

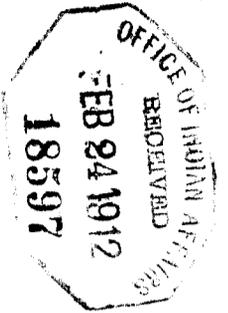
Education-
Schools
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Inspection
report.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Moqui Indian Reservation,
Keams Canon, Arizona,
February 16, 1912.



The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have Office letter dated January 13, 1912 presenting the recommendations of Supervisor F. A. Thackery as to miscellaneous conditions at Moqui Schools. The Supervisor recommends that greater care be taken to make courses conform to conditions under which pupils will be placed at the end of the school term; the girls to be trained in home making and management, and the boys in Agriculture and Horticulture; that experiments be undertaken in a small way to improve products and to introduce new varieties. At the Moqui Boarding School, details working with the Matron, Cook, Seamstress and Laundress, are instructed as far as conditions will permit. Of course the work in so large a plant is not relative to that the pupil faces when at home. I believe a cottage of two rooms, (and the Hopis seldom have more rooms), equipped with such materials as the Indian may possess with his present means, may be built at some time in the future, and such house placed in charge of a detail for short periods. There are no funds for the immediate construction of such a building. It is also my plan to construct a model hogan, with improved methods of ventilation, one or two windows, a double door to protect inmates in winter, and the floor to be half of wood and half of cement. There is also to be a provision for a fireplace.

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This model hogan was one of the things recommended at the conference of superintendents recently held at Fort Defiance. It will be a demonstration to older Indians principally. All hogans may not be constructed on this plan, but as many Navajoes maintain several permanent hogans, I believe the object lesson will be a good one.

The Supervisor's criticism that some camp Indians have more farm products than have the schools is correct. The schools of this reservation were located not with a view to farming land but wherever a supply of water could be obtained. Not one of them has available land that may be successfully farmed. The Indians could not farm such land; and this is proven by the fact that the terraced gardens and cornfields of the Hopis are located at places distant from the Mesas.

Experimental farming in Keams Canon was not successful from a financial standpoint. It was conducted at a great expense on a very large scale and presents a large loss to the Government. The coming year details of boys will be assigned to farmers and small patches farmed in a manner that will be of greater benefit to the Indian.

The recommendation that Additional Farmers go into the field among the Indians is noted. The two additional farmers of this reservation were originally stationed at the Mesas. During the

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superintendency of my predecessor, road work and construction work occupied nearly all the time of such farmers and all other labor that could be placed at their disposal. The Hopi and Navajo Indians, considering their location, the conditions, are considered by some as the best dry farmers in the World. I do not believe that white farmers can teach them better methods of raising corn. Corn is the staple crop and the Indian faces all the unfavorable conditions of the country without expensive implements, with only natural irrigation, and produces a crop. The fact that he has successfully produced crops on unfavorable ground during many years is evident from the fact that he is alive. The Hopis and Navajo Indians may not adopt the methods advocated by some Government Farmers, because of climatic conditions. He is not able to farm the same tract every year owing to sand storms and divergencies of water; he is not able to plant corn as the farmers of the middle west plant it, for the reason that terrific winds would tear his crop to pieces. One important improvement is to induce the Indian to select seed for future crops, exchange seed, or to procure entirely new seed. I believe that the Indian of the desert would be greatly benefitted if he could be induced to pay some attention to the condition of the seed planted.

The Supervisor suggests that Agency Farmers be given stations at the Mesas to relieve the Principals of Day Schools of field work. As the lands surrounding the day schools are unfavorable for farming,

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I believe that the two Agency Farmers would do better work if given camp equipment for the making of trips among Indians located at distances. This field work would take them over the reservation, enable them to observe crops, to make suggestions concerning seed, planting, etc., and at the same time would enable them to view all phases of the water situation. They would observe small damsites, and if supplied with materials, (cement, pipe etc.), could make valuable improvements at the small water holes and springs. I think this would produce better results than the stationing of Additional Farmers at the Mesa points.

Very respectfully,

Leo Crane
Superintendent.

LC/PBM.