

tions the policy is a good one; it gives an Indian a personal interest in his home, and surely this would be an incentive to work. As to favorable conditions for allotment, I would say a large body of good productive land given in severalty to the Indians, under the immediate and personal supervision of a good faithful farmer who will make the Indians work, would prove the best plan to secure ultimately the desired results of civilization and self-support. I would then allow no leases only in extreme cases, but require allottees to work the land themselves.

7. From this standpoint this is a most difficult question to answer. I must remind you that this agency embraces many small reservations scattered over southern California. Peculiar climatic conditions exist here, "water is king," and without irrigation agriculture is almost a failure; repeated failures are most discouraging to an Indian. In early days the Indians sought isolated points near mountain springs and small streams for their homes and allowed their stock to range on the level valleys below. When the land was reserved, the unfortunate mistake was made of selecting land where the Indians lived instead of good lands.

8. The stock industry is not engaged in to any extent at this agency. In my opinion, stock raising alone would lead to idleness with all its evil effects.

9. I have on file a list of persons who have received patents from me.

10. There is no register kept to my knowledge. To keep a register of this kind would be somewhat difficult here, but would surely be of great value in future years. I would suggest that the physician would be the proper person to keep such a register, and could do so very well by a little systematic effort.

11. Boundaries are poorly defined and the lines will eventually have to be resurveyed.

12. Yes; and I can see very serious trouble in store for whoever shall have in charge the final adjustment of the Indian land cases.

13. Insist upon maintaining family names; where one person has two or more names, keep strict record of all. Enforce legal marriages, and have them carefully registered. Prohibit illicit marriages in future; but I think those that already exist should be carefully noted, and perhaps parties should be urged to legalize their union. Record carefully all births and deaths. Attention to such details would, I am sure, be of great importance to the Indians in their future, and certainly a great aid to the Department.

Very recently the Yuma Reservation was dissevered from this agency, and the management of this important reservation placed in the hands of the superintendent of the Yuma training school. I trust I will not be considered out of place in making some suggestions concerning these people and their lands.

There are in this reservation some 76 sections of land lying along the Colorado River. Until recent years this land was considered a desert waste; now, however, the land is known to be excellent, very productive, and valuable. I venture to say that not 30 acres of this vast tract are under cultivation by the Indians, and their farming is of the most primitive nature. When the water recedes after a winter's freshet, the Indians plant their little patches, and this is the extent of their farming. There are approximately 700 Indians at Yuma. A great many find employment at Yuma; others cut and sell mesquite wood from the reservation; in this manner they get a scanty living. It has always seemed to me that four-fifths of these people are constantly idle. Here then, in my opinion, is an ideal spot to fully test the allotment policy. Put in a good system of irrigation, and bring a portion of this splendid tract under cultivation and I am sure the Yumas will prove to be a contented, industrious, and independent people.

Very respectfully,

L. A. WRIGHT,
United States Indian Agent.

NAVAJO AGENCY,
Fort Defiance, Ariz., December 16, 1898.

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: Yours of November 2 received, in which you say:

"In April, 1898, the secretary of this board addressed to Indian agents a circular of inquiry as to the progress (and the effects where completed) of allotments of lands

in severalty to Indians. The replies received have been of material use to the commissioners, and through our board to the public in promoting an intelligent interest in the progress of Indians toward entire self-support and active citizenship. Certain of these replies from agents called special attention to a matter to which we have given serious consideration, viz, the need of *systematic and permanent registration of the names and allotments* of all Indians whose land is allotted in severalty, and of a continuous and permanent register of *marriages, births, and deaths* among Indians to whom land has been allotted. The need of such a register to prevent great confusion and uncertainty as to titles, is obvious."

In compliance with the above, I have the honor to state that as to the Navajo Indians on this reservation, there are no allotments made, and from the natural make-up of the country, it being at least three-fifths mountains, it would be impossible to allot lands and get any great number of the tribe located on permanent homes with sufficient lands to subsist them. While there are a few that are located and stay permanently in one place, at least seven-tenths of them are roving about the country, changing their herds from one locality to another, their main support and subsistence in this country being the raising of sheep and goats. A limited number raise cattle also, the grass being so short and the soil so near nonproductive that it would be an impossibility with the number of Indians that belong to this tribe to locate them on permanent homes on lands on this reservation. The nonproductiveness is caused by lack of moisture. We have scarcely any rain during the year except in July and August, which comes too late to start up the crops and mature them. The seasons are very short here owing to the high altitude, being some 7,000 feet. Frosts continue late in the spring and come early in the fall. We have a few irrigation ditches that cover, at the most, probably from 500 to 800 acres; in one locality under those ditches the Indians are cultivating and raising some corn and wheat, squash and melons; but few attempt to raise potatoes or other garden vegetables. Still they are extremely fond of potatoes, onions, cabbage, and beans. There are no lands leased on this reservation; there is not much over one-half enough grass to supply the stock on the reservation; many drive their stock off into New Mexico or Arizona and herd them through the winter.

It is hard to answer the question as to whether the stock raising is favorable to their civilization or not, for the reason that these people have never tried on any other line of business, and the general conditions are such that they never can make a living in any other way on this reservation. Of course, under improved and extended water system, they can to some extent change their mode of living, but the country in general is not and never will be anything but a grazing country and a very poor one at that. As to a permanent record of births and deaths being kept, there is none, but I am trying to keep a record of the deaths so far as possible, but to keep a correct record would be an impossibility as we probably do not hear of one death in twenty. We keep a record of all school children who die, as far as possible, during vacation. When they are at home a great distance we possibly do not hear of all deaths, but to keep a record of the births, deaths, and marriages and divorces, it is or would be an impossibility, as there are no regular marital obligations existing among them, neither any form of divorce. I am using my best efforts to get these people to understand that there should be and is an obligation connected with their marriage that should be observed, and trying to show them the wrong of selling their girls for wives, not permitting them to choose husbands for themselves. Will be pleased to answer any questions so far as I am able at any time, and would be pleased to have any suggestions placed before me that might tend to the betterment of these people.

Very respectfully,

G. W. HAYZLETT,
United States Indian Agent.

NEAH BAY, WASH., *December 20, 1899.*

BOARD OF INDIAN COMMISSIONERS,
Washington, D. C.

GENTLEMEN: In reply to yours of 8th instant would say we have no allotments of land on this reservation.

Very respectfully,

SAMUEL G. MORSE,
United States Indian Agent.