

In addition to increasing the acreage farmed, 32 more Indians have gone on their allotments who never before as much as made a pretense at farming anywhere.

An elaborate irrigation system has just been completed at a cost of many thousand of dollars, and now nearly all the Indian land on Pine River is under ditch.

Up the valley, north of Ignacio, on a fertile mesa that never before had a plow put on it, a fair idea may be gained of what is being done. New fences line on each side of the road and growing crops have taken the place of rank sage brush, which was all there was on the ground but a few weeks ago. The same transformations have been made in all parts of the valley—on the Durango road west of town, south toward La Boca, on either side of the river and east on Spring Creek the transformation and the work that has been done in such a short time after so many years of lethargy is remarkable.

Annuity payments that heretofore were spent mostly for trumpery, bright colored blankets, gewgaws, at gambling or for firewater, are now placed on deposit and can be drawn only with a check signed by the Indian himself and the Superintendent. Under this system, the money paid by the government is spent only for the things that will do the Indian most good.

Standard makes of wagons, harness, machinery, and implements are sold to the Indian farmers at prices lower than the local dealers can buy at wholesale. McCormick mowing machines are sold them at \$45, binders \$100, 3-inch Studebaker wagons at \$65, galvanized barbed wire at \$2.50 per cwt., and other things in proportion at actual cost to the Government. On account of a reduced freight rate this cost is much lower than the average person would suppose.

Forty-eight head of horses have been bought this year for the Indians at prices ranging from \$75 to \$100, and 24 sets of harness have been sold also.

The policy of Superintendent West is to establish all the Indians on land as near the agency as possible where they will be more directly under the supervision of the Superintendent and the farmers who are employed especially to direct their work. To this nine real estate transfers have been made since last fall, land at a distance being sold to white men and tracts bought for the Indians nearer the Agency. In time this division of the Southern Utes—now numbering 360—will be brought to farms in the immediate vicinity of Ignacio.

If the present policy of dealing with the Ute is continued in a few years this valley will be hard recognize as the same country.

We can now look forward to the time when we will point with pride the many well kept farms of our Ute neighbors and when we will be able to consider these people as citizens and assets to our community from any standpoint.—Ignacio (Colo.) Chieftain.