

OFFICE OF SUPERINTENDENT OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Santa Fé, September 30, 1856.

SIR: Having transmitted to your office monthly reports of the several Indian agents attached to this superintendency, and also from this office, giving you information of the condition of Indian affairs for each month of the present year, an elaborate annual report is deemed unnecessary.

The Mimbres Apaches have remained peaceable and quiet since the date of my last annual report, and are cultivating the soil with commendable diligence, and with as much success as could reasonably be expected—so much so, that their agent, Doctor Steck, informs me that these Indians will raise half enough corn and vegetables to subsist the band during the next year, which indicates a decided improvement of their condition. I regret that so favorable a report cannot be made of the conduct and condition of the Mescalero Apaches. These Indians are charged with having committed numerous depredations upon the white citizens of this Territory, which have been reported to you in detail through the monthly reports of Agent Steck. They have not attempted to cultivate the soil, but continue to glean a precarious subsistence by the chase, and occasional thefts and robberies. Nor do I believe it practicable to induce these Indians to abandon their predatory habits, and resort to a cultivation of the soil for a subsistence, until they have permanent homes assigned and secured to them. I can discover no improvement in their condition; but since the death of Palanquito, the head chief, his son, Cadete, who succeeds him, has surrendered a number of horses, stolen from

the whites, and expresses a determination to use his best efforts to prevent depredations in future.

I am of the opinion that the conduct and condition of the Mescaleros are to some extent attributable to the mistaken policy of their agent. When peace was made with this band, in June, 1855, they were in a very destitute condition; and recovering but limited relief from their agent, they resorted to theft, which induced Agent Steck to inform them, in December, 1855, that they need not return to his agency for provisions again until the stolen property was returned, and that he was no longer their agent. This policy was calculated to relieve the Indians from all restraint, and was adopted and persisted in with a knowledge, on the part of the agent, that hunger had caused the Indians to steal; for, in a letter to this office, dated January 17, 1856, one month after this policy was adopted, Agent Steck writes as follows: "The thefts committed by the Mescaleros, about Doña Ana and other places, in my opinion, have been committed to satisfy hunger; they are generally one, two, and three animals, and, by following the trails, it has been almost invariably found that they were killed and eaten." If, then, these Indians only stole a few animals to satisfy hunger, which were immediately eaten up, I presume that it would have been better policy to have relieved their wants, than to drive them from the agency, with instructions not to return again for provisions until the stolen property was restored, when, in all probability, this stolen property had been eaten up, and could not be restored. As soon as the foregoing facts came to my knowledge, a change of policy was directed; since which time, and the death of Palanquito, I have heard of but little complaint.

Of the Gila Apaches, embracing the Mogoyones, the Coyotereros, the Tontos and Garroteros, I have but little to add to my last annual report. During the last spring, parties of the first-named band, on several occasions, committed depredations on the citizens of the valley of the Rio Grande—the particulars of which, together with the results of an expedition made into their country, under the command of Lieutenant Colonel Chandler, of the United States army, have heretofore been communicated to you by Agent Steck, through this office. The Coyotereros, Tontos, and Garroteros are so far removed from any agency as to render our knowledge of their condition quite limited; but my information is, that none of the Gila Apaches cultivate the soil to any very considerable extent, or have made any other very decided advance towards civilization, but subsist principally by the chase, occasionally robbing the peaceable Pueblos in the neighborhood of Tucson, and travellers on the road from El Paso to California.

The Jicarilla Apaches have been charged with committing several robberies and murders during the past summer; but upon investigating these charges, although there appears to be no doubt of the offences having been committed, I am inclined to believe that these Indians are innocent, and that those of the Arkansas are the guilty parties. By my instructions, Agent Labadi has from time to time supplied the Jicarillas with some provisions and agricultural implements, which have enabled them to live in comparative comfort, and to cultivate the soil to a limited extent. I visited them in their own

country during the forepart of the present month, and gave them a supply of clothing, blankets, implements for cooking, hatchets, knives, tobacco, &c., for which they appeared very grateful; and they expressed great friendship for the whites, and a desire to be located in permanent homes where they could cultivate the soil on a more enlarged scale.

Of the Utahs, I have but little to add to my last annual report. Both the Capote and Mohuache bands of this tribe have remained peaceable and quiet, waiting patiently for the ratification of the treaties concluded between them and the commissioner on the part of the United States, during the last year, and professing a willingness to commence farming next spring, provided permanent homes are assigned to them. At the time and place of meeting the Jicarilla Apaches, I also caused the Capotes and Mohuaches to be assembled, and gave them similar presents.

During the last spring a large number of sheep and some cattle and horses were stolen by the Navajoes, and several persons in charge of this stock were killed. The agent for these Indians, H. L. Dodge, immediately demanded of the chiefs and headmen a restitution of the stolen property, and a surrender of the murderers for trial and punishment; and being supported in these demands by Major Kendrick, commanding Fort Defiance, the wealthy men of the tribe have, by contributions, partially indemnified the owners of the property stolen, and still profess a disposition to make good the remainder as soon as they are able to do so. But they say that the perpetrators of these outrages consist of a few bad men who cannot be controlled; that they have fled from the remainder of the tribe, and cannot be apprehended; and they contend that the whole tribe should not be held responsible for the conduct of a few bad men. They also informed Agent Dodge that if our government desired to punish the innocent for the conduct of the guilty, the troops might come on, for they would not attempt to get out of the way or resist. This language was held after first trying a more defiant tone, and finding that it would not answer.

I have heard of no depredations having been committed by the Navajoes for several months past; and it is my decided opinion that a very large majority of the tribe are peaceably disposed, but they have a set of bad men among them whom those well disposed either cannot or will not control; and, notwithstanding these unwarrantable and unfortunate occurrences, this tribe continues to cultivate the soil, and progress towards civilization with considerable success. They are improving their condition from year to year, and a necessity for an open rupture between them and the United States is to be deplored; as a successful campaign into their country would seriously retard the improvement of the Indians, and an unsuccessful one would but tend to irritate and render them more hostile.

Although this Territory has not remained free from Indian depredations since the date of my last annual report, yet such occurrences have been less serious than during any preceding year since my appointment to this office. The various pueblos, or villages, of partially civilized Indians, located in various sections of this Territory, continue to maintain their character as peaceable and industrious

communities, richly deserving the fostering care and assistance of the government. They continue to cultivate the soil with success, and, as a general rule, are free from the want of any of the necessaries of life. Several of the Pueblos have lost their grants from the governments of Spain and Mexico for the lands held by them, and in such cases their agent, A. G. Mayers, has taken testimony before the surveyor general of the Territory to substantiate their claims; and it is to be hoped that in all such cases Congress will promptly confirm their titles. These Indians have, from time to time, been supplied with agricultural implements, and as the appropriation for this purpose is not yet exhausted, this policy is proposed to be continued. In this connexion I would respectfully recommend that the superintendent be authorized to assign some of the Pueblos to other agents, more conveniently situated to attend to their interests than the Pueblo agent is, because some of the Pueblos are located distant from their agent, but in the immediate vicinity of some other agent, who could act for them; for instance, the pueblo of Taos is situated within four or five miles of the Utah agency, whilst it is over seventy-five miles from the Pueblo agency. Again, the Pueblos of Moqui are about eighty miles from the Navajo agency, and over three hundred from the Pueblo agency; therefore, if the Pueblo agent desires to visit Moqui, or the Indians of this pueblo should wish to communicate with their agent, either party must make a journey of three hundred miles to accomplish the object; and they must, in either case, pass immediately by the Navajo agency, when, if these pueblos were assigned to the last mentioned agency, one could communicate with the other by travelling eighty miles; and in addition to these considerations, the Moquis do all their trading at Fort Defiance, where the Navajo agency is located.

From the most reliable information in my possession, we have acquired, by the Gadsden treaty with Mexico, about five thousand Indians in addition to those heretofore under the charge of this superintendency. A large portion of this accession to our Indian population consists of Pueblos, situated near Tucson; and, as a military post is about being established in that vicinity, and that section of this Territory is now being rapidly settled by our people, I would respectfully recommend that an additional agent or sub-agent be appointed to take charge of the interests of these Indians. They are removed to a distance of at least three hundred miles from any other agency, and more than five hundred miles from the Pueblo agency. The Gila Apaches commit frequent depredations upon them, and unless they have an agent at hand to attend to their interests, their rights may be trampled upon. This agent could also take charge of the neighboring Gila Apaches. These recently acquired Pueblo Indians are represented to me as being in a similar state of civilization as the other Pueblos of this Territory. They reside in permanent villages, have comfortable houses built of adobes, have flocks and herds around them, and rely upon the cultivation of the soil for a subsistence—raising wheat, corn, cotton, and other vegetables. They are divided into six pueblos, or villages, but whether or not they hold their lands under grants from the former governments of their country I am not

informed ; but presume that they do, as they have been permanently settled for a great number of years.

Since the date of my last annual report, the Kiowas and other Indians of the Arkansas river have made several expeditions into this Territory, in which they have killed a number of the Mohuach Utahs, and it is believed several whites, and taken a considerable amount of property. About the 16th instant a war party of Kiowas, consisting of ninety-five warriors, arrived at Albuquerque, in this Territory, having passed to the centre of the settled portions thereof. They represented their objects to be to see our people and country, and to make war on the Navajoes. On consultation between General Garland and myself, orders were given to Major Carlton, commanding at Albuquerque, to turn these Kiowas back, and direct them to return to their own country, and, in doing so, they committed several depredations before leaving the settlements.

With regard to estimates for the necessary appropriations for this superintendency during the next fiscal year, I beg leave to refer you to my estimates for the present year, which were transmitted to your office with my last annual report, as these estimates are equally applicable to the next fiscal year.

I have the honor to be, very respectfully, your obedient servant,
D. MERIWETHER,
*Governor, and Superintendent of
Indian Affairs in New Mexico.*

Hon. G. W. MANYPENNY,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Washington City.

No. 72.

OFFICE SUPERINTENDENT INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Olympia, W. T., May 31, 1856.

SIR: I have received your communication of the 19th April, giving me authority to draw upon the department for \$10,000 per month, commencing with the month of December, 1855. This amount will not, however, cover the expenditures which have been incurred, and I will ask authority to draw for an additional amount not to exceed five thousand dollars per month. My original requisition was for \$15,000 per month. It must be borne in mind that I am actually feeding, in whole or in part, 5,350 Indians ; that the number will probably increase ; that the expenses of expresses are very heavy ; and that I have to take the responsibility of incurring expenses when it is a question of peace or war. The views of the department, having, as they do, the hearty concurrence of my judgment, the result of my personal experience here, shall be faithfully and zealously carried out. They have been my governing principles of action, not only during the pendency of the war, but from my first entrance upon the duties of the superintendency.

I am gratified to be able to report that the policy of protecting the