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## **Report of the Inspection of the Kiowa, Comanche & Wichita Agency**

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## Report of the Inspection of the Kiowa, Comanche & Wichita Agency

### About

Government Relations with Native Americans, Office of Indian Affairs, Native American Reservations, Caddo Tribe

### Identified Persons

Agent Hall; Caddo Jake; Charles F. Ashley; Dr. Paoors; E.E. White; G.W. Rose; George D. Madera; Horace R. Chase; J.W. Carson; J.W. Haddon; James H. Deere; John Collins; John Craggs; Mr. Collier; Mr. Sneed; Secretary of the Interior; T. O'Connell, Jr.; W.D. Meyers

### Identified Places

Fort Sill; Genoa Indian Industrial School; Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita Agency at Anadarko; Standing Rock Agency

### Recipient

Secretary of the Interior



UNITED STATES INDIAN INSPECTION SERVICE,

Ponca, Indian Territory,

September 7, 1889.

The Honorable,

The Secretary of the Interior,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to submit my report of the inspection of the Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita Agency, in Indian Territory, made on July 18 - 26, 1889, under Department instructions dated November 28, 1888 and May 28, 1889.

Preliminary Observations.

On my arrival at Anadarko, Ind. Ter., on the evening of July 18th, I found 3,000 Apaches, Comanches and Kiowas encamped near the agency, awaiting a payment from cattle-men for pasturing privileges. Several days later the cattle-men, in the presence of an army officer, paid the Indians about \$3,600.00. I visited the Indians in their tents and was rather favorably impressed with the Comanches; the others were not so cleanly nor so well-appearing. As all of the Indians of the above-named tribes were away from their settlements I did not visit them at their homes. On the evening of July 25th a delegation of chiefs of the Kiowa tribe invited me to the hotel on the reservation and there formally presented me with a petition for the retention in office of Agent W. D. Myers, with the request that I carry it to the Great Father in Washington. I forwarded the document to your Department on August 31, 1889.

I spent some days in investigating certain complaints of Cadde Jake, chief of the Cadde tribe and James H. Deere, a member of the tribe, in accordance with Department instructions dated December 1, 1888. My special report and the papers in the case were transmitted to your Office on August -, 1889.

The Indians.

The Indians at this agency number about 4,000, and consist of about 350 Apaches, 1,500 Comanches, and 1,100 Kiowas, who are uncivilized; and 1,000 Caddos, Wichitas and other smaller tribes who are semi-civilized. The uncivilized tribes live between the Washita river and the State



of Texas, and the semi-civilized tribes are located between the Washita and the Canadian Rivers. These later are pretty well advanced, but they are unfortunately wedged in between the wild Cheyennes and Arapahes on the north and Apaches, Comanches and Kiowas on the south. I was informed that they could live comfortably without the Government ration, now issued to them, but that the Indian Office deemed it best to issue rations to them, the same as to their wild neighbors, for fear that the latter should find out too soon that the acceptance of civilization meant the withdrawal of the Government rations.

The Comanches are making some progress in farming. They have very good horses. The Apaches and Kiowas are not making satisfactory progress. There is need of more additional farmers and the adoption of the district plan of farming which obtains at the Standing Rock Agency in Dakota.

Agent Myers who has been in charge of the agency less than a year appears to have good control of all his wards, and I am satisfied that the conduct of Indian Affairs at this agency is exceptionally good, considering his want of experience and the character and number of the Indians.

#### The Shops and Buildings.

The shops are in very good condition and sufficient, but there is a great want of employes' cottages. Since the removal of the agency to the present site no employes' buildings have been erected, except the agent's house - a fine, large brick building - and a very small log and frame house used by the butcher. The physician lives in a condemned house north of the Washita, and when the water is high he cannot cross over to the agency, which is located on the south bank of the river. The blacksmith lives in a house erected at his own expense at a cost of about \$500. He suggested that he would be glad to sell it to the Agency for \$300. The carpenter occupies a house belonging to Mr. John Craggs, one of the traders, at a rental of \$5.00 a month.

Considering the large number of employes eight or ten employes' cottages are necessary. Agent Myers informed me that he had forwarded estimates to the Indian Office for



the requisite number.

The agent's house is much out of repair, the plaster-in being down and the paper and paint being worn out. I had the carpenter examine the premises, and he thought \$150. would be required to put it in proper repairs and add a wooden portico to protect the house from the sun.

The Government Property.

There are on the north side of the Washita river at the site of the old Wichita Agency, a number of neglected buildings: storehouses, employes' cottages, &c., which the agent informed me were not on the property returns, they having been condemned. It is their location only, which makes them practically worthless. If they could be moved to the opposite side of the river, to the new agency, they could be repaired at but little cost. The agency physician lives in one of these buildings. I am in doubt about the propriety of condemning houses or other property and leaving them in their original state. These buildings, in my opinion, should be reported on the property returns or be utterly demolished. The system of condemning property in the Indian Service is, to my mind, very defective. In my inspections I very seldom find a member of the board of survey to dispose of worn-out property who knows anything of the contents of the voucher to Abstract F which he has sworn and subscribed to. I am decidedly of the opinion, and I so recommend, that condemnation and destruction of property shall in future be done in the presence of an Inspector or Special Agent of the Indian Service, and not as now by, and in the presence, of dependent employes, whose scrutiny of a paper prepared by the agent or clerk is looked upon as impertinence by his official superior. My report of the investigation of H. R. Chase's frauds at the Genoa Indian School will show how easy it is to condemn and destroy thousands' of dollars' worth of property - on paper only.

The increase from the agency herd has not been properly reported for two years. Agent Myers informed me that his predecessor, Special Agent White, did not take up the herd on his property returns at all, and that the increase was therefore not reported. Agent Myers issued the cattle



and calves to the Indians during the present year but it is understood that there are cattle belonging to the herd still roaming unrecognized on the reservations. Mr. Carson, the herder, in explanation of the fact that the increase this year had not been taken up on the property returns said that calves were taken up not when they were born but when they were branded, a quarter or two after their birth. I find, everywhere, that the increase in stock is seldom made a matter of record. I believe it to be necessary for the Indian Office to issue well defined regulations on this subject.

The horses, mules and other animals at this agency are very good, and in excellent condition. The other property is also well cared for.

#### The Agent's Accounts.

The book or books, required by the Act of March 3, 1875, section 10, 18 Stat., 451, has or have not been kept by Agent Myers in the blank "Cash Book" furnished by the Indian Office and, consequently, no transcripts have been forwarded to the Indian Office, as is required by law. I called Agent Myers' attention to the law and regulations on this subject and he stated that he had kept a record of his expenditures and of the receipt of cash and contract supplies in a memorandum book, which he exhibited, and he expressed surprise that the Indian Office had not called his attention to the subject if the keeping of a regular "Cash Book" was as important a matter as I pretended. I think this the place to call the attention of the Department to the fact that no two agents keep the "Cash Book" alike, and that the Indian Office nevertheless accepts the transcripts sent it (if indeed any are transmitted) without notice of their proper or improper preparation. I am of the opinion that if the matter was inquired into, in the Department, it would be found that the transcripts received are filed away in the Indian Office without examination. On several occasions when I have called the attention of agents to their defective system of keeping the "Cash Book" they have told me that the Indian Office was satisfied with their system since it did not object to it and that they did not see why the inspector also should not be



satisfied. Agent Ashley of the Cheyenne and Arapaho Agency keeps two "Cash Books," one of which is indorsed Blotter, and he insisted that whether the entries were made in one form or another or in one book or two was a mere matter of taste; and he even argued, that Regulation 326, Regulations, 1884, was not conformable to the statute on the subject. I am of the opinion that it would have been better to have framed Regulation 326 so as to cover the requirements of the statute only, and to have provided for a second book, and another regulation for the additional entries required by said regulation. See forms page 144, Regulations, 1884. However the regulation is otherwise, and I think that agents should be required to conform with it. I suggest that it would be well hereafter that all transcripts from "Cash Books" be carefully examined in the Indian Office and that agents who do not conform to the law and regulations be properly instructed by letter.

Regulation 502, Regulations, 1884, provides that the surplus products of the labor of the Indians at school may be sold for the benefit of the youth producing it. How this is to be done is however not stated. I will call attention to two cases where that has been done, at the Kiowa, Comanche and Wichita Agency, in a manner, according to my opinion, which is not contemplated by the regulation. Cash Voucher No. 15, --- Quarter 1889, in the name of J.W. Hadden, for corn paid March 18, 1889, \$12.00, represents surplus corn of the Wichita School sold by Superintendent Hadden of the school to the agency.

Cash Voucher No. --, Fourth Quarter 1889, in the name of John Collins, for corn, \$138.00, represents surplus corn produced at the Kiowa school and sold by the superintendent to the agent.

Inclosures "A" and "B" herewith, will show what use was made of the sums of \$12.00 and \$138.00, paid by the agent to the superintendents of his schools.

I very much doubt the regularity of these transactions: 1. As the money was not due to the superintendent personally, the money could not be paid to him at all, since the agent above is bonded and responsible for all moneys of the service - for moneys to be expended for the ben-



efit of the schools as well as that for the agency. 2. No moneys of the service can properly be expended without authority obtained from the Indian Office. 3. All supplies paid for must be accounted for in the cash vouchers and taken up in the property returns. In short, I hold that not having been regularly paid out to private parties for services or supplies the money is constructively still in the agents hands and he must account for it as miscellaneous receipts or otherwise.

I called Agent Myers' attention to this and advised him to expose the case to the Indian Office and request guidance in the matter. He explained that Special Agent White, his predecessor, had done the same thing and had advised him that that was the proper way to act in such cases.

There is also an irregularity in the following-named voucher, Cash Voucher No. 6 Second Quarter 1889, bought of G.W. Rose on September 12, 1888, 200 bbls. lime @ 75 cents, \$150.00. The facts in this case are that about two years ago G.W. Rose a white man who lived on the reservation, at the request of Agent Hall, burnt 300 bbls of lime for 50 cents a bbl., \$150.00. Agent Hall was suspended or removed and Rose did not obtain pay for his supplies. About a year and a half ago the lime was placed in an agency warehouse. About <sup>the</sup> 25 bushels of the lime was used on the Wichita school house and Rose received pay for that. A certain quantity was also issued to the Indians and some of it was lost by transfer from one building to another. Rose still claimed \$150. for his lime, saying that the pay he had received for 25 bushels used on the school house was in the nature of interest on his long deferred payment. Special Agent White to satisfy Rose's claim bought the remainder of the lime, estimated to be 200 bbls. @ 75¢, amount \$150., but before he could pay for it he was succeeded by Agent Myers, who recognized White's purchase and paid the bill by authority of the Indian Office. Another point is that on September 12, 1888, when the voucher says the lime was delivered, and also on the date of payment, Rose was an employe of the Kiowa school. This statement of facts is based on statements made to me by Mr. Rose and



Agent Myers.

So much of Cash Voucher No. 7, Second quarter, 1889, as refers to the payment of \$4.44 to G. D. Madera, for freighting is not regular. This voucher was certified to by Special Agent White and paid by Agent Myers. The irregularity consists in this that on July 21, 1888, Madera a white man, not a Kiowa as stated on the voucher, was an agency employe, and instead of doing any freighting was as an employe, sent with a Government team to Henrietta after some reapers that were wanted immediately. His traveling expenses, he stated to me were about \$4.75, and he was paid \$4.44 freight money in lieu of traveling expenses incurred.

So much of Cash Voucher No. 25, Third quarter, 1889, as refers to the payment of \$17.11 to Dr. Paoors is irregular in this that the signature is in the hand-writing of agency clerk O'Connell. Mr. O'Connell admitted this to me, but explained that Dr. Paoors had authorized him to sign for him. I advised Agent Myers that the letter of authority should be sent to the Department for file with the original voucher and could not be retained with the triplicate in the agent's office.

In his Second quarter, 1889, accounts the agent reported receipts of sale of 242 beef hides at \$2.00 each, 485.00. As a matter of fact only the school hides, numbering 74, were sold for \$2.00 each, and 674 hides issued to the Indians and sold by them to the traders were taxed 50 cents each, producing \$347.00. The certificates of the traders filed with the account, (sample copy herewith marked Inclosure "C"), are therefore not true statements. Agent Myers explained that, following the practice of his predecessor, he had directed the traders to retain 50 cents from the price paid the Indians for issue hides, which amounts he collected from the traders to pay certain employes their salary.

Nearly all of the accounts, vouchers, certificates and reports bear false dates: the report of public funds for the week ended June 29, is dated July 1, but it was prepared after July 6, since it includes deposits made on that date. The report of public funds for the month ended June 30, dated July 1, was also actually prepared on or after July 6. On July 24, the accounts for the quarter ended June 30, were



not completed and I find the oaths and certificates of employes all dated on June 30, although they were not there, on July 24, actually signed. The agent's jurats, too, reading: "Sworn and subscribed to this 30th day of June 1889" were then unsigned. June 30th was a Sunday and the oaths were not actually made on that date.

I pointed out these irregularities to Agent Myers and Clerk O'Connell and they acknowledged their errors. They pleaded their inexperience, and manifested a cheerful disposition to be instructed. They both have good will and good natural ability and I am convinced that their future accounts will be more creditable to them. Their candor - a thing not usually found on Indian reservations - in answering all my questions in regard to these matters convinced me that they are honorable gentlemen, disposed to do their duty conscientiously and in accordance with the established regulations.

#### The Licensed Traders.

The licensed traders four in number one also having a second store at Fort Sill, were doing an immense business whilst I was at Anadarko, the Indians all being congregated there to receive their "grass money." I had not been furnished with the Laws and Regulations relating to Trade with the Indian Tribes, of July 15 1887, at the date of my visit there, and I did not make as full an examination of the traders' conduct as is required by recent instructions, but I looked into the matter sufficiently to know that the business is well conducted. I somewhat fear however, that the traders, John Craggs excepted perhaps, are a little exorbitant in their prices. They are very rich and somewhat arrogant especially Messrs Collier and Sneed who are contractors for the military and cut large quantities of hay and wood off the Indian lands without any compensation to them. I think that it would be well to instruct the agent to examine further into the conduct of the traders, especially as regards their profits.

#### Concluding Observations.

On the whole I consider Indian affairs at Anadarko as well conducted. Agent Myers is able, energetic, honest and well-disposed and he is much respected by all the Indians as well as by the whites of the locality. His accounts



are not in good condition, but that is caused in great part by trouble with the old clerk and the inexperience of the new one. Reforms are needed in the Kiowa School and among some of the employes - but these matters are represented in my special reports on the schools and on the employes, accompanying this general report.

Summary of recommendations.

That cottages be provided for the employes.

That the agent's house be repaired.

That in future property be condemned in the presence of an Inspector or Special Agent.

That well defined regulations be issued as to the time for reporting increase of stock.

That the agent be instructed relative to moneys paid to the superintendents of the schools for surplus products.

That the agent be instructed to examine further into the prices of the licensed traders.

Very respectfully yours,

Indian Inspector.



Report of Inspector  
Keara Comanche & Michik  
Loring

Mailed Sept 13. 89 at  
Akansas City.