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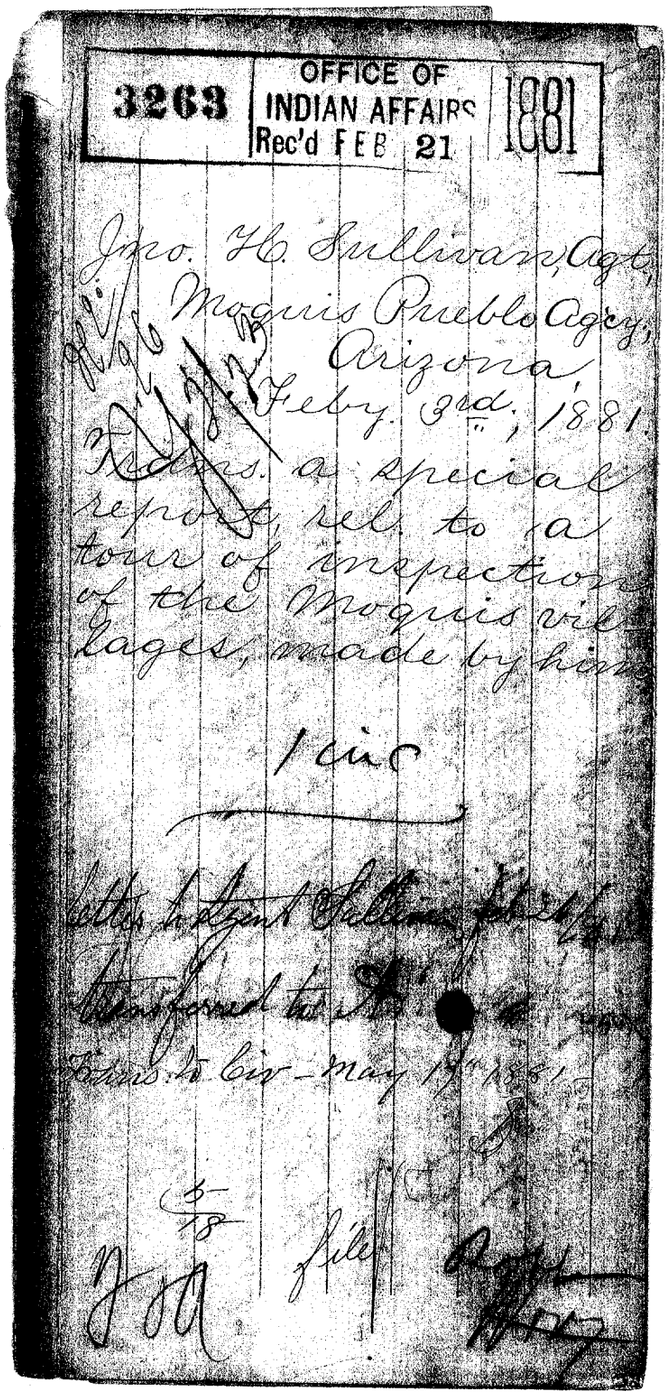
February 3, 1881



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RG 75, BIA, Ltr. Rec'd
1881-3263

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United States Indian Service,

Moqui's Pueblo Indn Agency,
Arizona Feby 3rd, 1881

To the
Honorable Commissioner Indian Affairs
Washington
D.C.

Sir

Allow me to ask of you a personal examination of the enclosed Special Report.

I confess it is a little more voluminous than I expected, but the importance of the subject matter appears to me to warrant the space I have occupied, and could not see wherein I could, with justice curtail it.

Hoping for your indulgence
I subscribe myself
Your most
Obet Servent
John H Sullivan
U.S Ind Agent

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February 3, 1881

3263 | INDIAN OFFICE | Inclos: No. 1 | 1881

Special Report of Mogui Indians and Villages and Wagon road to Sinset.

J. H. Sullivan
U.S. Indian Agent

Feb. 2nd 1881.

File

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United States Indian Service,

3263

Moqui's Pueblo Indian Agency,

February 2nd, 1881.

To the

Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Washington D.C.

Sir:

I have the honor to transmit to you, this, my Special Report on the following subjects.

On the 20th Ult. I left for a tour of inspection to the Moquis Villages, accompanied by Mr. Jonathan C. Davis whose intelligence and practical good sense I hold in high esteem; also, Nagbe Nemah, a Moqui head man as guide, he having been raised in this country, and Edwin A. Merritt as interpreter, who speaks the Moqui, Navajo and Spanish languages all of which had to be used on the trip.

We went first to the villages and met and talked with very many of the people who to all appearance seemed to be "content" as they expressed themselves. My judgment is, they are easily satisfied, if being half naked and poorly fed makes them happy. One leading chief came to his door to meet me, with only a not very long shirt on.

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Many more, of both sexes, were found in about the same condition, while many children were on the streets entirely unclad. It was a very cold day, making ice all day.
Their stock of provisions as shown me are quite limited, not at all more than sufficient to feed them to the early ripening of the next crop. There supply of corn is better than anything else. They have a few hogs and chickens appeared more numerous. They also have some sheep and goats, the flocks, although not large, are probably sufficient for their wants in a limited way.
They are a provident and parsimonious people; to help illustrate their character, two young men came to me with ten onions each to sell, I asked the price, each one gave me to understand that he wanted twenty-five cents for his stock in trade; I paid them and took the onions at which they were quite pleased.
The house to which we were taken as our stopping place by the guide, was clean and quite comfortable. I had to buy the wood we used, and other little accommodations provided, the price for all were given which I paid. making our entertainer very happy.
Their moral and social condition is anything but good.

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In some respects it is revolting to the sensibilities of civilized men; but when permitted to see them as they are, I am not surprised; huddled together as they are, living underground & in small houses with small rooms, with two & three families occupying the same apartment, male & female lodging on the same floor; married & single persons - all dwelling together in such close proximity & caring little if at all for the exposure of their persons; I am not surprised.

They are a timid people, & would be industrious & save their gains if put under proper training & where they could do something. But, their homes are on a barren rock, & they say have no other protection from the raids of the Navajos - their ancient enemy. On Friday noon we started to see their planting grounds; found large cultivated fields containing each several acres divided off into smaller parcels, showing that no one person planted more land than he regarded as sufficient to supply his own necessities.

This land is very rich, & probably never be exhausted as it is sure to be covered with water leaving a rich deposit each succeeding year. They can continue to live from it, as for centuries past, if left alone as they are -

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But that can not be. They must be made to live in their own seperate homes, on lands held in severalty but cultivated seperately; establish schools which will be followed by Christian Churches, and history will be enriched in that the wrongs upon a ruined and almost extinguished race of men are weighted by a generous people and a beneficent Government.

I continued the examination of this district of country down the valley leading to the Colorado river. This valley is large, and the most fertile I ever saw, although the sandy surface would indicate that vegitation could not grow upon it. Yet we saw annual weeds some of which are as tall as a mans head when on horse back, with a thickly set and heavy crop of the richest and best grass for pasturage I have ever met with in any country. it is known by name "black Gramma", also another indijmous grass called "luceme" makes a good hay also.

The absence of surface water, is apparently the great draw back to this country. It will have to be watered by pumps and windmills in wells, which can be done at a moderately small cost, as I am assured by those

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who seem to know that water can be obtained in required quantities for stock and aragation, not far below the surface. If that be found true, this Colorado Valley is one of the most valuable ~~ones~~ on the Continent - especially for grazing and wheat growing. I was told at Sunset that they harvested in 1879 - 40 bushels of wheat per acre. This summer of 1880 being very dry and hot, the yield was not so large - only 25 to 30 bushels per acre. Their sys- of farming is not perfect by any means, but the statement goes far to show what may be accomplished on this rich valley, with good tillage. We struck the Colorado fifteen miles below Sunset and traveled up the river to Barado, a distance of fifty five miles. We reached the Colorado Sunday forenoon, having slept two nights - Friday and Saturday - on the open plain, the weather being intensely cold, it was with difficulty we succeeded in finding barely enough fuel to prevent our suffering from cold and to boil our coffee pot. Our supply of food feed and water - was exhausted by Saturday night. Sunday morning all started alike hungry and

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throats dry - both men and horses - to Sunset at which place we stopped at 5 P.M. and there remained for the purpose of rest and recuperation until Tuesday morning. Amongst the objects of the trip for the benefit of the service, I had determined to find a route for a wagon road from the Agency and the Villages to the Railroad — which will soon be completed through this country — and having examined the route to Sunset; on Tuesday morning we started up the river to examine two other routes, which were urged upon me, one from St. Joseph, the other from Barados Station. We reached this place Tuesday evening, remained over night, next morning started, soon learned this route to be wholy impracticable. We then dropped down to St. Joseph and struck out for the investigation. We camped on the banks of the Little ~~Colorado~~ Colorado. Next day we persued our course hoping to find an easy outlet, finding both these lines about equally impassible, we then bore west to find the Sunset line on the mesa, which we found. Ourselves and horses having been without water about thirty hours. We started to find water which we found at a spring near the Sunset route. From here we

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started to find timber - for camping had to be done again. The next morning - Friday - we started to the Sunset trail which was soon found. Then we started on the back track. Our horses being considerably worn and knowing we could not reach the Agency that day, did not urge them, so we drove at a slow gait: in the evening found water and wood and went into camp. The weather still cold, although slightly moderated that day. Saturday - after a ten days trip, we reached the Agency at 5 O'Clock PM.

We had seen on the trip a fine quality of coal, gypsum cement, with many qualities of stone, and a great deal of good country: a line for the construction of a good wagon road from the Agency and the Villages to Sunset, distance about sixty miles - as nearly as we could estimate it - which can be made practicable at a cost of about $500.00 cash to pay the Indian laborers - the Moquis can do all the work required. If built, the road will accommodate, - at a small cost, all the Moquis, the Agency and all the other interests of this great valley; and contribute largely to the development of the hidden sources of wealth and comfort to the people for many miles in extent and for a long time to come. It will save on the transportation of

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goods largely each year, and facilitate the speedy delivery of the goods as well as lessen the expense: besides they will be delivered in better condition. Moreover, the Agent can make his disbursements in the proper season of year when it will do the greatest good to those for whom the goods are intended. It will also cheapen and facilitate our mail facilities. Altogether, I ask your special attention to this subject, and your authority to proceed to the work: inasmuch as I am informed that the Railroad will be running to Sunset by mid Summer next.

I wish again to refer to the Moquis people. It is a vexed question - "what can or will be done for them". I have at present but one theory for the solution of this question, which is as follows: They must be induced to leave their mesa homes, remove to the Colorado Valley, and cultivate the rich lands and live each family to itself; and if needs be, pay them for a time, for a certain number of days labor on their own lands, each year, during the specified time - say two, three or more years; and help help them erect their houses, dig wells, place pumps in them,

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And windmills where required by which they can have a supply of water. I think this plan would induce them to gradually abandon their old ways, particularly the younger of them, and more especially would it be so if this wagon road to which I have already refered be made, and the Agency removed to Sunset. Then they would feel secure under the immediate protection of the Agent. I have been told repeatedly by their head men, they would not go to the valley without such protection, not even to raise wheat, when I have urged them to do so. A few only have agreed to plant this season, so far, but I hope to induce others to join in it, by planting time.
I have worked and will continue to work for what I regard as their best interests while in charge.
I have the honor to be

Your most obedient servant.

John H Sullivan
U.S. Indian Agent.

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