

able place, and a slight elevation, near his cornfields, & near a supply of good water with which he was apparently well satisfied.

The Department having also determined on building several houses for the chiefs, gave a contract for their creation, & spent some time in selecting locations for them. These were selected with the view that each chief's house would be surrounded by the lodges or dwellings of his people, with the farm for the whole band, consisting of several hundred acres - enclosed around fields & apportioned out to the different families according to numbers & adaptability to labor, near by. Several farms were thus located on different parts of the reservation. In selecting sites for these houses & villages care was taken to have them near a spring, or spring-brook of sufficient strength to supply the whole band with water for culinary purposes, & drinking, while larger streams, more remote perhaps would serve the stock on the surrounding prairies, & the timber skirting these water courses would serve for fuel & fencing. For the site of a village, usually a slight rise or elevation of dry land, with a few scattering trees upon it was ^{sought} selected for, but not always found sufficiently near to good spring for the water privileges, to be available. The locating of these farms & villages was further complicated from the fact that the department had the removal of the Agency in contemplation, on account of the dilapidated condition of the buildings, & its undesirable location. It is very desirable, in fact almost an essential point in aiding them to become civilized, that the Indians should not be very remote from the Agency.

The land in the Southern & Eastern parts of the reservation appears to be the best adapted to ^{agricultural} farming & grazing purposes, & on many accounts would afford desirable locations for settlements, but the proximity to Texas, & the consequent increased exposure to the dep-

redations of horse-thieves render these parts of the reservation objectionable, while the valley of the Washita is too remote from the Agency, unless it be also removed to that vicinity.

Many situations in the valleys among the mountains afford beautiful & very desirable locations. Though the reservation is large, embracing some five or six millions of acres, so much of it is occupied by barren rocky mountains, or sterile unproductive plains, that but a very small portion of it, not to exceed (in my estimation) one twentieth is valuable for farming purposes, & is only available for the grazing of movable herds on extensive ranges, which in reality favors a nomadic rather than a civilized life, as settling upon farms, except to a very limited extent is questionable. This difficulty is greatly augmented, even where the soils are deep & rich, by the almost continuous droughts of summer rendering unproductive the most fertile of soils, with rare exceptions.

As there were no longer any buffalo to be found upon the reservation, hunting parties organized under some responsible chief or chiefs, were permitted to go off the reservation from time to time, accompanied by a military escort, both for their safety & protection from scouting parties of soldiers, with whom they might meet, & also to prevent any of them from going off & joining with the Apaches who reside in the vicinity of the Rio Grande where they would not be under the restraint of the Government, those Indians not being altogether settled upon reservations. Several Apaches have thus gone from this reservation, but the Officer in charge being furnished with a list of the names of all the members of the party & calling them out every day it is now not thought to be practical for any to get away from these hunting parties.

It has also been arranged that any Indian who leaves the reservation without a written permit, is not to be considered loyal, & the act of itself