5755 | OFFICE OF Indian Affairs Rec'd FEB 6 | 1895

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Int. Department,
Feb. 5, 1895,
Rel. to a report regarding the condition of affairs at Navajo A,

To Act. Agt. Williams Feby 8/95
Trans. to L " " "
" " F Apr. 5, 1895
To Secy. Apr 23/95
" Craig Colloy 7/95

31/96 Indian Palmer F-7

RG 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs
E. 91 Letters Received, 1881-1907
Box 1164
year: 1895 letter # 5755

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M.P.

J.T.B.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

5755

WASHINGTON, February 5, 1895.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Sir:

The following in regard to affairs at the Navajo Agency, N. M., is reported for your information and consideration, viz:-

The reservation is about two hundred by one hundred and seventy-five miles in extent. Not more than two per cent of the land is suitable for agriculture; about sixty per cent for grazing, and the remainder rocks and sandy plains.

Number of the tribe is variously estimated at from 16,000 to 24,000; in the opinion of the best informed people they number about 14,000. It is thought there are not more than 8,000 now on the reservation, the balance being scattered throughout Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah.

It is not deemed possible to control and civilize these Indians until the reservation is reduced to about one-fourth its present size, which would leave them sufficient for agricultural and grazing purposes. Thus located, they could receive the care and attention of the agent, the benefit of the schools and the advantage and example of surrounding white farmers.

Many of them have their flocks off the reservation; they now have but few cattle; their ponies are without value, and the num-

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ber of their sheep has largely diminished, and no reason exists why they should have so large an area of land. "It is a positive injury to them, in that they will not settle down upon any fixed habitation, but roam from place to place."

The informant states that it is understood that the Indians are to be furnished with a certain number of wagons, farming implements, etc., and suggests, if this is done, that the agent be instructed to turn them over only to such Indians as will use them on their farms. He says that some were furnished them several years ago, and that they sold them to traders on the railroads and the Mormons in Utah.

There is now scarcely any evidence of farming being carried on by these Indians. On a trip of over one hundred miles from the southern to the northern part of the reservation, and through that part most suitable to agriculture, not more than ten acres were seen in cultivation.

The main trouble in raising corn is that wherever water can be found for irrigating purposes, it is too cold, and the season is too short for the grain to mature.

Much attention was given by the informant to the subject of irrigation, and he suggests, after the system now under construction by Superintendent Vincent is completed, that a farmer or some

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competent person be placed in charge, to see that the ditches are kept in repair and to instruct the Indians how to apply the water to their lands. Unless this be done he says the ditches will soon become worthless, and he further suggests that Superintendent Vincent be instructed to so construct his ditches that a farmer located at a certain point can overlook and superintend a reasonable amount of work. If this be not done, for want of unity of action among the Indians, they will not keep the ditches in repair.

Most of the water that can be utilized for irrigation is in the mountains, where it is too cold to produce crops; and another great trouble, yet to overcome, is that where most of the water can be secured the lands have been taken up and are claimed in large tracts by particular Indians living on the streams, "and it will be a very difficult matter to get them to consent to a division of these lands with other Indians of the tribe."

prices near the agency range as follows: horses, $75; cows $100; beef 6 cts.; flour 4 cts.; sugar 10 cts.; oats 2 cts. per lb. hay $20 per ton; coal oil 35 cts.

These are the only articles that can be bought near the Agency.

Employes are reported to be competent and faithful, except as hereinafter noted.

a Letter to act. agt Feby 8/95

F. L. Craig, physician, "is a frail, feeble man, and takes but

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"Letter to Ex. Agt. Feby 8/95

little interest in his profession." Indians will not take his medicine.

R. H. Goings, blacksmith, "inefficient and should be discharged."

Very respectfully,

1044, Ind. Div. '95.
1045, " " "

Acting Secretary.

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