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REPORT  
OF  
THE GOVERNOR OF ARIZONA TERRITORY.

TERRITORY OF ARIZONA,  
EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT,  
Prescott, Ariz., October 28, 1878.

SIR: I had already the honor on the 16th instant to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 9th August, requesting me to submit by the 1st of November a statement of the actual condition of this Territory, together with such suggestions as my experience here might enable me to offer. As I then informed you, my arrival in the Territory had been delayed by unforeseen causes, and my attention to business further interfered with by illness after my arrival at Prescott.

The slight opportunity which I have had for personal observation or inquiry only enables me, therefore, to make a very brief and general statement.

Arizona has remained shut up and barred out from progress by its inaccessibility. There were neither railroads to it nor in it, nor any roads other than those afforded by the natural surface of the ground, and these are rendered more than ordinarily difficult by the hot, dry, and sandy or stony ground over which lie the approaches to the Territory. In the Territorial laws these are spoken of as *desert roads*.

Lately it has been made possible to reach Arizona on rail from the East by traveling along the 42d parallel of latitude down to San Francisco, in longitude 122°, and thence southeastwardly backward 720 miles to Yuma, east of longitude 115° and south of latitude 33°. This isolation has kept it shut out from immigration and precluded the development which its great resources would otherwise have commanded. The language habitually applied to it is very descriptive of its remoteness. Californians and Arizonians alike speak of going *outside* when traveling to Arizona and *inside* when returning to the surrounding territory.

Broken ranges of mountains, swelling occasionally into lofty peaks and pine-covered masses, and alternating evenly with elevated valleys or mountain basins of greater or less size, represent in general terms the face of the country in Arizona. Its water-ways are the Colorado and Gila Rivers with their tributaries, of which none enter either stream in the lower part of its course. The valley of the Colorado, between its river hills or bordering mountains, is dry, stony, and barren, the mountains naked rock. Crossing these in journeying from Ehrenberg eastward, a traveler in spring would find this country covered with bloom, the shrubs and trees being represented mainly by acacias and cacti, and the ground covered with low flowering plants among grass growing thinly. Except for some shrub-like trees and gigantic cactus (*Saguara*), *ocotillo*, and *yuca* trees, the ridges herealong are still of naked, glis-

tening, and black or barren rock, showing no signs of water. The acacias, *Palo verde*, and other trees crowd down into the dry stream-beds, reaching after the water below the sands, but the *ocotillo* and tree-cactus delight in the stony and dry mountain sides. In the rainy season these stream-beds are short-lived torrents. This is the country traversed by the *desert roads*. But this character of desert, applied to the valleys, comes only from the heated air and absence of water, and not absence of vegetation. A running stream would make anywhere here a garden.

After some seventy miles, as the crow flies, over such country, what may be called *fertile mountains* are reached, that is to say, mountains more or less covered with shrubs and grass, and having springs and running streams, and affording good cattle-ranges. Continuing eastward, the country in this respect steadily improves, until, after traveling over about a hundred miles of air distance from Ehrenberg, scattering junipers of very sturdy growth appear, several feet in diameter, with here and there small oaks and locust trees; and presently the road enters among pines, which thenceforward generally cover the more upland parts of the country to the eastward.

The elevation here is probably 5,000 feet in the valleys, the surrounding mountains rising several thousand feet higher. On the higher ranges, such as the San Francisco and Mogollon, these open woodlands become extensive forests, where the pines reach sometimes a solid growth of six feet in diameter. From Prescott the San Francisco Mountains show grandly in the horizon of hills some sixty-five miles away to the northeast, and 12,700 feet above the sea. These and the Mogollon Mountains are the principal water-sheds of Arizona, rising from elevated plateaus of 6,000 or 7,000 feet into peaks between 9,000 and 13,000 feet above the sea. They make a forest country averaging 40 miles in breadth, extending through the Territory southeastwardly over the headwaters of the Gila and probably into Mexico. North and east of these ranges, and running up into the flanks of the mountains, and reaching, doubtless, far to the south, are reported to be the great coal-fields of Arizona.\*

In contradistinction to the Eastern States, where the streams maintain themselves in gathering strength from mountain to sea, dryness is one of the striking features of this whole elevated region. Streams and springs are few and far apart. The larger streams gather no affluents, but waste themselves in absorption and evaporation, and the smaller ones usually sink and disappear under the first valley which they enter, where the soil is generally light and loose enough to absorb them. But the water can there always be found; in the lower country, at variable depths of fifty to two hundred and fifty feet, and usually only a few feet below the surface in many of the upland valleys. This may give the necessary provision of water for the farms in the valleys, while the mountains furnish it sufficiently for stock. There are two seasons of falling weather: the heavy summer rains, when the washes and stream-beds become temporary torrents, and the winter season of rains and snow. Now, at the end of October, the falling weather of the winter has not

\* From Mr. A. O. Noyes, who had a saw-mill twelve miles from Prescott, and who was for many years engaged here in the lumber business, I learn that the pines in the Prescott Basin run from an average diameter of twenty-eight inches to four feet in the largest trees. But they do not make good lumber, because there are so many knots in the trees, caused by fires, and because so many trees have been struck by the lightning, which is one of the local features here. There are also in this basin some very fine spruce trees, nearly four feet in diameter. In the large belt of forest to the north all is clear, fine timber, with an average diameter of four feet, reaching to five feet in largest trees. Mr. Noyes has cut here some twenty-five million feet of lumber. He tells me that on his books are crosses against the names of over three hundred men, with whom he had dealings, who have been killed by Indians.

yet commenced except in the high mountains. The days are warm, the sky is uninterruptedly cloudless, but ice makes at night, and a light snow has just fallen on the San Francisco Mountain. The grass there is beginning to dry up, and the northern face of the mountain is probably covered with snow.

The Little Colorado and Salt River regions are reported to be the granaries of the Territory. Their valleys are becoming garden-spots, and the bordering mountains great stock-ranges, where the cattle are sometimes too fat to be driven. Like California, the country is favorable to animal life. In the Salt River Valley there are probably 100,000 acres under cultivation; in the Gila Valley, between the Pima villages and the mouth of the cañon, about 50,000; in the Santa Cruz Valley, about 25,000; and 25,000 more in all the southern district. In the Salt River Valley the amount under cultivation is being rapidly augmented to the full extent of the water-supply. On the San Pedro River the land is sparsely occupied, and mostly for grazing; and farther to the eastward the country is better adapted to grazing than agriculture. Many years ago I found on the San Pedro and neighboring country many wild cattle which had belonged to ranchos now deserted, where the people had been killed or driven off by Indians. So far as my present knowledge goes, the grazing and farming lands comprehend an area about equal to that of the State of New York.

The climate of Arizona depends of course upon latitude and elevation. Heat is the dominant feature, and this in the lower country is of an intensity seemingly not due to the latitude alone. In the dry, naked valley of the Colorado River the summer heat is intense, and the season of summer enoaches largely upon spring and autumn. Over the eastern part of Southern Arizona it is the same. North of the Gila River, and fifty miles east of the Colorado, the heat is already tempered by the elevation, and farther into the interior the increased elevation and wood-covered mountains make a pleasant and healthy climate. South of the Gila the open, low, dry, and hot region extends farther to the eastward, but the eastern half offers a fine country, increasing in good character to the south, up to and beyond the boundary line. Generally speaking, the climate is noticeably healthy. The heat of the sun does not produce the fatal effects of extreme heat in the moist climates of the Atlantic coast, and though the country itself may be said to have regular chill and fever, varying usually in temperature more than 30° between three o'clock in the afternoon and three o'clock in the morning, this disease is almost unknown to its people. No instance of it has been known on the Colorado River, and though there is something of intermittent fever at Tucson, it is thought due rather to the alternate wetting and drying of the ground by irrigation than to any climatic influence.

I have given the surface character and capacities of the Territory in this brief way for the reason that my insufficient knowledge does not permit more than such a general idea.

But the chief industry of Arizona, that upon which the others will mainly depend, and that upon which in fact the Territory depends for value, consists in the development of its mineral wealth. It is pre-eminently a mineral region, capable of sustaining a great mining population. Without enumerating others, silver, gold, and copper seem to be the ores most generally diffused throughout the Territory, and among these silver is the *characteristic*. Silver in combination with gold, copper, lead, and other metals, extends in numerous veins of greater or less size and value from the Colorado River, on the west, to the eastern boundary line of the Territory. These have been partly resolved into

districts, where, up to this time, mines or lodes of greater value have been discovered grouped together in belts or basins.

The Mineral Park district has a belt of this kind which is reported to be nearly a hundred miles long, carrying between porphyry walls a mile and a half breadth of productive ore-matter, which is interspersed with veins, principally chlorides of silver. These are said to be very rich, reaching several hundred dollars the ton. The whole mass is said to carry silver.

The Bradshaw district is said to be full of large, permanent veins, upon some of which mines have been opened that are producing ores of extraordinary value. I mention these as having come more particularly to my knowledge since my arrival, but similar reports are coming in from other parts of the Territory, and more especially from the southeastern extremity, where veins have been opened which give promise of greater richness in gold and silver than any hitherto discovered. In the immediate neighborhood of Prescott are rich mines. Want of transportation and consequent want of population and money, together with the sense of insecurity still existing, have prevented a full knowledge of these lodes as well as a development of those already known.

Left to themselves in the mean time, many settlers, instead of becoming farmers in grain, have become small farmers in gold and silver, locating veins or placer-grounds which they work themselves.

These gold or silver farms, as they may be called, yield a small but sure product, for which any town is the market. In Arizona are found the only instances, within my knowledge, where three or four men working together, without money or outside aid, have managed to develop veins into regular silver mines, which have already yielded several hundred thousand dollars, with a promise of still greater success. But these are the solitary examples of opening large mines without money. The "silver farms," as I have designated them, are smaller enterprises. By a moderate use of money in directing and aiding this kind of labor the general government might come in aid of this industry, and open out a prospect for employment to the large class who, of late years, have been suffering from want of it, and the utmost exertion of whose skill and intelligence has not been able to command a support. Aided by the government in a way which might be indicated, any man might here find room for his labor, needing only his own resolute, stout work to pick fortune from the earth.

But to give full development to the mining interest, large capital must be brought into the Territory. There is not money here to do it. An absolute security in titles and authorized knowledge of the value of mines would go far toward attracting the necessary capital. In this the government might intervene with advantage to itself as well as to all those concerned in this interest.

Gold in veins and placers is variously found throughout the Territory. Like Missouri and Utah, Arizona has her Iron Mountain, and copper ores of rich character, carrying with them silver and gold, are found in great force. A large percentage of copper is found in the upper workings of silver ores. Many years ago, and before our occupation of the country, I found in Southern Arizona the trail of wagons engaged in transporting copper ore from the Upper Gila to the city of Chihuahua, the silver and gold found in the copper being sufficient to defray the cost of the long and hazardous journey. Notwithstanding the desultory working of the mines, the actual weekly shipment of bullion, by way of Yuma, to California, is about one hundred thousand dollars.

The educational system of Arizona is that of our public schools. The

governors of the Territory, more particularly Governor Safford, have made this a special subject, and I learn that it is in admirable condition. There are, I believe, some private schools at the south under the direction of the Catholic clergy. The Territory is young and as yet without revenue for the establishment of charitable institutions. The boards of supervisors in the several counties are authorized by law to provide for poor persons who may be in any way enfeebled or disabled. There is no insane asylum in the Territory. The governor is authorized to contract with the authorities of the State of California or with the proprietors of any hospital in that State for the proper keeping of the insane of the Territory.

There is a Territorial prison, supported by the Territory, and located by law at Yuma. It is managed by a board of Territorial penitentiary directors, who audit claims and make such rules and regulations as they think proper for the discipline and management of the penitentiary.

The legislative assembly of Arizona meets biennially at the capital on the first Monday in January. Representation is apportioned according to population, and the members of the assembly are elected by counties at the general election held throughout the Territory every two years on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November.

Every male citizen of the United States, and every male citizen of Mexico who shall have elected to become a citizen of the United States under the treaty of peace exchanged and ratified at Queretaro in 1848, and the Gadsden treaty of 1854, and every male person who shall have declared on oath before a competent court of record his intention to become a citizen of the United States, and shall have taken an oath to support the Constitution and Government of the United States, of the age of twenty-one years, who shall have been a resident of the Territory one year next preceding the election, and of the county or precinct in which he claims his vote ten days, and of whose name is enrolled on the great register of such county, shall be entitled to vote at all elections which are now or may be hereafter authorized by law.

The Yuma, Mojave, and Hualapai Indians live in the eastern and northern part of the Territory.

The Yuma and Mojave Indians are quiet, poorly armed, and glean a scanty subsistence from the native products and some little agriculture. The *Hualapai* Indians are important from their character. They are the best fighters in the Territory, and were successfully used by General Crook in subduing the Apaches. Lately they have suffered from small-pox, losing thirty-two of their braves in one week. They are moderately well armed, and just now are restless from want of food.

The Chimahuevas are a small nomadic tribe, living to the north in the neighborhood of the San Francisco Mountains.

The Pi-Utes are north of the Colorado River scattered over the Basin country. They are of uncertain, treacherous character, and will seize any occasion to rob or murder, when they can do so safely.

Of the Apaches, some five thousand in number have been concentrated on the San Carlos Reservation. They are probably well armed. These Indians for many years hung on the frontiers of Mexico, into which they were making continual inroads, and rendered also life and property throughout this Territory very precarious until they were reduced to submission by General Crook. One band of renegades and white men, about five hundred in number, were driven over the border, where they still remain. They are the very worst Indians in or about the Territory. They cross the border at any opportunity to rob the mail

or wagon trains, but they do not find it easy to get through our lines. At present, there is not food enough for the Indians at the San Carlos Agency, and about five hundred have been given leave to go off the reservation to hunt.

The Pimas, Maricopas, and Papagos are in the southern part of the Territory. These are numerous.

The Pimas are the most interesting of all the Indians. They own a very fertile valley on the Gila, and are well supplied with money and arms. The three tribes have probably this year earned some thirty thousand dollars by farm products and rude manufactures. The Pimas and Maricopas are now in the midst of our people, who have built up to their valley, and there are already some misunderstandings growing up between them.

There are other small tribes or subdivisions of tribes, but you will probably be most interested in the condition of these mentioned. My information on the subject is incomplete, but good as far as it goes.

Arizona offers a suitable field for solution of the Indian problem.

Insecurity of life and property is among the causes which have retarded the growth of the Territory. For this, among other reasons, I am strongly of the opinion that absolute and plenary control over the Indian tribes in the Territory should be given to the War Department. The direct, immediate, and inevitable responsibility of officers of the Army would insure on both sides compliance with duties and obligations. There would be neither spasmodic starvation nor spasmodic outrage. The disposition and movements of the Indians would be constantly and immediately known to the commanding officer of the department, and a corresponding vigilance in protection always insured to the people; something essentially necessary in a country where trackless mountains and isolated settlements offer dangerous facilities to an Indian enemy. Under the steady pressure of such a regulated system the Indians could best be brought together in town and farming settlements, and whatever capacity they may have to acquire the habits and do the work of civilized life could best be developed. I think it would be thoroughly successful.

The condition of the Pima Indians, who have shown themselves among the very best on the continent, could be raised and improved; and the five thousand Apaches who uselessly occupy land enough to make a small State, would be much happier upon a few hundred thousand acres where every man who would use it could have his square mile. And such a disposition of the Indians would at once do away with a cause of inevitable collision with our settlers.

By a system much like this the Franciscan order in California reduced to submission and regulated labor large bodies of Indians. Under the administration of the "Fathers" they were brought together in communities and taught to build houses, till the ground, and take care of large herds of horses and cattle. With the Indians as laborers they erected the large churches and mission buildings which stretched along from San Francisco a thousand miles to Cape Saint Lucas. At the mission of San Gabriel alone, still one of the most beautiful spots on the continent, there were more than a hundred thousand head of cattle, and many thousand Indians were employed in fields, orchards, and vineyards, learning the arts of civilized life and practical Christianity. But this was done under the mild and paternal discipline of an order military in its obedience, working with a direct responsibility, and with no other object or interest than the strength and glory of their church. The

*esprit de corps* of the Army and their sense of duty to the country could be relied on to work with equal fidelity and produce similar results. When the missions were broken up by the Mexican Government under Santa Anna, the Indians were dispersed to the great valleys of the Sacramento and San Joaquin and the Sierra Nevada Mountains. Before our occupation of the country I found them there in great numbers. Every river had its *rancheria* and every little tributary or spring in the mountains had its village or family of Indians. Since our occupation they have disappeared.

I have dwelt upon this subject because I see it demands the early attention of the government. It is of the first importance to this and the bordering Territories. I am informed that, for cause, the Apaches on the San Carlos Reservation, and the Pimas on the Gila, are in a discontented and angry temper. It is reported that the game in the Hualapai country is gone and that many of those Indians are in danger of starvation this winter. This is a smouldering fire. These Indians have arms and know how to use them well. If an outbreak should occur, there would certainly be great loss of life in this Territory before it could be subdued. There is but little telegraphic or other easy communication, and the people are dispersed over a large area of mountainous country admirably suited to Indian warfare.

I have already adverted to the drawback which want of transportation has been to this Territory. By its situation Arizona is the natural *gateway* of commerce and travel between the States east of the Mississippi, and California and the Pacific Ocean. Fronting on Mexico it is in position to profit by any developments which may result from the awakened interest of our merchants and manufacturers in the trade of that country. You will remember that before our civil war Congress had directed examinations for an overland route to the Pacific, to be made on four different lines between the 32d and 46th parallels; and upon comparison of results by the War Department the 32nd parallel line was declared the best. A bill was accordingly framed adopting this line, and with a large grant of lands and money had already passed one House and was about passing the other, when events occurring in Texas were announced in Congress, and the line of the road thrown to the north. It is interesting to speculate on what might have been, had this southern line been already built before the war. True to the instincts of commerce the northern road has swept round through California and is entering Arizona from the west, while other great roads are converging into it from the east and north. Passing together through this *gateway* of Arizona the united roads will enter Mexico by a trunk line which will be nourished by ten millions of people and the sea at Guaymas, while its branches will penetrate the States. This is the commerce which is to develop Arizona, and a railroad connection with the seaport of Guaymas is a necessity to it. Any aid that Congress could be induced to give these railroad enterprises would be repaid manifold to the country in increased revenue from increased commercial activity and the opening of new branches of trade, especially for the rich products of Mexico, and in the great addition to the common wealth by bringing into use that which now remains locked up in the mines of this country.

With the object of increasing the water supply, I suggest for your consideration the employment of competent persons to examine the structure of the country, and make occasional experiments with the view of indicating to the people the situations and depths at which water, whether by artesian or other means, may be found. An expert

distinguished for extraordinary skill in this science procured water for the city of Constantine in Algeria, which is built on the summit of a lofty, rocky peninsula, 2,000 feet above the level of the Mediterranean, and is accessible on one side only; being on all others begirt by a ravine of sixty feet in breadth and of great depth, at the bottom of which flows the Rummel. This expert found water for the city just below one of the gates in the wall which surrounds it. He was also employed by the French Government to search for water in the plain of Chalons, where Napoleon III desired to form a large camp, and he succeeded in finding an abundant supply for the proposed camp of 60,000 men. Such a man might convert the deserts of Arizona into the rose-fields of Bulgaria.

Coupled with this, measures might be adopted in the interest of the large mining population to be expected—the silver and gold farmers—and as well in the interest of non-residents investing money here, which would spare much fruitless labor to the one and much fruitless expenditure of money to the other. In view of the great importance which this branch of industry is assuming, a moderate expenditure of money for the ends indicated, and half a million of dollars for common roads in the Territory, could be made with very happy results.

The progress of settlement in the territory south of the Gila River is said to be retarded by the condition of private land titles, which have remained unsettled since the acquisition of the Territory in 1854; now twenty-four years ago. Some legislation on this subject seems very important to close it, and the experience in California land-titles might suggest to Congress some mode of speedy settlement.

These are the principal points to which, in compliance with your request, I have ventured to call your attention. The measures suggested may not all be strictly in accordance with the former practice of the government, but neither are the conditions quite the same as in the previous history of this country. And it might be good statesmanship to meet new conditions by new precedents. This Territory is about equal in area to New York and all our New England States together, excepting Maine, and the labor to be employed in opening it out by rail and common roads, and in developing its wealth by the means suggested, would together give occupation to the 300,000 unemployed people who have not been able to find any field for their labor. Perhaps in this might be found at least a temporary solution of questions which have lately been forcing themselves on the serious consideration of the country.

To some of the old settlers in the Territory, I am indebted for valuable information. I have appended a note of interesting facts from Mr. A. O. Noyes, and I subjoin a letter from the law firm of Messrs. Fitch & Churchill, giving in brief a very clear view of the resources and needs of the Territory.

Valuable statistics which I am expecting from the southern part of the Territory have not reached me in time for this report.

I believe that I have not omitted any of the points referred to in your letter, and I will not add to the length of this paper by introducing others.

Later along I shall be better informed, and if from the reading of what I have written, any inquiry should occur to your mind, I can reply to it from fuller knowledge.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. C. FRÉMONT,  
Governor of Arizona Territory.

Hon. CARL SCHURZ,  
Secretary of the Interior

PRESCOTT, ARIZONA, October 30, 1878.

DEAR SIR: We have to acknowledge the receipt of your communication under date of the 17th inst., requesting us to furnish you briefly such information concerning the condition and resources of this Territory as was within our personal knowledge.

We cordially indorse your suggestion that it will be of importance to the interests of Arizona to have her resources officially made known, and cheerfully place any information on the subject which we may possess at your disposal.

Generally we can conscientiously say that, in available mineral resources, our Territory is, in our opinion, unsurpassed by any section of the continent. After an extended residence in the mining regions of both California and Nevada, and such knowledge of the mines of those states as one must necessarily acquire in the trial of law cases concerning them, we are enabled to say that in point of the number of its silver and gold mines (including both quartz and placer mines) which now show evidences of permanency and richness Arizona far outstrips either California or Nevada, and the grade of the ores here is generally far higher than in any other place where we are acquainted.

In connection with this vast mineral wealth our Territory has an abundant supply of timber and sufficient arable land to supply its mining communities with farm produce of all kinds, nor can it be said that the agricultural capabilities of Arizona are limited to the extent of supplying its mines. There are numerous valleys so favorably situated, both with respect to climate and water supply, that both semi-tropical fruits and nuts and those of the temperate zone can be produced for exportation.

Our great want is capital to develop our numerous mines and reduce the ores therefrom, and to obtain and conduct the water upon, or mature some other method of working, our vast placer fields.

Until something in this direction shall be done, we have sufficient laborers of all kinds, skilled and unskilled, in the Territory.

We remain, very respectfully your obedient servants,

FITCH & CHURCHILL.

Hon. JOHN C. FRÉMONT,  
Governor of Arizona.