

## NAVAJOS SHOW GAINS

### SHIPROCK GOVERNMENT AGENCY IN COLORADO BECOMES MODEL MODERN VILLAGE



**D**URANGO, COL.—One cannot remain long in this part of the country without hearing of the remarkable achievements of William T. Shelton, an Indian agent, who seems to have lifted the Navajos a long way on the trail to civilization. A visit to the agency at Shiprock, N. M., bears out everything that has been said about this Indian agent's work and Shiprock has become one of the show places of the Southwest, many people from Colorado making it a point to attend the annual fairs which are given by the Indians under Mr. Shelton's direction, these fairs showing in concrete form just what has been accomplished in the way of assisting the Indian along the paths of industry.

Mr. Shelton is a man of pronounced activity and enthusiasm. An industrious worker himself, he manages to inspire all the Indians with a desire to accomplish something worth while, says the Denver Times.

He has built the Shiprock agency from the sagebrush, and now he rules from a model village, with substantial brick buildings, cement sidewalks, electric lights, a sewage system, shops, stores, and one of the finest Indian schools in the Southwest, with an enrollment of 175 pupils. The farm of more than 250 acres will produce at least \$20,000 worth of crops this season.

Interesting and valuable experimental work is carried out by Mr. Shelton and his Indian assistants on the farm. Recently through a long course of experiments, the agent proved that a certain kind of corn was best adapted to the San Juan region. This seed corn is now being sold to farmers in northwestern New Mexico, and it is expected that the total corn production of that region will be greatly increased owing to the experiments carried on by Mr. Shelton. The agency seed house is a model of its kind. Twenty-one bushels of watermelon seeds were distributed among the Navajos this year. All sorts of seeds are classified by the agent's Indian assistants, the Navajo boys taking naturally to agriculture.

A greenhouse, where rare plants are raised, is run entirely by Indian boys and girls. Plants are secured from the department of agriculture at Washington. One of the Indian boys, who also acts as interpreter, has proved exceptionally gifted as a horticulturist.

Recently a lake, big enough for boating, was made near the agency, close to the athletic field where the Indian boys and girls enjoy base-