April 15, 1863

New York 15. April 1863.

Sir

I have the honor to acknowledge notification of my appointment as Superintendent of Indians Affairs for the Territory of Arizona and before setting out ~~upon my~~ mission beg to receive specific instructions as it will be difficult to communicate with the Department from that remote locality.

In passing westward to my field of labor the first Indians coming within my superintendency are the

Gila Apaches,

Your Bureau is well informed that these Indians have successfully resisted all attempts for their civilization by the Spanish Mexican and American Governments and have successively driven the people of each nation from the vicinity of the mountains which they inhabit and when our unfortunate civil war caused the withdrawal of the United States troops from the country they proudly boasted of having chased the Americans from their domain never more to return.

From the commencement of the war to the entire depopulation of the country west of the Rio Grande I could enumerate the most hound atrocities committed by these savages, resulting in the death of more than one hundred and fifty of our people, some of them burned alive, and culminating in the destruction of the Mining Establishments near the Santa Cruz Valley surrounding the town of Tubac which was also abandoned with valuable stores of machinery material and supplies.

RG 75, M734, Roll 8
Recs. of Dry Supt. of Ind. Affairs, 1863-73
Letterbook of Chas. D. Poston, 1863-64

USPRI000011

but know nothing of Mines and Mining"
"We have one by Undercook who speaks Spanish and a little English"

Lt Ives gives a very good account of the Mojaves he met on his Exploration of the Colorado River

In view of any further difficulties with the Mormons the fidelity of the Indians on the Upper Colorado ought to be secured and preserved.

A Reservation of Lands should be made for these Indians and if they are as good as represented encroachments upon their lands would not be misplaced.

An Agent for the Mojaves and neighboring tribes should be appointed to reside in their midst at or near Fort Mojave on the Colorado River.

The Moquis

Are one of the most interesting tribes of Indians in Arizona possessing an almost classical reputation from the extravagant stories told about them by the early Spanish Explorers and the interest they excited in Europe

A romancing Friar Marcos de Niza first gave the Governor Mendoza Guzman such marvellous accounts of the Seven Cities inhabited by these Indians then called the Seven Cities of Cimola (Buffalo) that he attempted an expedition to them in 1538 which resulted in a failure.

He afterwards induced the Vice Roy Mendoza to order an expedition which was successfully conducted by Coronado then Governor of New Gallicia (1540.) but without finding the golden treasures and magnificent cities enthusiastically described by the romancing Friar.

He found however very interesting Aborigines living in good stone houses Cultivating fields of Maize beans peas Melons pumpkins and tending their flocks and herds in peace.

They wore blankets from the wool of their sheep and made cotton cloth from the indigenous stalk which was found enough on which to paint the pictures of their beasts and birds as a present for the King of Spain.

The Expedition of Coronado did not satisfy the expectations which had been raised in Europe about the golden treasures and magnificent cities of Cibola and as late as 1742 we find an Order from Philip V. to the Viceroy Ordering the reduction of the Pueblo of Moqui.

The Moquis have continued to live an independent life in the Mountain home Cultivating their fields tending their flocks making themselves Comfortable blankets for the Winter and Cotton for the Summer.

Their numbers are estimated by all Exploring parties who have visited them at near 7000 souls.

It may be only necessary to preserve friendly relations with this interesting tribe and to make them a few presents as an evidence of our superiority and earnest of our good will.

USPRI000013

8. How are the expenses of surveying and marking reservations to be paid.

9. If the purchases of goods are made in San Francisco can the appropriation be drawn there in gold.

10. Also please say if any allowance beyond the appropriation can be made for office, clerical assistance, interpreters, naturalist &c &c and if any contingent fund can be drawn upon for the purpose of securing to the Indian Bureau a more accurate information of the Indian habits customs and language and specimens of their manufactures.

11. It would be a great benefit to have a copy of the Pacific Railroad Reports of Survey and a few copies of Lues Exploration of the Colorado if they can be had from the War office as well as such information as may be at the disposal of your Bureau.

I shall go among these Indians with the most friendly feeling and an earnest desire to promote their welfare and strengthen the ties of friendship which bind them to our Government and people.

I have the honor to be
Respectfully, Your Very Obt Servt
Charles D. Poston

To
Hon. Wm. P. Dole
Commissioner
of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Address Care Wm. A. Coleman & Co.

Recapitulation

Indians in Arizona estimated in round numbers from the best authorities

1 Apaches of the Gila mountains		5000 souls
2 Papagos of the Pimeria Alta		7500 "
3 Pimas & Maricopas (Ann Gila)		5000 "
4 Cocopas (mouth of the Colorado		3000 "
5 Yumas or Cuchans	Colorado	3500 "
6 Yampais	Bill Williams fork	2500 "
7 Chemehuevis	Colorado	2000 "
8 Mojaves (near Fort Mohave)	"	5000 "
9 Pah Utahs	"	500 "
10 Hualpais	"	2000 "
11 Moquis (Seven Pueblos)		7000 "
12 Navajos (Nomadic)		15000 "
00 Apaches Mansas Tucson		100
Total souls		58:100 "

USPRI000015