February 13, 1878

Arizona

M 347 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS 187

I 403 OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS 1878

Wm. R. Mateer,
Moquis Pueblo Agency
Feb. 13, 1878.

Est. Supplies
for 1877-78.
1. Enc.

To Int. Dept Mch 12/78
To Agent ~~Mch~~ 20/78

RG 75 M234, Roll 21
Ltr. Rec'd by OIA
1824-1881

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Fort Defiance, Arizona
Feb 12th 1878

Hon. E. A. Hoyt, Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington D.C.

Dear Sir:

I have the honor to submit an estimate of supplies for the Moqui Pueblo Indians. I am sorry that I have not the proper blank upon which to make this estimate but there is none to be had here.

Mr. A. G. Irvine made an estimate of Annuity goods for these Indians when he sent in his estimate for the Navajoes but has heard nothing from it except receiving an invoice for the needles from O. Howard Bliss, New York City dated May 29th 1877. The needles have never been received and we can not learn what has become of them.

These Indians are much more needy and deserving at the present time than many of the tribes around them who are receiving weekly rations and large amounts of Annuity goods, they are at present complaining of the injustice of the Government

[illegible] [illegible] are industrious [illegible] in my [illegible] [illegible] under many disadvantages
Chiefly on account of the location of their villages.
They have to pack all their fuel wood a distance of from twelve to fifteen miles either upon their backs or on burros, and for several of the villages water has to be packed the same way quite a long distance.
Their land is extremely poor being composed chiefly of sand and for want of water to irrigate their crops are frequently a failure. The unusual amount of snow that has fallen here this winter and its remaining so long on the ground will doubtless insure them a good crop next summer.
If the Moquis are permitted to remain where they are now located, they should have at least fifty miles square set off for them as a reservation.
The Navajoes are encroaching on their pasture lands on the East frequently grazing their flocks around the Agency buildings. The Utes come down from the North with their flocks, and the Mormons are settling along the Little Colorado fifty miles to the South and also about the same distance to the West so that they are being imposed upon from all sides.

[illegible] Respectfully [illegible] greatly in need of a few
[illegible] I would [illegible] to [illegible]
the prepared by [illegible] for the use of Transportation
[illegible] allowed five yards for each
blanket and eight yards for each woman, there being about
250 children and women, but taking the census the last
time the Ration Tallage was not taken which increases
their number to about 750.
The Garden Seeds I wish you would have forwarded
at your earliest convenience.
The Handkerchiefs are worn in lieu of hoods in place
of Hats and bonnets.
The Hoes are wanted especially for irrigating pur-
poses and none but the largest size made.
Indigo is almost indispensable to these Indians in the
preparation of their wool and yet it is so expensive
here that they are unable to procure it in limited quantities.
In estimating for Kentucky jeans we allowed five
yards to each adult for coat and pants, there being 486 men
would be 2430 yards but we made it even 2500.
Knives, forks Spoons and tin plates they are anxious to
get so that they can learn to eat as Americans do. They now
drink by each one dipping his or her hand in the pot and
Rolling the mess into a ball by adding a little corn meal. They

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[illegible] the county [illegible]
[illegible] Sunset.
I forgot to say that I [illegible] for them but they say
that they can get [illegible] and want the ordena
Sheers. Sheers have [illegible] the habit of shearing
them [illegible] with a butcher knife and not unfre
quently taking a part of the skin with the wool, a
most [illegible]

The yarn they need to weave blankets for themselves.

I wish you would also forward me two crusts of vaccine as they are quite anxious to be vaccinated. I will try and do it myself.

The [illegible] [illegible] a few years [illegible]

Very respectfully,
Wm R Mateer,
U.S. Indian Agent.

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