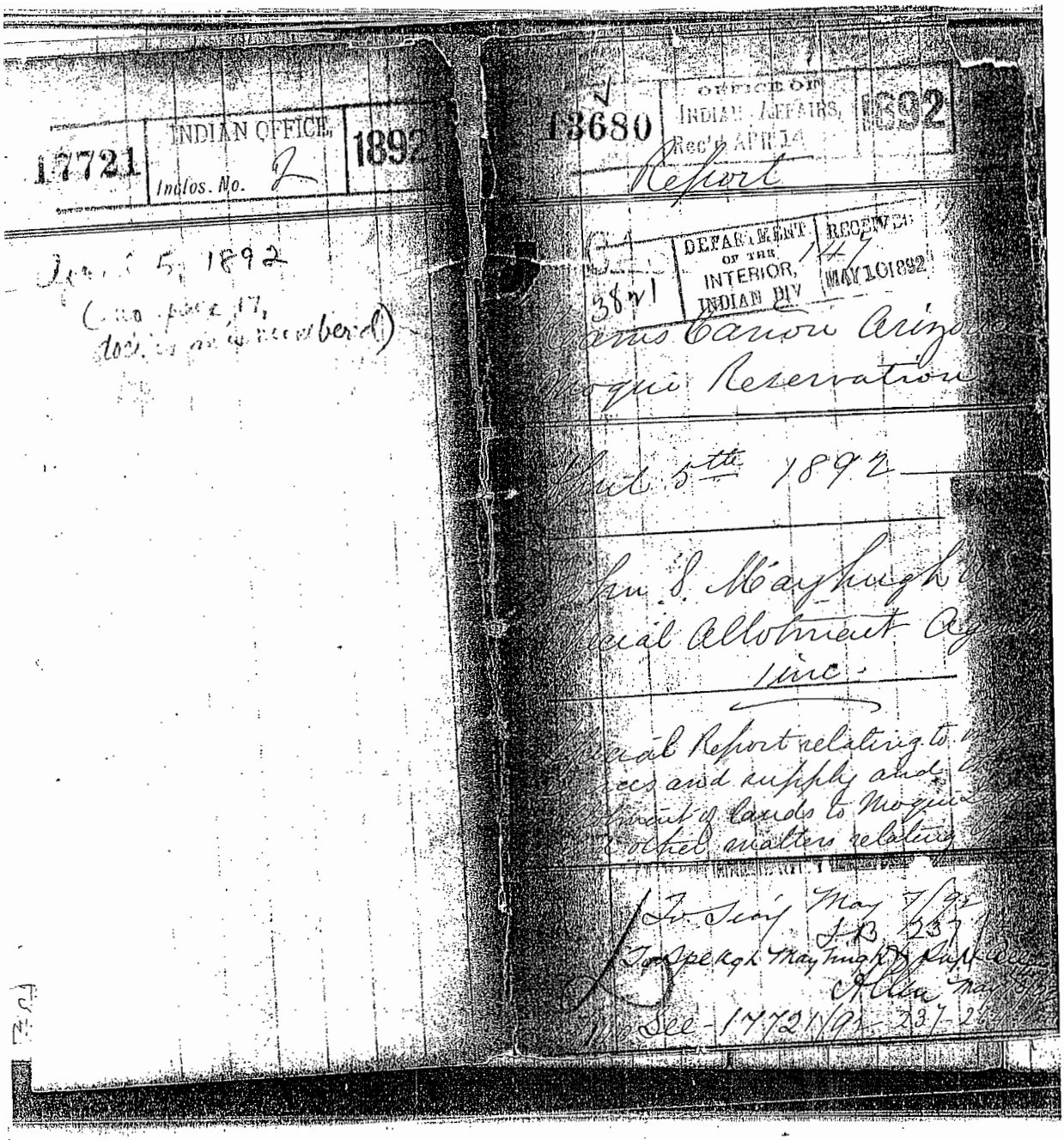

RG 75, BIA, Sc 147, Allotments
Moqui
Box 149

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Report

Moqui Reservation

Keams Canon Apache Co-Arizona

April 5th 1892

Hon. T. J. Morgan

Comm'r, Indian Affairs

Washington D C

Sir:

In compliance with your general instructions under date of Jan. 25th 1892 marked Land and numbered 2092 and particularly that portion on page 10 of said instructions I have the honor to herewith transmit my report the result of my observations and investigations made since my arrival here.

I find the situation of the Indians and the condition of the soil and climate entirely different from other localities that I have heretofore come under my observations. In place of the Indians being settled on the Reservation as they generally are in other localities living upon or occupying some portion of the same, but, instead of this they are grouped up and crowded into small villages which are most unfavorably situated for any purpose, particularly wood and water. These villages are built upon promontories or high cliffs of rock called Mesa's - and which are almost unapproachable for man or beast being in some places from 800 to 900 feet above the valley or plain

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below. The general appearance of the surrounding country is uninviting but the Village sites are much more so — A more unforbidding place a undesirable locality for the erection of a Village for the abode of man can hardly be imagined a found in Arizona, being exposed to the dreaded storms so prevalent in this region —

The Moqui Indians [illegible], all residing in three different Mesa's. The first Mesa contains three villages which are seperated ~~only~~ a few hundred yards apart — the houses are chiefly built of rock and mud — the style and architectural construction are exceedingly rude and irregular no two houses being alike — The first Mesa is situated in a westerly direction from Keam's Canyon school at a distance of some twelve miles and the three villages contain an estimated population of five hundred persons. The next Mesa has [illegible] and is about six miles from the first Mesa and is also situated in a westerly direction from Keam's Canyon school

Still further north west three miles from the 2nd Mesa proper is situated another Village belonging to the second Mesa these villages are similar to those of the first Mesa and the surrounding conditions are the same and contains a population of about five hundred.

To the west from the school house in Keam's Canyon is situated at a

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distance of some 30 miles the last and most populous Mesa with one village but contains considerable more than one third of the Moqui Indians of this Reservation – These people although they belong to the Moqui Tribe are known as the Oraibi's – they are less civilized and less communicative than their neighbors of the other two Mesa's and they seem less inclined to adopt and accept the white mans ways and being less inclined to accept their allotment of land and to come down from their crowded Villages and build houses at more acceptable places for farm work and more convenient for wood and water yet I saw a number of houses under construction and two about finished –

The Indians of the first Mesa are by reason of their close proximity to the Agency Boarding School are more civilized and more inclined to leave their villages and build more convenient and comfortable quarters in the Valley below – The people of the first Mesa are very pleasant and kind so far as they are able and know how to be – I believe I am fully warranted in saying they will all readily accept their allotments while I think the Oraibis will be slow in their acceptance. The above and foregoing remarks are merely preliminary, and are a foundation for the more important facts that will now follow

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In company with Superintendent Collins of Keams Canon Boarding school I visited and examined some forty springs at various points and places of the Reservation on all sides of the three mesa's many of which are outside of the recent survey. Some of these springs discharge quite a volumne of pure cold water particular the springs situated some fifteen miles to the north west from the present school Building. The place where these springs are situated has been selected by Superintendent Collins as a very suitable place for new school Buildings. The site is most favorably situated having a splendid view of the surrounding country with an abundance of water and so located that it can be carried to the highest point of all the necessary Buildings for domestic purpose also [illegible] of the group of these three springs discharge about 1½ inches of water (miners inches) the other spring a full inch while the third one 1½ to ¾ of an inch making a total of over three inches of water. There is also plenty of land of good quality for farming purposes with an unlimited amount of pastoral land to the north and west from the proposed school site. Fuel for fuel and other purposes reasonably plenty and convenient. Beside the above mentioned

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water supplies I found in the neighborhood of the third Mesa some twelve Springs or watering places in close proximity to several large peach orchards belonging to the Oraibi's.

These with other watering supplies that I shall hereafter mention will increase the number of Springs or watering places to 60, exclusive of the Moencopi, a gray wash or chasm and also a reservoir or small lake of water that is situated some 20 odd miles south of the first Mesa where there are two large Springs running out of the hill some 200 yards into a depression, this water lasts the entire year and is two miles north from the southern boundary of the Moqui Reservation.

of which number there are about 18 or 20 that only supply sufficient water for one or two families

Keams Canyon proper which has been made a base as to distances and direction of Springs and Mesa's runs East and west for a distance of some 10 or 12 miles — commencing at a point some three miles east from the Government school Buildings thence in a westerly direction increasing in its width until it reaches an open plain towards the first Mesa leaving the same to the north west the general trend of the intervening valleys and Mesa's are from the north East to the south west — In Keams Canyon there are some 8 flowing Springs of water more than sufficient

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but which are not included in the above mentioned sixty Springs
for all school purposes, All of the Springs of water
are found at or near the base of some Mesa on
both sides sometimes the water flows or seeps out
from the rock cliffs some distance from their
base - Many of the Springs are found in close prox-
imity to each other - sometimes in groups of two
three and four being from 100 to 300 feet or feet
apart - There are other sources of water supply
in seepages or pools which are generally found
some distance from the base of the Mesa's
One pool or non flowing spring of water was
found some four miles east from the 1st
Mesa in the Valley - The discovery of this water
supply was somewhat novel - A wolf that crossed
the Valley was hard pressed for water and by natural
instinct or some natural law of its own it scented
the water near the surface at a point in the Valley
where there were no surface indications for water
among some dry sandy hillocks yet the wolf found
water by digging with his paws some 18 or 20 inches
deep - This Act of the wolf was observed by the
Indians who at once proceeded to the spot and
commenced to dig and soon opened out a pool
of good water which has resulted in the
erection of some three nice adobe Buildings
and the water supply seems to be ample for a
dozen more families as what is taken out does
not seem to deminish the supply. I refer to this
incident to show that this Reservation affords

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more water than is generally supposed by those who have not taken the pains to investigate the matter. In using the term water pool in contradistinction to running Springs I do not wish to convey the idea that the water is stagnant or unfit for use.

It occurs to me that other flowless Springs may be found when the conditions and surroundings are similar to the one found by the Wolf.

I am of the opinion that considerable water may be found and Springs developed in the intervening valleys between the Mesa by digging blasting and boring thereby increasing the water supply three fold and at a moderate expense.

Around the Oraibis Mesa and veering there are some Springs and I have no doubt but that other springs and water supplies may be found upon further explorations.

With a view of discovering further water supply I visited and examined a certain wash, or chasm known by the Indians as Wongackaivay which runs nearly north and south and carries water for the distance of eight miles and is situated at or near the 111th meridian or western boundary line of the Moqui Reservation being about 20 miles west from the Oraibis Mesa to the point where the water in the wash or chasm makes its first appearance seemingly coming from both sides, and the bottom of the wash being

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very little at first but increasing as it flows southward until it reaches a point some five miles from where the chasm enters a canon - here the volume of water has increased to some 18 or 20 inches, but soon commences to decrease until at the distance of six miles southward the water entirely disappears - The water is not good being strongly impregnated with Alkali yet the Indians use it for domestic purposes, and two Mariopa families I found living near the bank of this stream having sheep and horses grazing in the vicinity -

Close to this stream on the last mile of the canon I found two living springs of good water discharging as much as an inch to each spring

The land in the Canyon through which the wash and water runs, fit for cultivation, is from one half to three quarters of a mile wide - I am informed by one of the Engineers who assisted in making the preliminary survey to establish the western boundary line that the Surveyor was not positive that the observation and survey he made was absolutely correct - The survey made barely brought this chasm and water into the Reservation but the true line might vary a half mile East or west from the one made - if the variation was west it would bring the entire wash, or chasm and water out of the Reservation - and consequently would not be available for the permanent uses of the Indians

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From my examination around the Mesa's for additional water resources I noticed in the Valleys a number of thrifty cottonwood trees some as tall as 30 feet or more, Upon inquiring I found that these trees had been planted by the Indians for shade purposes while watching and protecting their growing crops from the ravages of their stock. The presence of these trees growing luxuriantly in the dry barren sandy soil suggested to me that the presence of unusual amount of moisture and impressed me strongly that water could be found by digging or boring from ten to fifteen feet and thus a sufficient supply of water might be secured for Agricultural crops but more particular for domestic purposes - The water from these wells could be readily lifted to the surface by means of a windmill. If no very considerable amount of water is found still the fact that there is sufficient moisture below the surface to cause the thrifty growth of these trees is within itself a most encouraging fact and soon the Vallies around the Mesa's will be converted into a forest which will not only be valuable for shading the ground and preserving the moisture but the timber growth will be valuable for building and fencing purposes and by this means the desolate appearance of the country around the mesa's will be greatly modified.

Since I have examined the possible water supply I am much encouraged to find that the amount of water is much more extensive than I had at first anticipated. In the arid regions of Nevada and Utah water is always found within a few feet of the surface where

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cottonwood trees grow. The failure to find water at such places are so exceptional that the presence of the cottonwood trees are always regarded as a sure indication of water. Therefore my conclusions based upon recent examination as to the present and future water supply is, that water can be eventually secured in sufficient quantities at least for domestic purposes for these people. From what I can learn from some Indians they are apparently favorably inclined to the plan of holding most of the present water supply as common property — except when it is so small as to be only a seepage or small spring and is only enough for domestic purposes for one family or where an Indian has developed water by his own labor, such water should belong to him individually and he should be allowed to make an allotment of land upon which he has discovered the water unless some very cogent and exceptional reason can be shown to the contrary but all other natural waters such as running springs streams of water or ponds that have heretofore been in common use for all should be exempt from personal allotment and held for the common use of all Moqui Indians only, or if the Springs are allotted to one individual Indian it should be with the distinct understanding that all Moqui Indians within that vicinity shall have the right to enter thereupon for the purpose of securing water for themselves and animals this seems to be their due at the present time as it

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the common use of the waters of the Reservation.
In view of the fact that all lands not allotted to these people may at some future period pass into the hands of the general government for Homestead purposes pursuant to the Allotment Act of 1887 therefore if the idea of reserving all the Springs from allotment as first suggested is adopted it would be just to the Indians that some steps be taken by your Hon. Office to preserve the unallotted lands containing the Springs and other sources of water supplies from the operation of said Act - otherwise they may be deprived of the free use of such waters at some future period.
To enable all the members of this Tribe to whom land may be allotted to have free use of all the water supplies they should be permitted to build their Dwellings and other necessary improvements in family groups forming small settlements of 6 or 8 families at such points where one or two Springs are found. It would seem impracticable to cause these people to make improvements and reside on their several allotments of land which might be situated from three to four miles or more from water. It would occupy a great deal of their time going to and returning from the water this, about the system upon which they now farm. It is also impracticable to haul water any distance as this mode requires some time and labor but an Indian may cultivate his allotted

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land at a distance of 4 or 5 miles from his home by taking with him a small supply of water for his daily use and those with him if his family and domestic animals are domiciled at some spring or pond where water for his family can be fully supplied. This village farming is more or less practiced in some highly civilized countries particular Germany and under the peculiar water conditions of this country I see no good reason why they should not be allowed to so associate as a matter of course an Indian knowing that the water he may discover upon his allotted land becomes his individual property it will be an incentive for him to hunt for water. I understand that as soon as the allotments are approved by the Hon. Secretary of the Interior that then these people become citizens of the United States and are subject to all the laws of the Territory or State of Arizona as the case may be and among other laws that these Indian citizens will be subject to, will be one regulating the use and distribution of water which if I am correctly informed prohibits the exclusive appropriation by any one individual or association, of the water of any Springs, Lakes, or Creeks, within the now Territory of Arizona, under this law or rule providing for the equal use and distribution of the waters within the limits of Arizona the unallotted springs or water supplies would under this Act pass from the control of the Indians or even your Hon. Office, unless some special legislation be devised and enacted for the protection of the same for the benefit of these Indians.

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I learn through Superintendent Collins and from some personal observation that there is considerable good crop land that has been left unsurveyed at different points in the neighborhood of the East mudelle and Oraibi Mesa's. As to the Townships or portions of Townships that have been omitted I cannot at present determine as there is no way of ascertaining the number and range of surveys, or the Townships that these pieces of unsurveyed land would adjoin— 1st I have not in the plat of survey of what has been surveyed as a guide to assist in determining the question. 2nd what is already surveyed the stakes fail to show the proper notation— The half mile and quarter of mile stakes are placed into an excavation about a foot deep and rarely set into the ground more than three or four inches. I found many of them lying on the ground and some covered by sand that had drifted into the excavations and some few stakes had been removed presumably by the Indians particular those stakes close to there houses— none of the half and quarter mile stakes are longer than 18 to 20 inches— they ought to have been in my judgment 2½ feet so they could readily have been seen at a distance— what few section corners I have been able to find do not indicate what sections they represent. One section corner stake I found contained a mound into the excavations representing the 4 cardinal points of the compass but nothing else except a sand stone planted on the East side of the mound and upon the portion that protruded above the ground contained no superscription except six straight marks on each side thus ||||||| without any figures or initial letters to

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indicate the sections, it represented or in what
direction the section lay consequently was
unintelligible to us. Supt Collins accompanied
me to a section corner somewhat similar to the one
above described with the exception there was
inscribed upon the rock the letter T with what
appeared to be 16 or 1/16th if the rock represented the
latter it meant 40 acres, but what side the 40 acres
lay the stone monument did not indicate. The
rock was displaced when we visited the corner,
Supt Collins replaced the rock and remarked
in doing so it was the third time he had done so.
In view of the incomplete superscriptions found
on the sections corners and no notations on the half
and quarter mile stakes and the further fact that
some has been removed while others have been
covered up by drifting sand having fallen down - I
therefore respectfully request that I be permitted
to employ a competent surveyor for at least 5 or
6 months to the end that no mistake be made
in the description work of the allotment and for
the purpose of hastening the completion of the work
in the shortest time possible with a due regard
to thoroughness and to the satisfaction of the Indians,
Estimating that there is at present some 1750
Indians to receive allotments I am of the opinion
it will require at least between nine and ten
months to complete the work after it has commenced
and under headway. This is my opinion now, yet,
if I find I can do it with greater dispatch I
certainly will do so - There is another matter
that has come to my knowledge and that is there

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has not been any timber land surveyed, as far as Mr Collins and myself can ascertain. Timber land is of the highest importance to these people not only as fuel but for fencing and building purposes. The Indians are desirous of having some timber land as part of their allotment.

Upon the arrival of the plats, they may possibly show there has been some timber land surveyed.

Nearly all of the timber land upon the ~~Moqui~~ reservation is on high mesa land, and therefore each allottee should be allowed double quantity as the land in question is really more valuable for grazing purposes, when clipped of its scanty growth of timber than it is for timber purposes only.

Soon after my arrival I expressed a desire to meet the Indians and have a talk with them and explain the purpose of my presence among them. Supt Collins arranged to have a meeting called the following Saturday March 26th 1892. At this meeting all of the principal men of the East and middle mesa were present, including a number of men from the second mesa also a number of women & children. The white persons present were Supt Collins, Lieut Thos. V. Keams with some other white employees. Lieut Keams kindly volunteered to interpret for the occasion. The process of interpreting the English into the Moqui was tedious as the English had to be rendered in Spanish to Tom Polacker a Moqui Indian who translated the

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Spanish to the council in the Moqui tongue, in this way I was able to make known the object of my business and the good and kind purposes of their Great father at Washington. I fully explained to them in the form I thought they would fully understand all that referred to them and the land they were about to receive telling them how much each individual member was to receive and that they ~~were entitled to the best land and that they~~ had a right to select for themselves and children under 18 years of age - I also fully explained to them in as concise a form as possible that after the allotment of land to them in severally they then would be citizens of the United States and in a certain sense be Indians no longer when they assumed the high honor of a citizen they would be no longer under the old Indian laws and customs of the Tribe but by this elevation they would be taking a step into a new life with higher and better purposes and they would be subject to the white mans laws and customs, In order to meet this new condition of affairs they must prepare themselves by erecting comfortable houses and come down from the crowded and uncomfortable Mesas to live in the Vallies close to water and their land, to send their children to school so as to enable them to become industrious intelligent citizens and prepare them to cope with their white brothers for food clothing and shelter. At the close of this council talk several of the principal men made some remarks either in the

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nature of inquiries for further information about the Allotment of land or in giving their general assent and concurrence as to what had been said and explained to them, some of the Indians said they were willing to do what their great father at Washington desired them to do, Those present said they spoke for themselves, the few Oraibis present did not seem to participate much in the Council proceedings nor did they speak one way or the other nevertheless I think when they see the 1st and 2nd Mesa people taking their land they too will accept theirs without any particular trouble. Accompany this report is a rough sketch or diagram showing the relative position of the three Mesas the principal springs and water supplies also the land selected by Mr Collins for School purposes also road to the East Mesa to Keams Canyon

I have estimated all of the waters of the several springs and pools visited by me including the stream of water in the Nowock a way at the western boundary of the Reservation to aggregate not less than 65 to 70 inches - it may not be out of place for me to say while travelling in search of water that I noticed some 12 new houses finished and some 58 others under different stages of construction. About half way between the Oraibi Mesa going westward to the wash or chasm there occurs an entire change in the appearance of the rock and and surface formation this zone is not over three quarters to one mile in width and is about 3 to 3½

miles long I discovered in a deep gorge or opening that ran through this zone strong evidence of coal at another point there was a vein cut through by the action of the water at some former period which discloses a large strata that looks like half burnt coal resembling shale. I have no doubt but what systematic prospecting will develope coal of fair quality [illegible] I refer to these [illegible] in the future be of vital importance to the Indians that may settle in this locality in consequence of their being no timber for fuel purposes within reasonable distances

I shall continue my investigations as to water supply and other matters relating thereto and report.

All of which is respectfully submitted to your consideration

Very Respectfully
John S. Mayhugh
U.S. Special Allotment & Dsby Agt

I have read this report and concur in the observations and recommendations of Special Allotment Agent Mayhugh.

Ralph P. Collins
SUP'T. & SP'L. DISB. AGENT.

KEAM'S CANON, ARIZ. TER.
APR 5 1892

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