5606

Navajo.
Fort Defiance Ariz 3/21

Hon Commr.
of Indian Affairs
Washington, D.C.

Sir:-

The month ending this day has been one of almost continuous storm either snow or rain, and has not brought forth any occurrence worthy of special notice.

The work on the dam, has been prosecuted under many difficulties but considering the inclemency of the weather good headway has been made. The freshed about the 4th inst, although the water ran in the "Bonito" to an unprecedented height, no further damage was done to that part of the work already completed, showing that the structure will stand. On account of the weather

condition of the roads, the rains, and the snow, it was impossible for me to place a gang of men at work getting out timbers for the Sheep Corral, until the 20th inst, at which date operations were commenced, under the direction of a competent white foreman, I understand that excellent work is being done and there is no doubt but that a first class enclosure with the buildings authorized will be completed before the end of the fiscal year.

Great anxiety is manifested among the Navajoes residing in the valley of the "Rio Puerco" relative to land matters. I was informed about the 18th inst that some violent threats were indulged in by some of the Indians, to the effect if they had to leave the "Puerco" to come

not provided with more land elsewhere they would go upon the War Path. I promptly notified Agent Riordan by telegram, & I sent some of the most reliable scouts on the force to ascertain the facts in the case. The scouts came back in a few days, saying there was nothing in it, the tale was made, by irresponsible parties, & that the malcontents were hushed up, & severely reprimanded by Ch-ke-be-ten Klenny, a Sub Chief Son of Old Tanado Muncho Chief who accompanied Agent Riordan to Washington. All is quiet. there is no trouble, and none is to be apprehended.

The School progresses about as usual the number of pupils has slowly increased, and there is no reason why the Navajo Tribe Boarding

School should not ever long have a large attendance, "& be a credit to this Agency and the Service

An Engineer Officer of the U.S. 1st Lieut Carter & an Infty Officer Lieut Hodges with a surveying party compose of Soldiers and Citizens, arrived here on the 28th inst with orders to establish the east line of the Navajo Reservation only. From that time until now they have been unable to do any thing on account of the rough weather, but they will no doubt commence running the line within a day or two.

The Agency Carpenter and Black Smith has discharged his duty as usual in a faithful, and efficient manner.

The Agency Farmer

with the business of the Agency to manage during the absence of Agent Riordan, has found plenty to occupy his time, and mind, and has tried to the best of his ability to push forward the work on hand, with all possible dispatch.

There is a growing desire among the Indians to build houses, and with a little encouragement and help, hundreds of them will abandon the "Hogan" for the more comfortable habitation of the white man. The estimate for placing the saw Mill in order will be forwarded within a few days, and if it is put in operation will be of great benefit to the tribe. in fact I can think of nothing that would do more good here

throw saw mill in action operation.

Very Respectfully
Your obedient Servant
D M Rinrdan.

Per J E Marshall,
Former Acting Agent