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Asst. Commissioner

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Moqui | 1918 Nar Sec

INDUSTRIES, including Livestock:

The minor industries of the Moqui Reservation are the making of baskets (confined to the six villages of the Second and Third Mesas), pottery (confined the the First Mesa people), and some small matter of weaving. Not a great deal of the Hopi weaving gets into the hands of traders, since most of it has to do with ceremonial objects, and is so used.

Wood cutting and coal mining afford employment to a relatively small number of Indians. Freighting of Government stores from railroad points (Holbrook and Winslow) and between points and stations on the reservation, gives a larger number employment in the good seasons. The greatest need along this line is equipment. The "issue" method no longer provides wagons and harness. It is not every Indian who can purchase from traders or from the Agent on the "reimbursable" plan. So the equipment is running down. As stated elsewhere in this report, the improvement of the roads and washes, etc. also has been reduced to quite nothing because of this change. The Agency has nothing to issue and nothing to spend on these necessary activities. Horse stock, while not the worst of the Navajo country, should be intelligently improved. It has been demonstrated that the Agency can raise good horses, and it is believed that a demonstration should be sought along the lines of horse and mule raising under the supervision of the Stockman. This has been the subject of correspondence, and the subject has not thrived because the matter of forage to maintain a herd of mares in paddock is such an important point. It has been proven that the heaviest type of stallion will not do here? The Superintendent's suggestion has been to attempt a moderate cross at first and thereafter seek to develop the heavier-boned animal.

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A consideration of the Indian method of agriculture, that of small patch planting in favorable locations--moving with the years, and the appreciation that the Indian knows more of this than any white man who has lived, tends to throw the intelligent effort toward cooperation rather than direction. Great help can be extended the Indian by the extermination of the pests, such as field rats, prairie dogs, badgers, skunks, etc., and a splendid showing was made last season. It is hoped that the Bureau of Animal Industry will be able to lend advice and supplies again this coming season. Another effort to exterminate coyotes proceeded with great success.

As with agriculture, dairying and fad-stock-raising are not feasible here, because the reserve does not produce forage, and

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all such activities present expenses and losses rather than helps toward prosperity and independence. The Superintendent has steadily turned against the introduction of foreign, and therefore unfamiliar, activities, believing that in minor industries and native arts these people are well developed, and that time, money and above all INTEREST and COOPERATION are lost through failures. Therefore remains to these people, both Hopi and Navajo, the STOCK future, the success of which rests largely on the continued development of range water and the proper use of range areas. Fullblood Hereford Bulls and both Cotswold and Rambouillet Rams have been introduced. Additional purchases of bulls should be made, and a number of animals acquired for Indian benefit from Agency allotment of funds, so that such animals may be issued for labor. Not all of the Indians are able to BUY, even through the easy-payment method of reimbursable funds. The Navajo especially endeavors to evade these debts. One might suggest that the most prosperous Indians should buy the expensive animals and thereafter sell bulls and rams to poorer individuals. Very little of this works out among the Indians of these deserts. He is not a good salesman, and it is even difficult to get them to exchange breeding stock. During 1918 the superintendent bought in a number of ram lambs showing the Cotswold cross and thereafter issued them to distant Indians in the hope of assisting this matter. Such efforts have not been entirely successful because there is at hand no force of men to follow up the effort. The Hopi especially is a poor stockman, and should have daily attention. This corps of employees (there should be at least four) could be districted, and one of the first great benefits would be the establishment of a proper branding system. Having competent men assigned to districts would enable also a more complete supervision of stock sales in the selling season, and the thorough dipping of ALL flocks in the season. The Moqui Dip has been operated regularly each year, but it cannot be said that ALL flocks on the reserve have been dipped. Generally speaking, and among the Hopi especially, there has been great improvement of livestock here during the past seven years. The matter could be speeded up considerably however. At present there is not complete and regular supervision, there is not an intelligent branding system, and there is no follow up system possible to protect the new stock introduced.

Whoever is superintendent on the Moqui Reservation may procure success in all these matters once he is given additional range employees to assist the livestock superintendent.

One other industry of the reservation presents the Navajo

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with occasional monies,--the Navajo Blanket. In 1911 it was estimated that the traders of the Moqui Reservation, and those close to the Moqui lines (unlicensed) purchased yearly about $100,000 worth of Navajo Indian rugs. This estimate was too high. After the introduction of the tagging system, the reports indicated that the first guess should have been $60,000. During 1918 the licensed traders of the reserve bought only $21,000. The very high prices for wool have during the past three years strongly affected blanket weaving. An Indian who can procure from 40 to 50 cents a pound for his raw wool, cannot afford to weave the stock into rugs for sale at 90 cents. Of course, for the best types of blankets, the price per pound averages higher than ninety cents, and some are sold as high as $2.00 per pound. However, it requires very nearly two pounds of raw wool to produce one pound of blanket, and this plus dyestuffs and labor (to say nothing for invention and workmanship) does not invite great production, and will not while wool brings the high prices for raw stock. It is believed that so long as the Indian trading business on reservations is regulated and supervised, so that cheapening processes cannot enter into the matter, the Navajo Indian blanket will remain a source of profit to the weavers, because it presents a method of earning money when other activities are at their lowest ebb. There should be a means devised for the protection of the Government guaranty tag. This also has been a matter of correspondence without developing the method.

Again referring to the improvement of horse stock, mention should be made of the Dourine work under the direction of officials of the Bureau of Animal Industry, which began at Moqui during the summer of 1918 and continued until January 1, 1919. It is understood that this work will be continued in the spring of 1919.

It is believed that this Report covers all the important phases of the Moqui Indian Reservation, for the period June 30, 1918 to February 1, 1919.

Respectfully submitted.

G. Crane

Superintendent.

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