

agt Edward H. Hobley

ANNUAL REPORTS

OF THE

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

FOR THE

FISCAL YEAR ENDED JUNE 30, 1899.

REPORT OF THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.
PART I.

WASHINGTON:
GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE
1899.

Road work.—There have been about 10 miles of new road built on the northern part of the reservation by the Indians, leading over to the new ferry on the San Juan River, and about the same amount of road repairing done.

Missionary work.—The Christian Reformed Church has two missionaries located here at the agency, Rev. Mr. Fryling and Rev. Mr. De Groot, who are doing all that any people can do for the Indians. They expect soon to establish a mission at the Little Water School, to which one of them will move.

St. Michael's Mission, located about 8 miles south of the agency at La Cienega, just off the reservation, was established in October, 1898. Two Franciscan fathers, the Rev. Juvenal Schnorbus, O. F. M., superior, and the Rev. Anselm Weber, O. F. M., together with the lay brother, Ven. Placidus Buerger, O. F. M., of the province of St. John the Baptist at Cincinnati, Ohio, opened a Catholic mission for the Navajoes.

The Methodists have a mission at Two Gray Hills, Mrs. Cole in charge and Miss — as teacher. They desire to build a small school building at the mission. Miss Tripp is located on the San Juan River with Mrs. Mary L. Eldridge the field matron. All are doing good work.

Improvements about the agency consist of extending the water main to the barn, also to the rear of one agency building; putting in hydrants—making better fire protection; putting down 1,000 feet of new sidewalk; grading and leveling streets; building new and repairing old fences; putting good substantial floors in jail and police quarters; building a good and substantial shed 18 by 100 feet for storage of tools and wagons. Have ditched and drained a pond that lay in the rear of the girls' dormitory, which contained some five acres. This was done to prevent sickness by the stagnant water, also to prepare it to be fenced for pasture next season.

Many complaints are coming in from parties who reside in the Territories of Arizona and New Mexico and the State of Utah, in regard to the Indians going there with their flocks. I am unable to find a remedy, for the reason that there is not vegetation nor tillable land enough on this reservation to support more than one-half of the tribe, and I would most respectfully recommend that the reservation be extended to such proportions that this trouble may be remedied.

There is great need for a new dormitory for the boys at this school, which will no doubt be erected this year, as the bids for the same are to be opened on the 29th of this month, and it is to be hoped the contract will be let; also that of Little Water, as the capacity there is not sufficient to accommodate the children at that school.

I herewith transmit the report of the superintendent of the Navajo Boarding School.

MOQUI INDIANS.

The Moqui Reservation is located due west of the south half of the Navajo Reservation and bounded on the east and north by the Navajo Reservation, and embraces a territory of about 55 miles east and west and 65 miles north and south. The general appearance of the country differs somewhat from that of the Navajo Reservation, containing more level land, a very large portion of which is very sandy. The water supply is very limited. In some cases they have to carry the water from 1 to 2 miles, and the wood problem has been very serious with some of them, as the wood has usually been carried on burros from 3 to 4 miles. But this difficulty has been greatly relieved, as the Government in the last year has placed on the reservation for the Moquis some forty wagons, which will quite well supply them, they living as they do on top of the mesa in villages very compact, so that a great number can use the same wagon.

The Moqui is quite provident. They seem to have a good idea that in time of plenty they should prepare for famine. This was fully demonstrated this spring after the smallpox scourge had abated and the time came for cleaning up and fumigating and disinfecting their houses. It was found they had an abundance of corn and dried peaches stored away in their houses; they claimed a supply for two years ahead. This fully demonstrates that they are not living for to-day only, but preparing for their future subsistence. They are industrious and appear to be a very quiet and peaceful people. Very seldom do they have any serious trouble among themselves. Their domestic relations are very superior to that of the Navajo. They are not polygamists—do not believe in plural marriages. However, they do sometimes separate and remarry, but not so frequently.

An epidemic of smallpox broke out among these people about the 10th of December, 1898, which resulted in 187 deaths. Fatalities occurred very largely among those who were obstinate and refused to receive medical aid from the Government physician. Miss M. H. McKee, M. D., who is the school physician at Keams Canyon, as soon as advised of the contagion existing in the Moqui villages, accompanied by Mr. Samuel E. Shoemaker, head farmer, who was in charge of the Moqui Indians

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under the direction of the agent, proceeded at once to the villages and began a gen-
eral vaccination of all who would submit, and at the same time rendering medical
assistance to those who were sick so far as they would submit to our manner of treat-
ing the sick. Unfortunately a great many absolutely refused either to be vaccinated
or receive medical treatment. Of 632 who had the smallpox, 412 were willing to
receive treatment from our physician, and out of that number of cases 24 died, and
of the other 220 who would not receive treatment from our physician 163 died.

Every precaution possible was taken to prevent the spread of the disease, it having
broken out about the same time on the first and second mesa. To prevent further
spread a quarantine was maintained by police being stationed at intervals between
the second mesa and Oraibi; thus we kept it confined to the two mesas. Had they
been obedient and adopted our mode of treatment the death rate would have been
very much less.

When the time came for cleaning up their villages, burning their infected clothing,
fumigating and disinfecting their houses, there still existed a hostile element that
refused to have this done, and to enforce the orders it became necessary to call on the
Indian Office for military assistance, which was readily granted. A cavalry troop of
30 men was sent from Fort Wingate, and on their arrival at the mesa where the
trouble existed the Indians were still stubborn and refused to be washed and reclotted,
but the troops soon subdued them without any serious injury to anyone. Eight of
the leaders in the hostile element were arrested and taken to the agency and confined
in the jail. Had it not been for a few of such leaders we would have had no serious
trouble, but they controlled an element, consisting of nearly one-fourth of the entire
tribe, who now claim to be pleased that the leaders are punished. I have used my
best effort in a kind way to teach these prisoners that they were wrong; that the
Government was their best friend and guardian. They finally acknowledge that the
civilized mode of treatment for the sick is best, and should another outbreak of the
disease occur they would be obedient and receive treatment from our physicians.

But they still insist that they do not believe in educating their children. This
class of the Moqui have never patronized the school to any extent, but there is still
hope that they may be made to realize the necessity of education.

The Government has assisted the Indians in building 96 houses on the bottom
lands where the farming is carried on. Nearly every one of these houses is occupied
during the summer while the crops are being raised and harvested, after which the
Indians move back to their villages on the mesa, carry their crops up and store them in
their houses, and remain there through the winter. A few families remain in the
houses on the farms the entire year.

All dress mostly in citizens' clothing. Women all have dresses and black blankets.
Their occupation is general housework; besides, they make baskets and pottery, and
grind the corn, preparing it for their bread. The men do the farming and weave
the blankets and do the sewing, making all the clothing for both men and women.

SCHOOLS.

There are five schools on the Moqui Reservation. Keams Canyon Boarding School,
with a capacity of about 70 pupils, which has been crowded with an enrollment of
86, and an average attendance of more than its proper capacity; Blue Canyon School,
with a capacity of 20, which was very slow in filling up, largely owing to the lack of
a proper supply of material for conducting the school and taking care of the children.
But late in the spring, when the roads became passable and made it possible to sup-
ply that want, the children were brought in, and at the close of school the enroll-
ment was up to or beyond the capacity of the building.

The day schools at Polacca, Second Mesa, and Oraibi were quite well patronized
until in December, when they were closed on account of smallpox.

The field matrons on this reservation no doubt have rendered good service to the
tribe.

I am unable to furnish a report from the superintendent of the Keams Canyon
School, for the reason the superintendent was transferred before the close of the term.

These schools and the Moquis have now, by order of the Secretary, been transferred
and placed in charge of a bonded superintendent.

In conclusion I desire to return my sincere thanks to the Indian Office for support
and kind assistance rendered me during the short period I have had charge of this
agency.

Very respectfully,

G. W. HAYZLETT,
United States Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

JONES, William