Letter Agent

April, 1865 John Ward relative to condition of Moqui

Ind.

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Pueblo Agency New Mexico.
Peña Blanca N. M. April 1865

Sir:

I have the honor herewith to submit my accounts returns &c. for the Quarter ending March 31. 1865, which I trust after due examination will meet your approval and be by you transmitted to the proper Departments.

You will perceive that the accounts for provisions and fuel exceed in amount those of previous Quarters for the same items, but this could not be otherwise, in addition to the unavoidable expenses incurred by the almost daily visits of the Indians under my charge, and the high rates of prices to be paid for every thing in consequence of the depreciated state of our present currency: the Agency during the greater part of the Quarter, has been completely overrun with destitute Sioux and Mogui Indians, the failure of their crops for the last two years has reduced them to a state of beggary.

Although the Moguis do not now properly appertain to this Superintendency, yet they seem to know

in other rallying point in case of distress than our settlements. This is owing to their mutual relations and extensive acquaintance with our Pueblo Indians, and the fact that they consider themselves as belonging to this country. I have endeavored by every possible means to explain to them that they are longer attached to this Superintendancy, but to that of Arizona, to which they must go, hereafter, to transact all their business, and make their wants known. They cannot comprehend the reason of this transfer, and think strange, that we should try to put them off.

The Corn and implements turned over by you for distribution to these people have all been issued, and I can assure you that it was a great blessing to them, there never was a more timely and charitable issue made, and had it not been for your assistance, I should have been entirely at a loss to know how to act with them.

The very fact, that most of them, men, women and children have come on foot, a distance of at least three hundred miles, through deep snow, during one of the most severe winters known for many years, for the purpose of procuring some thing to eat, and what little they can pack to their homes, is of itself sufficient evi-

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[illegible] of their deplorable condition, and fully [illegible] the charity which has been extended to them.

In connection with the foregoing, it may not be out of place, to state for your information, that one of my first Official acts, after assuming the Superintendency of Indian Agent in 1861, was to make a trip to the Moqui Pueblos (villages) at which time I visited every one of the seven pueblos, I found them very poor and badly in need of assistance, they had scarcely any implements worthy of the name, they had no hoes, no spades that I could see, the Corn which is usually their main crop, they planted by the aid of sticks, by digging holes in the ground, into which they dropped the seed. They principally depend on the Rain for their crops, having no permanent running water in their vicinity, that they are comparatively speaking at the mercy of the seasons. A short time previous to my visit to them, they had been attacked and robbed by the hostile Navajos. and to make their condition worse, the independent campaign from this Territory against the Navajos, had also gone to their village, and had taken from them every

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the very corn they had in store for their subsistence. This was done as I afterwards learned, under the plea that the Moquis, were in league with the Navajos against us.

All these facts, as well as their true condition I reported on my return, to the then Superintendent and did all in my power to impress upon him the necessity of relieving their wants, but strange to say my honest appeals, in their behalf, had no effect whatever and nothing was done towards it.

The only succor worthy of notice, which these people have received from this superintendency, so far as I am aware, is that which has been extended to them during his visits, I can safely say that there never was a tribe of Indians so completely neglected, and so little cared for, as these same Moqui Indians, indeed for some time they seem to have belonged, no where. For several years previous to the creation of Arizona Territory they were not even mentioned in the annual reports of predecessor.

From personal observation, and that

of my judgement, the aggregate population of these Indians, do not exceed three thousand souls. Their location and circumstances make them an easy prey for their more formidable and warlike foes. Navajos and Southern Apaches, by which they are surrounded.

As these Indians no longer appertain to this Supt'cy I would respectfully suggest (through you to the Dept.) that the Arizona Supt'cy, be instructed to take the entire charge of the same, and to extend to them the relief and protection to which they may be entitled, and thereby free this Supt'cy from a burthen for which no allowance whatever is made. The responsibility, care and expense should be attached wherever they properly belong.

Very Respectfully
Your obt. Servt.
(Sd) John Ward,
Ind. Agent

Dr. M. Steck
Supt. Ind. Agn.
Santa Fe. N. M.

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