

NAVAJOES.

An attempt has been made during the year to introduce weaving upon hand-looms among Navajo women, who have long manufactured blankets and cloth with the most primitive tools, the wool being obtained from their own flocks. Four looms were put into operation, and the women proved themselves both apt and enthusiastic pupils. As reported last year, all the Navajoes are more or less engaged in agriculture and herding. They own large flocks of sheep and goats, but are dependent upon the Government for two-thirds of their subsistence, and are sadly in need of educational facilities, only 130 out of nearly 10,000 being in school.

Vigorous efforts should immediately be put forth and adequate means provided to bring these Navajoes at once into a condition of self-support. It is believed that if the expenditure of a single year could be doubled and properly applied under the administration of an efficient, clear-headed agent in supplying seeds, tools, stock-cattle, and additional herds of sheep and goats, and furnishing rations to the Indians only when earned by their own labor, the large expenditure necessary to support the Indians on the present unsatisfactory plan could thereafter be materially reduced, and within a short time might cease altogether.

The relations of the military to this agency are fully set forth in the report of the agent for this year and years previous. The accounts of

the lewdness among Indian women practised by the soldiers stationed at Fort Wingate, with the knowledge of their officers, furnish a record of burning shame to the whole American people.

SANTA FÉ, N. MEX., *October 19, 1875.*

SIR: In submitting this my third annual report of the condition of the Navajo Indian agency, I am compelled to ask you to pardon its delay, which has been unavoidable, caused by the interference of the "whisky-sellers," at Cubero, Cibollito, Fort Wingate, and San Mateo; the squaw-men, who, when I took charge of this agency, I discharged because they were living with Navajo squaws, and were controlling, in consequence, the affairs of the agency, and who had previously forced the agents to submit to their dictations; and the want of co-operation and support from the military at Fort Wingate, the nearest military post to the Navajo Indian agency, which military post has been under the control of the officers of the Eighth Cavalry, United States Army, for the last year.

The foregoing adverse circumstances culminated in the driving from the agency, in the month of September, by some of the chiefs and Indians, my family and several of the white employés of the agency, and the threat that I would not be allowed to remain at the agency. The Indians also forbade the Navajo laborers to work any more at the agency; and when the laborers resisted, a portion of the chiefs drove them away and tied and whipped some of the Indian laborers, and thus broke up all the efforts to teach them to use the looms and other machinery which I had during the previous six months introduced at the agency, with the view of making the Indians self-sustaining.

Prof. V. Friese, school-teacher at the agency, left; and after he reached Bacon Springs, he forwarded to me his annual report of the condition of the school. Since the date of that report he died at Fort Wingate.

Miss H. W. Cook and Mrs. Cecelia Army, who were engaged in the work of teaching the

children and women to labor, make their own clothes, and co-operated with the teacher in civilizing, educating, and making self-sustaining the Indians of the agency, were forced to leave the reservation, and the labor of several years was retarded, if not destroyed, by the machinations of bad white men and the inefficiency of the military at Fort Wingate.

Under the direct superintendence of Miss Cook, no machinist or carpenter who understood the work being obtainable in this country, three looms and other weaving-machinery were constructed and a fourth loom put in working order; all of which will hereafter be of great benefit to the Navajo Indians.

At the court for the second judicial district of New Mexico, which was held at Albuquerque during the last two weeks, efforts were made to indict two parties, natives of England, (who, up to that court, were not naturalized citizens of the United States,) and others who are living with squaws in open adultery, and who have defied the agent and demoralized the Indians; but owing to the doubtful jurisdiction of the courts of New Mexico, it being uncertain whether the Navajo agency is in New Mexico or Arizona, and other adverse circumstances, I am informed that the grand jury failed to find indictments. I would here respectfully suggest that Congress be requested to attach the whole Navajo reservation to the second judicial district of New Mexico for all judicial purposes, civil and criminal, under the laws of the United States.

I would also respectfully suggest that a law be passed making it a criminal offense for a white man to cohabit with an Indian squaw unless he is married to her under the laws of the United States, and that when married they shall no longer live on the reservation. This, in my judgment, would break up the fruitful source of trouble arising from the interference of squaw-men on the various Indian reservations. The retarding influences which prevent civilization, moral, religious, and physical training of the Navajo Indians, I regret to be compelled to say, arises from the want of the co-operation of the military in this country and the interference of the squaw-men.

On the 12th of December, 1874, I addressed a communication to you in reference to Navajo Indians which Major Price, of the Eighth Cavalry, United States Army, took without my knowledge to Colorado on a campaign against the Indians of the plains, and which Indians, on the route, took sheep from the flock of Florenzo Sandoval. In the same communication I also called attention to the demoralization of both the Indians and soldiers, arising from the fact that the Navajoes were allowed to visit at their pleasure the military reservation of Fort Wingate, and asked that the orders of June, 1870, on this subject be enforced, and that the Indians be required to leave the military post and return to their reservation and report to their agent. This communication was referred to the Hon. Secretary of War, and by him to General Sherman, and by the latter to General Pope, who indorsed on it, among other things, as follows, viz: "I do not consider the statement of Mr. Army to constitute such a state of hostility as would excuse me in the eyes of the Indian Bureau for interfering with the business or pleasure of such Indians as the Navajoes." The order of June 20, 1870, issued by General Pope, is as follows: "Under no circumstances whatever will any Indian be permitted to enter any military post or station in this department."

All I wanted was the enforcement of that order to prevent the evils specified in the letter of Dr. R. S. Vickery, the post surgeon, as follows:

"FORT WINGATE, N. Mex., April 3, 1872.

"SIR: I have the honor to report that, in consequence of the number of Navajo squaws being about the post, venereal diseases have become of late much more frequent among the troops, so that half or more than half of the sickness among the men is of that character.

"I therefore request that the commanding officer order all these women from the reservation; or should some of them be allowed to remain working for any one at the post, to let it be under such regulations as would insure their behaving themselves in this respect.

"Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

"R. S. VICKERY,

"Assistant Surgeon, United States Army.

"POST ADJUTANT."

Not long after making this damaging report, Surgeon Vickery was relieved from duty at Fort Wingate, but his successor reported the same state of things, and the official report of the present surgeon, Dr. Lauderdale, confirms all that was said by Dr. Vickery. If, therefore, the facts as stated by me relative to the continued infamous debauchery of Indian women by United States soldiers, with the full knowledge of their officers, are questioned, reference to the official records of the Surgeon-General United States Army will entirely establish my statement.

During the two years last past I have asked that the Indians be ordered from that military reservation. My requests have been disregarded; and although, under date of June 10, 1875, Colonel Gregg, commanding the district of New Mexico, renewed the order of General Pope, prefacing it as follows: "The following general order is republished for the information of all concerned and will be strictly enforced," in despite of the above, up to this date, drunken and debauched Indians are to be seen almost daily at that post, and

squaw-men are allowed to send Indians with letters against the agent, and are encouraged to resist their agent.

On several occasions, when I asked for troops to protect the agency, they were refused, because, as the officer stated, "there were scarcely sufficient troops to stand guard at Fort Wingate." And on other occasions they said, that "troops could not be furnished without an order from headquarters."

The lives of my family and the employés at the agency were endangered and threatened by the Indians, who were excited thereto by the squaw-men. Application was made to the commanding officer at Fort Wingate and refused. My family and some of the employés were driven away from the agency without any protection from the military, and shortly after, Major Price, with his soldiers, took forcible possession of the agency, evidence of which has been forwarded to you in my letters of September 15, 24, and 25, 1875.

On one occasion an Indian robbed the trader's store at the agency. I asked aid from the military at Fort Wingate to arrest the Indian, and was refused. I then took my employés and arrested him, recovered most of the stolen property, and took the Indian to Fort Wingate, where he was placed in the guard-house, and in less than a week the guard allowed him to escape.

On another occasion a Navajo murdered a Mexican, and robbed him of \$20. He was arrested and placed in the guard-house at Fort Wingate, and in a few days the guard allowed him to escape also.

Again, the agency butcher, S. Hanlon, shot an Indian. I applied for aid from Fort Wingate. The agency was surrounded by Indians, who were determined to hang Hanlon, and the lives of all the whites at the agency were imperiled. I detailed my men, employés, after I was refused aid from the military, and exerted my personal influence with the Indians and had him taken to Fort Wingate.

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Either the Indians must be declared citizens, as proposed by the Hon. Mr. Shanks of Indiana, and thus be made amenable to the courts; or they must be placed under the full control of the agent and the military be compelled to aid him in fact, and not by Department and district headquarter orders, and the laws enforced; so that when an agent asks for protection and power to compel the Indians to stay on the reservation, it will be furnished to him, and not, as at present, several thousand Indians of this agency be allowed to be at the military post, and in the surrounding country, being demoralized by soldiers, whisky-sellers, and "squaw-men."

After an experience of several years with these Indians, under all these adverse circumstances, I am still of the opinion that the Navajoes (with the exception of a few of the chiefs and their immediate attachés, who are associated with the whiskey-sellers and squaw-men) are good Indians, and would aid in every way to make themselves self-sustaining, if the agent was sustained by the military. I am also forced to the conclusion that no agent can accomplish anything with them till the reservation and its surroundings are made clear by the removal and punishment of the whisky-sellers and squaw-men: and until the order of General Pope is enforced, and all the Indians are compelled to go on their reservation and live there, especially Manuelito, Marianna, and Delgadito, who have never lived on the reservation, and who, at their will, are allowed to visit the Wingate military post, and the Mexican towns where whisky is furnished to them, the agent not having power to prevent it.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,

W. F. M. ARNY,

United States Indian Agent, Navajo Indians, New Mexico.

Hon. EDWARD P. SMITH,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs.