad character, and are principally noted for having murdered Captain Gunnerson's party engaged in Pacific railroad surveys. They cannot be numerous—perhaps within the boundary not more than five hundred.

THE MOJAVES,

on the Upper Colorado, number some five thousand souls, and have not, so far as I am aware, had any intercourse with the civil agents of the government. A rapid influx of miners from California is now fast encroaching upon their ancient possessions, and an early definition of rights and boundaries may prevent trouble, and result to the mutual advantage of both parties, as well as the government.

The tributaries of the Colorado are known to contain vast mineral treasures in gold, silver, copper, quicksilver, lead, iron, coal, salt, and precious stones, which the enterprise of our people will not allow to remain dormant.

The Indians must be protected and provided for, or they will soon be swept away by this avalanche. There are already on the Upper Colorado from two thousand five hundred to three thousand persons, Americans and Mexicans, remote from civil government or organized society, engaged in prospecting mines.

An old and valued friend, writing from there in February, says: "The Mojaves and the other Indians live right in our midst. They are the best and most extraordinary Indians I have yet seen, and I have seen various tribes, nearly all on the North American continent; *they do not steal, and but few drink*; they are jovial, singing and dancing a good deal. They sell us hay, mesquite beans, melons, pumpkins, &c., and do some work, but know nothing of mines or mining; we have one for an under-cook, who speaks Spanish and a little English."

Lieutenant Ives gave a very good account of the Mojaves he met with on his exploration of the Colorado. In view of any further difficulties with the Mormons, the friendship of the Indians of the Upper Colorado would be very important. An agent for the Mojaves and neighboring tribes should be appointed to reside in their midst at some convenient point on the Upper Colorado.

THE MOQUINS

are one of the most interesting tribes of Indians in Arizona. They have almost a classical reputation from the extravagant stories that were told about them by the early Spanish explorers, and the interest they excited in Europe. A romancing friar, called Marco de Nica, first gave the governor, Muno de Guzman, such marvellous accounts of the seven cities inhabited by these Indians, then called the Seven Cities of Civola, (Buffalo,) that he attempted an expedition to them, which failed, (1538.) He afterwards induced the Viceroy Mendoza to order an expedition, which was successfully conducted by Caronado, the governor of New Galicia, in 1540, but without finding the golden treasures and magnificent cities so enthusiastically described by the romancing friar.

They found, however, very interesting aborigines, living in good stone houses, cultivating fields of maize, beans, peas, melons, and pumpkins, and tending their flocks and herds. They wove blankets from the wool of their sheep, and made cotton cloth from the indigenous staple, which was fine enough for a canvas on which to paint the pictures of their beasts and birds.

The expedition of Caronado did not satisfy the expectations which had been raised in Europe about the golden treasures and magnificent cities of Civola, and in 1742 we find an order from Philip V to the viceroy, ordering the reduction of the province of Moquin.

The Moquins have continued to live in their mountain homes, cultivate the maize, tend their flocks and herds, make themselves comfortable blankets for the winter, and cotton for the summer. Their numbers are variously estimated at from four to seven thousand.

It may be only necessary to preserve friendly relations with them, and make them a few presents as an earnest of our good will.

THE NAVAJOES,

living in the northeastern corner of the Territory, are the most formidable tribe in the boundary. Their numbers have been estimated at fifteen thousand, and competent authorities have stated that they could raise and equip from twenty-five to thirty thousand warriors.

They are, no doubt, a branch of the great Apache family, and inherit some of their traits of character. Their depredations have been principally upon the inhabitants of New Mexico and the Zuñi and Moqui Pueblos. They neither require nor deserve any assistance from the United States, having abundant flocks and herds, raising good crops, and manufacturing their own clothing.

They need only to be restrained from committing depredations by the military authorities of New Mexico. Their country is remote, and will not be encroached upon by whites at present.

An agent may or may not be appointed to reside near them, as your department may determine. In return for the many acts of friendship and hospitality done for our officers and people by the principal chiefs of several of the Indian tribes in Arizona, the government could afford to invite them to Washington, in order that the friendly relations which commenced with the occupation of their country may be cemented and continued.

The Papagos and Pimos are especially deserving this consideration. The present chiefs of these tribes have more than ordinary intelligence, and during my residence in that country were frequently guests at my table, behaving themselves with commendable politeness and propriety.

The other tribes are not so much cultivated, but would derive much information and pleasure from a visit to our country and capital.

If some of the young chiefs could be taught practical agriculture on some of our model farms, and some lessons in the rudiments of manufacturing wool and cotton, it would result in great advantage to their people. A portion of these Indians were formerly instructed in the ceremonies of the Roman Catholic church, and still preserve some vestiges of its ordinances.

It remains for you to determine whether these people are to receive any religious instruction; and if so, in what manner and kind.

It would not comport with the dignity nor duty of a Christian nation to allow these hapless wards of the government to relapse into barbarism for want of religious instruction, without which neither Indians nor whites can become prosperous and happy. If there are truly benevolent and pious people among us, they could scarcely find a more inviting field.

The zealous and self-sacrificing members of the Society of Jesus sought out these primitive people in the remotest portion of the North American continent more than three centuries ago, and taught them, by precept and example, the beautiful doctrines of their Divine Master.

Now, having given this slight sketch of the Indian tribes coming within my superintendency, it becomes necessary to understand clearly my own rights, powers, and duties in regard to them.

1. Have I authority to make treaties, by which reservations may be segregated from the public domain for their use, and annuities guaranteed to them for relinquishing their title to all else? *
2. Shall I have authority to appoint agents for the different tribes named in the foregoing schedule; and if so, at what rates of compensation?
3. Shall I have authority to exclude from these reservations any foreigners, or even Americans, and by what process shall such exclusion be made?
4. In going to my field of labor and visiting the different Indian tribes, shall I be entitled to a military escort; and if so, by official right, or by courtesy?

I shall go among these Indians with the most friendly feelings, and an earnest desire to promote their welfare, and strengthen the ties of friendship which bind them to our government and people.

I have the honor to be, respectfully, your very obedient servant,
CHARLES D. POSTON.

Hon. WILLIAM P. DOLE,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

RECAPITULATION.

Indians in Arizona, estimated in round numbers, from the best authorities:

Apaches of the Gila.....	5,000 souls.
Papagos, (Pimeria Alta).....	7,500 "
Pimas and Maricopas, (Gila).....	5,000 "
Cacopas, (mouth of Colorado).....	3,000 "
Yumas or Cuchans, (Colorado).....	3,500 "
Yampais, (Bill Williams fork).....	2,500 "
Chemchuevis, (Colorado).....	2,000 "
Mojaves.....	5,000 "
Pah Utes.....	500 "
Hualpais.....	2,000 "
Moquis, (Seven Pueblos).....	7,000 "
Navajoes, (nomadic).....	15,000 "
Apaches, Mansas, Tresson.....	100 "
Total souls.....	58,100 "

