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May 1, 1879

Letters Received
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Rogues River Indian Agency
Arizona.

May 1st 1879.

Wolter Lieut R.
U.S. Indian Agent.

Subject.

Monthly Report for
April 1879.

Encloses
File Room
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United States Indian Service,

MOQUIS PUEBLO AGENCY.

Fort Defiance, Ariz., May 14th, 1879.

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

Sir:

I have the honor respectfully to report that during the month of April, the Indians finished planting their wheat, putting in altogether, I should judge, about 30 acres. Unbroken ground that was too tough and sticky to plough they dug up with the hoe. One half of their wheat looks very nicely; the remainder is just up and I have no doubt will do equally as well. If the season is favorable and there should be nothing to destroy the crop, before it is gathered, I should think, that they ought to raise from eight hundred to one thousand bushels of wheat, which will be quite an item to the Moquis Indians and next season the ground will be in a much better condition for planting.

They have planted some wheat on their

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grounds about their Villages, at any request, for experiment without irrigature, but, I am afraid that it will prove a failure this season, as the weather has been very dry for some time past, and from present appearance is likely to remain so, until the wet season sets in, which will be from the middle of June to the 1st of July.

As soon as those Indians who had been planting wheat, had finished, they nearly all went to work on the stone fence with a will. They felt as though they had more interest in it than the mere dollars and cents which they were getting for their labor. Chiquito, Chief of 1st Village, Moe-lee, Chief of 3d Village, and She-cah-pu-kee, Chief of 5th Village, each worked with a squad of men from his own village and during the remainder of the month built somewhat over 1,000 feet of stone fence. The Indians previously inclosed the ground with a brush fence so as to protect their crops until the stone fence can be built. I have increased the extent of ground in the inclosure, partly at the suggestion of the Indians,

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United States Indian Service,

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extending the stone fence 200 yards further up the Cañon from the Agency than I had calculated to do. Upon a careful examination I found that the soil was very well adapted for wheat; that there is a sufficiency of water oozing from the Northern bluff of the cañon, near the surface, to sustain the crop until the rivel season sets in.

I have also had two reservoirs made during the month for irrigating purposes. The larger one will hold water to irrigate five acres of ground. It is walled from 3 to 4 feet in height, so as to prevent the stock from treading in the embankments and filling it up so rapidly. I was forced to make 250 feet of additional fence built, in order to leave this large reservoir outside of the inclosure, so as to afford the Navajos ample opportunity for watering their stock, which however does not interfere with its use for irrigating purposes. The other reservoir

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is in the Agency inclosure and was made more especially for the use of the Agency Garden, although, considerable water can and will be used from it for the wheat.

The Indians seem greatly pleased at having a place for planting wheat, where their labor will be protected without being constantly guarded and especially, while they are engaged with their other crops. They have it all staked off as carefully as if it had been surveyed out to them.

We have planted an acre and a half in vegitables, melons and corn most of which are up and looking nicely. I have also had a bed of Tobacco seed planted, so as to furnish plants to the Indians and get them into the way of raising their own tobacco. They only use it for smoking and can readily prepare it for that purpose themselves; they now smoke a mild tobacco, of their own preparation, when they can get no other.

All the improvements which have been made here are of a permanent character and

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have been made for the special benefit of the Indians and not of the Agency, except neces-
sary repairs. My aim has been to teach them industry and economy as well as to show them how to work and also to assist the needy and deserving at the same time.

They will all be busily engaged through the greater part of May in planting corn, melons, beans &c., with which, they allow nothing to interfere when the proper time arrives, and after they are through planting, they have considerable dancing to make them grow.

Su-bee, formerly a Chief of the Oraibi Village is here and complains that the Mormons are intruding upon their farming lands at Moen Kapi and interfering with their planting. He states that his father planted there when he was a boy, as well as many other Oraibis, and that it is their ground. At Moen-av-e, eight miles above, in the same Canon they had another place

of planting where they lived observing the planting. A few years ago Jacob Hamblin, one of the Mormon Apostles, came in there and asked permission to plant that season and water his stock which was granted. In the spring when the Indians returned to plant, as usual, they found other Mormons in possession and when they attempted to go to work, the Mormons said, oh no! we have bought this place from Mr. Hamlin and you can't plant here. John W. Young, the favorite son of Brigham Young deceased, resides at Moen Kopei and has a large store there. I inclose copy of a letter which I send to him at Tu-bee's request.

I would respectfully inquire whether there is not some law by which the Indians can be protected in their rights to lands, which they have cultivated for a century or more?

Very respectfully,
Your obedient servant,
Wm. R. Moaler,
U.S. Indian Agent.

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