

The Navaho have always been good farmers and have used those parts of the reservation which were suitable. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has done ~~xxxxxxx~~ much to teach the Navaho how to improve the soil, how to improve crops, and they have been willing pupils. They see quickly the results of properly handled crops and the increase in quality and size through good farming.

The largest ~~xxxx~~ agricultural area is the San Juan valley where irrigat on water is available. The large crops are alfalfa and corn, wiht lesser production of many other food products. With the use of the newly impounded water from the Navaho Reservoir,

acres of new farming land will become available. Most other farmed areas are small relying on small sources of water. One such area has been the Chinle canyons, De Chelly and del Muerto, particularly the latter. In traveling up the canyon it is hard to realize the extent of the small farms. Only from the air can it be realized, for there are many patches of alfalfa and corn, irrigated by small ditches from the occasional water that runs down the canyon from local storms. In the canyon are some small peach orchards, planted by the Hopi long before the Navaho came to this area. ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ The first stock of these trees ~~were~~ brought to the Hopi by the early Franciscan Priests in the 16th century.

Some few isolated areas grow a little wheat, beans, and in the river valley melons, root vegetables and some fruit. At both the Window Rock and Shiprock Fairs, there are fine agricultural exhibits similar to our own county fairs. Here the Department of Agriculture points up the difference between good and poor ~~yields~~ and the reasons why.

Through the tribal project of water development, many new small areas suitable for farming are being produced, as new wells are drilled, and irrigation improved. Many of the crops grown are of Indian Origin. Corn, squash, mellons, beans(?) were brought into the Southwest from Mexico and South and Central America. These are all foods given to us by the Indians of the Western Hemisphere, all unknown to Europe until Europeans came to these shores. The Navaho grow those adapted to the high, dry climate of their reservation.

and bad weather

Disturbance of grazing land has followed sheep raising
during the ~~century~~ ~~century~~ creating great desert areas
all over the world.

It was doubtless unexpected and costly to make
a great number of annual for distant areas to
the railroad points where they would bring only \$1.-
ahead.

Resentment has lessened as ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ education ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~
in the handling of grazing areas ~~xxxxxxxxxxxxxx~~ and the improvement
of stock ~~xxx~~ become understood
is ing

Ever since the early days when the Navaho stole sheep from Spanish settlers, the raising of sheep has been their chief source of income. For it was sometime during the 17th century that they changed from being ~~xxxx~~ farmers to ~~being~~ stockmen. The Navaho has never been a nomad in the true sense of the word, he moved for summer grazing range usually returning to his former habitat during the winter. But as the flocks increased, the Navaho moved to new pastures in directions where there was the least resistance. By 1846 when the United States acquired the Southwest the estimated amount of Navaho livestock as 30,000 head of cattle, 500,000. sheep, 10,000 head of horses and mules. Seventeen years later came the subjugation of the Navaho by Kit Carson and the ~~U.S. Army~~ ^{*The U.S. Army under the command of*} and the forced exile to Fort Sumner. During this campaign of scorched earth policy, great numbers of livestock were captured or destroyed. A relatively small number of sheep were taken with the Navaho ~~xxxxxxx~~ on their "Long Walk". Some few doubtless were hidden in remote canyons. Four years later, following their return to their present reservation, sheep were again to be their chief economic resource. In 1869 the Government issued three sheep to each family, (some 15,000) and it was astonishing how rapidly this number increased. At the time of the signing of the treaty the reservation contained three and one half million acres, perhaps one sixth of the area they had previously occupied. Between 1878 and 1935, this area was expanded several times, until today the reservation contains approximately 15,000,000 acres. On the major part of this area, the Navaho have pastured their sheep for nearly a century.

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Ever since the ^aearly days when the Navaho stole sheep from the Spanish settlers, ~~xxxx~~ the raising of sheep has been their chief source of income. For it was sometime during the 17th century that they changed from being agriculturists to being stock men. Through raids they increased their herds of both horses and sheep. The Navaho has never been a nomad in the true sense of the word, he moved for grazing purposes during the summer months usually returning to his former habitat during the winter. But as the flocks increased the Navho moved to new pastures in the direction where there was the least resistance. By 1846 when the United States acquired the Southwest, the estimated amount of Navaho livestock was "30,000 head cattle, 500,000 sheep, 10,000 head of horses, mules and asses". Seventeen years later came the subjugation of the Navaho by Kit Carson and the exile to Fort Sumner. During this campaign of scorched earth policy by the U.S. Army, great quantities of live stock were captured, or destroyed. A small number of sheep went to Fort Sumner with the Navaho on the "Long Walk". Some few doubtless ~~xxxxxx~~ remote canyons. Following the return of Navaho to their present reservation, ^{the case was} ~~were~~ again to be their chief economic resource. In 1869 the Government issued three head of sheep to each family, (some 15,000,) and it was astonishing how rapidly this number increased. At this time the reservation contained $3\frac{1}{2}$ million acres, perhaps one sixth of the area they had previously occupied. Between 1878 and 1935, this area was expanded several times, until today ~~xxxxxxx~~ the reservation contains approximately 15,000,000 acres. On the major part of this area the Navaho had ^{then} pastured his sheep for nearly ~~one~~ ^{a century} hundred years.

But as long ago as 1894 one far seeing Government agent saw the land being depleted. He protested to Washington, ^{urging requantity} for an increase in pasture land. Again in 1914, Father Anselm Weber ~~xxxx~~ sent an urgent request to Congress to validate claims to grazing lands adjacent to the reservation. His estimate of Navaho stock at this time was more than a million and a half sheep, and a quarter of million of other live stock. About one third of ^{this} total number were grazed outside of the reservation boundary. To quote from his report "The Navaho reservation is stocked heavier, and ~~xxxxxxx~~ its range is more run down than the range of other parts of New Mexico and Arizona.*** the soil is eroding badly in many places and the sheep have but a scant living. The former heavy stand of grama grass is nearly extinct. In many areas."

There followed years of discussion and it was not until 1930 ^{following} that a ^{survey} survey of the reservation was ordered. Grazing surveys ~~were~~ ^{begin} began in 1933 and by 1935 it was estimated that not more than half a million sheep could be supported on the Navaho range. These surveys and estimates were the beginning of the stock reduction program which was caused such controversy. The Indian Commissioner had a choice of three solutions. One, to go to the "grass roots" explaining to the individual sheep raisers the necessity for decreasing the size of their flocks. ~~xxxxxxx~~ This would have taken years to accomplish. Two, to force such a program on the Navaho which he was unwilling to do. Third, to go the the newly formed Tribal council urging them to initiate the reduction plan. This later was the chosen method. But because the newly formed Navaho government was not yet fully understood by people in remote areas, they refused to comply. The Navaho council understood the necessity for reducing the flocks, but their task was difficult

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