

ZUNI INDIAN AGENCY, NEW MEXICO.

L E T T E R

FROM

THE ACTING SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY,

TRANSMITTING

Estimates of appropriations from the Secretary of the Interior for support of Indians and pay of agent at the Zuni Agency, N. Mex.

MARCH 19, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, *March 18, 1890.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith, for the consideration of Congress, estimates of appropriations submitted by the Secretary of the Interior, under date of the 15th instant, for the following objects:

Pay of Indian agent at the Zuni Agency, N. Mex., \$1,500; support of Indians at the Zuni Agency, N. Mex., \$5,000.

Respectfully, yours,

GEO. S. BATCHELLER,
Acting Secretary.

The SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1890.

SIR: On the 5th day of December, 1889, Clark McCave, of Fort Wingate, N. Mex., addressed to you a communication relative to the condition of the Zuni Indians, whose reservation, he states, is nearly 1,000 square miles in area and located in the extreme west central portion of New Mexico, and who number over two thousand souls (it being one of the largest Pueblos in existence). He further stated that they are so far removed from the protection and authority of the Pueblo Indian agent, who lives in Santa Fé, that they have, to a certain extent, become lawless and troublesome to people living in the vicinity of the reservation. He further stated that it is the opinion of the citizens living near and the officers at Fort Wingate, that the Zunis should be

furnished a separate agent, and the belief of all that it would be a great advantage, not only to the Indians, but to settlers in the vicinity.

This letter was referred to this office by you, with instructions to have the condition of the Zuni Indians examined and to consider the propriety of placing an agent nearer the body of the tribe; also, to report if this office deemed another agency desirable and possible.

On the 26th of December, 1889, instructions were forwarded to Special Agent Frank D. Lewis to inquire as to the condition of the Zuni Indians and to report his findings to this office.

On the 21st of January, 1890, Agent Lewis reported that the Pueblo agent—

having under his supervision the Indians of nineteen different pueblos, could not be better located for the oversight of sixteen of these than at the present station, Santa Fé, which lies half-way between Taos, the most northern, and Isleta, the most southern.

Laguna, Acoma, and Zuni, the three western pueblos, are distant and not easily reached from Santa Fé, Zuni being 235 miles from the agency. To remove the agency in order to benefit Zuni would only result to the detriment of northern pueblos lying along the Rio Grande. * * *

Owing to the distance from the agency it is impossible for the Pueblo agent to give to the Zunies anything like the proper amount of attention; while, if an agent were placed at Zuni, there is no reason why he should not be able in a very short time to have one hundred and fifty children at school, and put a stop to the witchcraft murders, as well as to adjust and prevent to a large extent in the future the difficulties between the Indians and the cattle-men.

Should it be deemed advisable to create a separate agency, I have the honor to recommend that the three Pueblos, Zuni, Acoma, and Laguna, be cut off from the Pueblo Agency, and that an agent be appointed for them as one agency. There are about 1,700 Zuni Indians, with a reservation of 215,040 acres; about 800 Acoma Indians, with a grant of 95,792 acres of land, and 1,300 Laguna Indians, with a patented grant of 125,225 acres, and an unconfirmed grant of half as much more; making a total of 3,800 Indians and nearly 500,000 acres.

This report was submitted to the Department on the 1st instant and returned on the 6th instant, with advice that the Department approved of office recommendation of the 1st instant—

That a new Indian Agency be established at or near Zuni, N. Mex., to be named Zuni Agency, which agency will embrace the Zuni, Laguna, and Acoma Pueblos, and that said Pueblos be separated from the present Pueblo Agency.

In order to carry out this project, I have the honor to submit herewith an estimate for the action of Congress, providing an appropriation in the sum of \$6,500 for the pay of an agent and for the support of said Indians and pay of employés at the agency to be established.

I inclose herewith duplicate copies of the correspondence on the subject.

Very respectfully,

T. J. MORGAN,
Commissioner.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
March 15, 1890.

Respectfully forwarded to the honorable Secretary of the Treasury, with my approval, and request that the proposed appropriation be incorporated in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1891.

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

THE CIBOLA CATTLE COMPANY,
Ranch near Fort Wingate, N. Mex., December 5, 1889.

DEAR SIR: May I ask your time and kind patience to read the following facts:

The Zuni Indians, whose reservation is nearly 1,000 square miles in area and is located in the extreme west central portion of New Mexico, and who number over 2,000 souls (it being one of the largest Pueblos in existence), are so far removed from the protection and authority of the Pueblo Indian agent, who lives in Santa Fé, that they have to a certain extent become lawless and troublesome to people living in the vicinity of the reservation.

I am in charge of the interests of the Cibola Cattle Company, and our ranch, where I live, is 25 miles from Fort Wingate and near the eastern edge of the Zuni Reservation.

Our company has suffered through the depredations of the Indians in killing cattle, and nearly every one in the neighborhood of the reservation has received some injury from them in this way.

Very recently two Mexicans were found dead about 15 miles from the main village. A scout was sent out from Fort Wingate, and all indications point towards the murder having been committed by the Zunis.

The Indians themselves often receive injuries from white men and others from which they seem to get no redress. Knowing nothing of the laws themselves, and the agent living so far away, it is either too expensive to make the trip or too late, it taking so long for him to receive word and travel here.

It is the opinion of the citizens living near and the officers at the post that the Zunis be furnished a separate agent, and the belief of all that it would be a great advantage, not only to the Indians, but to settlers in the vicinity.

If it is thought best to create the office I would like to have the position of agent. I can procure the indorsement of the people in the vicinity, and officers at Fort Wingate.

I have lived at this place for more than five years, and know the Indians, and I believe that I have their good-will and confidence.

I am, with great respect, your obedient servant,

CLARK M. CARR.

Hon. J. W. NOBLE,

Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

SANTA FÉ, N. MEX., *January 21, 1890.*

SIR: I have the honor to inclose Indian Office letter 36224-89, inquiring concerning the necessity for the establishment of a separate agency at Zuni, or for the moving of the Pueblo Agency headquarters to a point nearer the Zuni Reservation.

In regard to the latter proposition, I have to say that the Pueblo agent, having under his supervision the Indians of nineteen different pueblos, could not be better located for the oversight of sixteen of these than at the present station, Santa Fé, which lies half way between Taos, the most northern, and Isleta, the most southern. Laguna, Acoma, and Zuni, the three western pueblos, are distant and not easily reached from Santa Fé, Zuni being 235 miles from the agency: To move the agency in order to benefit Zuni would only result to the detriment of northern pueblos lying along the Rio Grande.

The situation at Zuni, however, is such as to demand more attention than the Pueblo agent located at Santa Fé can or will give to it.

Complying with your instructions of December 26, 1889, I left here January 3 for Zuni. Owing to failure of trains and the amount of snow lying on the Wingate and Zuni mountains, which had to be crossed, I did not reach Zuni until January 10, although I made all haste possible. I found the main village quite a large one, containing, at a fair estimate, over three hundred children of school age. Dancing was going on, which occupied almost universal attention. There is a contract day school in the village, which had an average attendance of only $5\frac{1}{2}$ children during the past quarter. The Indians are more thoroughly wrapped up in their superstitious ideas than those of any tribe I have yet met. It has been the custom of these people for years to hang a witch or two every year, the last hanging, that of a mother and son, occurred in October last, and resulted in the death of the son and breaking of both the mother's wrists.

Last spring the trouble between the Zunis and the horse thieves, which resulted in the killing of four Zunis, could have been averted had there been an agent within reasonable distance.

The surrounding cattlemen complain bitterly of the depredations of the Zunis on their stock. This question is a debatable one. The surrounding country is filled with wandering bands of Navajos, who live off from the reservation. There are also plenty of renegade whites and Mexicans in the neighborhood, and it is hardly fair to charge all missing stock to the Zunis.

It is certain that the many acres of fine grazing land which form a part of the Zuni Reservation are exclusively used by the outside cattle owners without benefit to the Zuni Indians.

A recent murder of the Mexicans close to the Zuni Reservations has been charged to the Zuni Indians, though there is nothing to show that it was committed by them. Such matters as these should be ferreted out and the blame placed where it belongs.

Owing to the distance from the agency it is impossible for the Pueblo agent to give to the Zunis anything like the proper amount of attention, while if an agent were placed at Zuni there is no reason why he should not be able in a very short time to have one hundred and fifty children in school, and to put a stop to the witchcraft murders, as well as to adjust and prevent to a large extent in the future the difficulties between the Indians and the cattlemen.

Should it be deemed advisable to create a separate agency I have the honor to recommend that the three pueblos, Zuni, Acoma, and Laguna be cut off from the Pueblo Agency, and that an agent be appointed for them as one agency. This would give an agent residing at Zuni abundant opportunity to attend to all Zuni matters, and at the same time to give to Laguna and Acoma a greater amount of attention than they can get under the existing order of things, and which they sorely need, especially in regard to school matters and matters pertaining to trespass upon their legal property rights.

There are about 1,700 Zuni Indians, with a reservation of 215,040 acres; about 800 Acoma Indians, with a grant of 95,792 acres of land, and 1,300 Laguna Indians with a patented grant of 125,225 acres, and an unconfirmed grant for half as much more, making a total for the three pueblos of 3,800 Indians and nearly 500,000 acres of land.

Very respectfully,

FRANK D. LEWIS,
United States Special Indian Agent.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 6, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to inform you of my approval of your recommendation of the 1st instant, "that a new Indian agency be established at or near Zuni, N. Mex., to be named Zuni Agency, which agency will embrace the Zuni, Laguna, and Acoma pueblos, and that said pueblos be separated from the present Pueblo Agency."

In order that you may have an estimate prepared to be submitted to Congress for funds to pay the employés and other expenses connected with the maintenance of the new agency, there are returned herewith, as requested, the papers submitted with your recommendation.

Very respectfully,

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

The COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Proposed amendment to the bill making appropriation for the Indian service for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1891.

Pay of Indian agent at the Zuni Agency, N. Mex.....	\$1,500
Support of Indians at the Zuni Agency, N. Mex.: Support and civilization of the Pueblo Indians at Zuni, Laguna, and Acoma reservations in New Mexico, including pay of employés.....	5,000