

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

Western Navajo Indian Agency,
Tuba City, Arizona, January 14, 1920.

Mr. H. F. Robinson,
Supervising Engineer, Indian Service,
Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Dear Mr. Robinson:-

You, of course, are conversant to some extent with the difficulties which we have to contend with in irrigation of the Wash Farm in the Moencopi valley near here. From year to year it seems that the wash stream is more frequently affected by sudden and severe freshets. This condition makes it at those times of the year impossible to keep our earth dam on the cement and further about the time that the water in the stream has sufficiently cleared from sediment so that we can use it in our ditches and we do put in our earth dam the time is ripe for another freshet. It is also very risky trying to maintain our dam in during the freshet times of the year for as you know the least little freshet carries such a great amount of silt that if this is permitted to run into our ditches at all our ditches are immediately filled full of mud or silt. You know the upper part of our main canal makes a deep cut in the earth and when this cut fills up with silt and soupy mud it is next to impossible to clean it out either by washing or by excavation, the latter can only be done after the mud has dried up. Much or nearly all of this excavation work must be done by hand on account of the depth of the cut.

The above described condition makes the raising of crops not only difficult but very uncertain as well. I am looking for a remedy for the condition. The freshets in the Moencopi usually come also in mid-summer when even a few days without water for the crops means big losses. In the case of a new seeding of alfalfa and grain crops, no water in mid-season means absolute loss.

It occurs to me that were we fitted up with a good pumping outfit- consisting of the proper style of pump and gasoline engine- for operation during the freshet season to supplement the irrigation system now in use that such an outfit would prove very profitable, indeed, and it would be but a short time before not only operation expense would be paid for but also cost of installation by the increase amount of forage we would be able to raise on our Agency Wash Farm.

You have no doubt full data concerning conditions here, in the records of your office and I believe you will agree with me that our conditions should be remedied. Will you therefore ~~be~~ kindly give me the benefit of your knowledge in such matters, and if my suggestion for the installation of a

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pumping plant meets with your approval, in the premises, to up the matter of necessary authority with the Indian Office and take steps to have such a plant installed here. Conditions are such that we must have relief in this matter, if we are to make a success of our Wash Agency Farm.

It will be important that something be done in time so that our coming cropping season beginning in the spring will be assured of success.

Hoping to hear from you at an early date.

Very truly yours,



Superintendent.

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