

REPORT OF JOE H. MORRIS, INSPECTOR, DEPARTMENT
OF THE INTERIOR.



45093-2

GENERAL INVESTIGATION OF CONDITIONS AT THE HOQUI AGENCY
SCHOOLS AND INDIAN RESERVATION UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF
THE SUPERINTENDENT AT KEAMS CANYON, ARIZONA.

May 19, 1910.

Section 7.

LAND - WATER.

As heretofore stated in the preceding section, much of the land is in the mountains and on top of the rocky Mesas, with valleys or basins between and lying at a high altitude where killing frosts are frequent.

Little has been done here in the way of developing a water supply for any purpose, the Hopis depending for their water supply for domestic uses on the springs at the foot of the Mesas.

The Hopi Bands are, in a small way, doing some farming and fruit raising, that is, raising a small quantity of corn on the sandy lands in the basins, and a few peaches at and near the foot of the Mesas, all of which work is conducted in a desolatory sort of way.



It is estimated that the Indians on this reservation have approximately one hundred thousand sheep, eighty thousand head belonging to the Navajoes and twenty thousand head owned by the Hopi Bands.

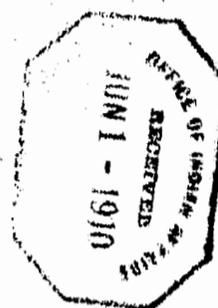
On this reservation, much the same conditions exist as do on the Navajo reservation under the supervision of the superintendent at Fort Defiance. In my report on general investigation of conditions at the Navajo schools and that part of the Navajo reservation under the supervision of the superintendent at Fort Defiance, Arizona, dated May 16, 1910, in Section 8 thereof, under the heading "Land - Water", I have stated the facts as I see them, and which facts, insofar as they refer to the development of the water supply from springs, lakes and wells, the reasons therefor and the habits and manners of the Indians, as stated on pages 9, 10, 11 and 12, very aptly apply in this case. To that section, on the pages herein covered, your attention is, therefore, respectfully invited, said statements being in words and figures following, to-wit:

"In connection with the water supply here, I desire to invite your attention to these facts, viz., that the Navajo Indians are not in the first place a people whose tastes run particularly to farming and fruit raising. Their lands, owing to the high altitude, the lack of rain fall and the scarcity of a water supply for irrigation purposes, have not been suitable or such as to encourage agricultural and fruit raising operations. They have, therefore, long

age turned their attention to the range and sheep industry, using the water, wherever it was to be found in streams, springs or lakes, and moving their herds, as the scarcity of water became apparent, from one range to another, making but little or no effort whatever to increase the water supply in the lakes or springs by throwing up embankments to increase the capacity of the lakes or by keeping the springs open. In but few instances have they made any effort to even preserve the natural supply of water from the springs. On the other hand, as the springs became clogged and filled in with dirt and rock and finally entirely obliterated, they would be abandoned and new water holes sought.

In view of these facts, and of the present existing conditions, there are, in my opinion, two things which should have the immediate and close personal attention of the Office, namely, the improvement of the breed of their flocks both as to the increased size and value of the sheep for mutton, and as to the improved quality of the wool, the separation of the goats from the sheep, and discouragement, as far as practicable, of the raising of goats. At the same time, the question of the increasing and preserving of the water supply on the range for stock purposes should be taken up. In doing this, I suggest, in view of the fact that the Indians are great imitators, but slow to change their old ways, manners and customs until they have for themselves seen a practical demonstration of a thing, that in the beginning the more progressive Indians be encouraged, assisted and shown how, by a little labor, to increase the water supply in the lakes; that they be encouraged and assisted to preserve and increase the water supply from the springs already in use, by the Department furnishing the material, (cement, etc.) to properly construct cement tanks at all springs, so constructed as to prevent the springs filling up, and so as to obtain all the water available. When this is done, by some effort many new springs can be developed. At the same time many wells on the flats, in the valleys and in the basins could be sunk and placed in operation at small cost. The water will be secured at various depths of from 10 to 90 feet. With this work once fully started along practical lines, the other Indians will gradually see in it the many

advantages to them in the increased value of their flocks and the broadening of their range. These matters I regard as the least expensive and the most valuable part of the effort to educate and better the condition of the Indians. In such work as this there is being provided for the young Indians who attend the boarding and day schools, upon the completion of their work there, something to return home to. In an isolated country like this, until something or some encouragement is advanced to such young Indians, it may be expected that the great majority of them will continue in the future as in the past to return home and take up the old ways of their fathers and forefathers.



To my mind, the establishment of these watering places on a permanent basis will tend more to lessen the nomadic habits of these Indians, of eventually establishing settled places of abode (following upon which, although probably many years in the future, other local matters such as the establishment of local schools, a little farming, building of houses, planting of orchards, etc., can be thought of) than any other thing that can be done at present."

Inspector, Department of the Interior.