

1868
This was signed at Fort Sumner on June first 1868- the document bears the signature of General Sherman for the United States, and the signatures or marks of 12(?) Navaho chiefs, Manuelito, Barboncito and others, and the Long Return Walk of the Navaho began. The U.S. Gov. promised to give them a new start, to send three sheep per family, seed grain, some necessary supplies, to furnish 1 teacher for each 30 Navaho children. The Navaho promised to end all depredations a promise kept in main, though there were a few minor incidents during those first four years due to the promised sheep and supplies not being delivered. So a smaller number of Navaho People returned to Fort Wingate (then Bear Springs) and Fort Defiance, and for that first year they subsisted on pinon nuts, berries, roots, a small amount of game, and whatever they could find. That first winter was grim indeed, but they survived. The seed grain arrived in the fall instead of the spring, the sheep did not arrive until the fall of 1869 where they were distributed by Major Dodd, the first civil Agent. Those first sheep were cared for as though they were children, but drought took all the first crops. As a wool crop began to accumulate the Navaho again returned to weaving, the art they had learned from their Pueblo neighbors long before the exile. The fourteen year interval between the return of the Navaho and the coming of railroad were fraught with frontier difficulties. The problems confronting the first Government agents were tremendous. Supplies were short, Government promises were broken, but the sheep were increasing and trade was beginning. Navaho blankets were in great demand in Salt Lake City and Mormon traders were coming down to this new reservation laid out in 1869-70, where boundaries were pretty well established. Twelve years later came the railroad taking away some of the land given back to the Navaho, and as the first train crossed the reservation in 1882, new disputes over land came to focus. More land was allotted to the Navaho increasing their reservation to 6 1/2 million acres and when disputes between the Navaho and the Hopi, and the Navaho and the Utes arose, those reservations likewise were laid out. There were pleas from the Government Agents for the development of water resulting in an appropriation of \$25,000. approved by Presidine Cleveland.

1882
Then came an influx of Spanish-American sheep men into the eastern part of the Navaho territory and similar troubles along the San Juan area near Farmington New Mexico as homesteaders were pressing in to new lands. While the homestead act was passed in 1887, the allotting agents did not arrive until 1905. Many Navaho living in regions east of the new reservation border, in areas where they had lived prior to Fort Sumner, were of course totally unaware of such an act or what it meant. They could have filed their claim, but they had not understand and of course still spoke no english. So many of them lost their lands. Prospectors were invading the reservation many of them without permission resulting in some fatal conflicts. In 1892 the first water survey was made followed by an appropriation of \$60,000. Two years later an engineer was sent. This man had no knowledge of desert soil or of flash floods resulting in the destruction of this effort after a short time by flood and improper construction. To enumerate all the happenings of a half century of misunderstanding, often poor management on the part of unqualified agents, the depredations by greedy whites on Navaho land and with Navaho water, is beyond the scope of this book, but this gives some picture of Navaho

much was taken away to the P.P.

~~picture~~ problems as they adjusted themselves to live in peace
with their white brothers.