

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

custom of issuing passes to them to visit Texas, Seven Rivers, and the plains east or any point remote from the agency, was discontinued as being improper, and no pass has been issued since I assumed charge of this agency. I have insisted that they should remain in this immediate vicinity. It has been impossible, from various causes, to establish a regular issue-day, or to effect a regular attendance. A reservation has been set apart and designated for these Indians, but has not been surveyed or its boundaries indicated to them; neither has an official copy been furnished this office. The buildings on the military reservation of Fort Stanton, and belonging to the former post trader, I am informed, verbally, were purchased in June by the superintendent of Indian affairs for the use of the agency. The buildings are ample for all the necessities of the agency, and would afford suitable rooms for schools if it was deemed expedient to establish such. There is no other way of civilizing these Indians than to compel them to remain upon their own reservation by a military force, restore the property they have stolen, disarm them, and teach them to respect the rights of citizens. Were they disposed or inclined to labor by cultivating the soil in the valleys along the streams, raising stock upon the mountains, they might become rich in flocks and herds, and would soon be self-supporting.

Respectfully, your obedient servant,

S. B. BUSHNELL,
Agent Mescalero Apaches.

L. E. DUDLEY, *Superintendent Indian Affairs.*

50.

SOUTHERN APACHE INDIAN AGENCY,
Tularosa, N. Mex., September 4, 1873.

STR: I have the honor to submit hereby my first annual report of the Southern Apache agency.

I assumed charge of the agency on the 11th of January, of this year. At that time there was no appearance of order in the management of the agency, but in a few weeks I succeeded, against strong opposition from the chiefs, in establishing a uniform ration and a regular day for issuing rations. The beef had been issued "on the hoof," and there were always quite a number who failed to get a share.

The Southern Apaches have never known the power of the Government, and since they have been upon a reservation have accepted Government bounty in a spirit far different from what was intended and expected. Their idea of the reservation system a few months ago was that they were to be furnished with a home where they would have every bodily want supplied by right; that the agent and his employes were among them to act as their menials, and to await their pleasure in all things; that during the pleasant season they would be allowed to leave their women and children to be fed and protected on the reservation, while they visited the settlers on the Rio Grande to steal stock and bring it home with them and claim the protection of the agency. It is only occasionally that such stolen stock can be proven and returned to the owners. I tried hard for nearly five months to stop this practice of stealing horses, telling them that it would soon bring trouble upon them, but without effect.

Early in the summer Col. William Redwood Price, of the Eighth Cavalry, took command of the troops in Southern New Mexico, and since then I have had his earnest and efficient aid in controlling these Indians. In July, Colonel Price came to the agency with a force of three companies of cavalry, and, at my request, arrested a number of Indians. This frightened the tribe so that they fled to the hills, and, at my request, Colonel Price pursued them with such persistence and rapidity as to overtake them in two days and compel a council, which they had refused to hold at the agency. They saw that they were overpowered, and came back to the agency very penitent. I appointed a new principal chief, who exercises a good deal of wholesome authority over the tribe.

The issue of corn as a ration to these Indians, has been the cause of a great deal of trouble until a month ago, when that ration was ordered to be very much reduced. They manufacture an intoxicating drink of the corn, and, under the influence of this drink, they do a great deal of fighting among themselves. Since January, seven have been killed in these fights and about twenty wounded.

There has been no farming done by these Indians. Although they are very fond of nearly every variety of vegetable, they are too averse to work to make any effort to cultivate any of them. The employes have raised a garden and about five acres of spring wheat. The reservation is not well adapted to the cultivation of corn, but wheat and all varieties of vegetables do excellently well. The cultivation of potatoes alone would be very profitable. If the Indians would pay any attention to raising stock, they would soon be rich from that source alone.