

48.

UNITED STATES NAVAJO INDIAN AGENCY,
Fort Defiance, N. Mex., September 3, 1873.

SIR: In compliance with the requirements of the Indian Department, I have the honor to present my annual report of the condition and advancement of the Navajo Indians, of New Mexico, for the year 1873. I arrived at this place, for duty in connection with the Navajo agency, August 5, 1873, and, as soon as the necessary arrangements could be made, proceeded to the San Juan River, to make an examination and report of the country belonging to the reservation in that vicinity for purposes of agriculture, as directed by you. A copy of that report was forwarded to your office, August 31. The Indians of this tribe are advancing rapidly in material wealth, year by year, and side by side with the white settlers of this country. They have now in their possession several hundred thousand head of sheep, over ten thousand head of horses, and a large number of cattle. Sheep are their favorite stock, owing to their rapid increase, the ease with which they are kept, and the benefit of their wool.

The manufacture of the well-known Navajo blankets is a source of considerable profit to them, by providing them with the main portion of their clothing, by sale, and by trade among the Mormons of Utah Territory and other tribes of Indians. They also make their own saddles, bridles, bridle-bits, moccasins, belts, leggins, and a variety of other articles for comfort and convenience, with a degree of skill that is surprising when their limited facilities for these purposes are considered.

Their conduct for a number of years past (since their complete subjugation in the late Navajo war) has been a source of great trouble, by their propensity for stealing live-stock. This custom, however, has been gradually discontinued, and I am happy to say that not a single depredation of this kind has come to the knowledge of their late agent, Mr. Hall, for the past year. Persevering efforts have been made to educate these Indians, and induce them to adopt a civilized mode of life, but, owing to their being thinly scattered over an immense extent of territory, it has been impossible to make such progress as had been hoped for.

If my report of the San Juan country is favorably considered, it is believed that most of the disadvantages in this respect may be overcome. A statement of the general management and condition of the agency will be forwarded in the agent's annual report.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. D. GOULD,
Special Agent for Navajoes.

Col. L. EDWIN DUDLEY,
Superintendent of Indian Affairs, Santa Fé, N. M.

49.

OFFICE MESCALERO APACHE AGENCY,
Fort Stanton, N. Mex., September 1, 1873.

SIR: I have the honor to submit the following annual report of the affairs and condition of this agency. On assuming charge, April 2, 1873, I found no designated reservation, no buildings belonging to the agency, no accommodations of any sort or kind, but the agent was dependent upon outside parties for every necessary for himself and for supplies of whatsoever kind. The Mescalero Apaches are savages, having no inclination to civilization in any respect. Their government is patriarchal; dwelling in bands or families, with one principal chief for each band; remaining but a short time in one place and having no fixed abode; traveling a large extent of country, seldom or never appearing in full numbers at the agency, but receiving rations by representation. Although at peace, frequent depredations were charged to these Indians as having been committed in Texas and along the valley of the Pecos River, the great cattle-trail from Texas to New Mexico and Colorado; and learning that one drover had been attacked and severely wounded near Pope's Crossing, about the 1st of August, I visited Seven Rivers, distant one hundred and fifty miles, to ascertain the truth of these reports. I found the wounded man at Seven Rivers, (since dead,) and found all the facts and evidence obtained, and from the finding of stolen stock and property in their possession near the agency, and from the apparent fact that the number of horses and mules was very great and constantly increasing, the conclusion was fair that these Indians were guilty of complicity, at least, and shared in the profits of the thefts, if not entirely responsible for all.

The presence of any other tribe has not been at any other time proven, and it is well known that these Indians were accustomed to visit that region, having a rendezvous in the Guadalupe Mountains, in which direction all trails of stolen stock led. The