

WR ~~1921~~

APPENDIX B.

PUEBLO BONITO AGENCY,

Crown Point, New Mexico.

Meeting held with General Hugh L. Scott on September 2, 1921. (40 Representative Navajo present.)

- Casa Mera: In former years when I was young, different Indians were at war with United States soldiers and I volunteered to help soldiers, after trouble was settled I received discharge at Fort Wingate and moved to Mariano Lake country where I lived for many years peaceably and happy. Recent years cowboys and ranchers came, fencing the country around and all of my neighbors and we could not move any where. Some years ago allotting agent came and informed us that allotments were to be made and each member of family was to receive an allotment where we could farm and take care of our sheep and cattle. Now they are asking us to pay taxes or lease and we do not understand.
- Staher: There are number of railroad lands on this reservation and no exchange has been made.
- Casa Mera: Fencing around the place, cowboys threatening children and older folks as they carry guns, on account of fencing we feel that trouble will come. Can settlement be made where cowboys and ranchers can have their own. Settlement must be made. Thirty-eight Indians living off the reserve here now, and these men do not feel free to go about their business. I feel thankful that you are here and I hope you will see that justice is given, and see that our people have help. I am thankful for any assistance you can give. One thing, branding, --We have recorded our brands and ranchers do not recognize our brands, cowboys take cattle with Indian brands, we want you to know these things.
- Platero: We are thankful that you are here, and that you a friend of the Indians. Cowboys came and built fences, and told us not to herd cattle this way and that and it makes dissatisfaction. Indians feel that it is like trying to kill a sheep with a dull knife so we are being slowly killed. Everything said by the former Indian is true. We have been living peaceably before this trouble started over fencing, is there any way we can make settlement so we can graze anywhere we want. We want this land we are pleading for these Indians. On account of fencing we cannot move anywhere with our stock and we feel like we are in a corral. Two men came (Lonergan and Traylor) and went to different places asking about this business. (Inspectors). Cowboys tore down hogans, fences, and we reported everything to

these two men and they put everything in writing and we have not heard anything about, and I hope we will hear soon. Concerning fencing of Cowboys, tearing down hogans, and fences, we were asked by these inspectors and we reported all we knew and we do not know where these reports are.

Gen'l Scott: (To Mr. Stacher)  
Have you heard anything about it?

Stacher: Yes, and they recommend that we prosecute all fencers, but my position is not to prosecute, but make arrangements between Indians and whites and make settlements this way. My recommendation is not to take drastic measures now.

Platero: One man (Mr. Murphy of Santa Fe Land Office) heard both sides, and said for us to live together, cowboys and Indians to use range and water together, we heard later that the cowboys were given preference as to fencing and water. This man went away and we have heard nothing further until you came. All Navajos on this reservation are thankful if help can come through your visit, you know these things and you have seen them, we have nothing and you know what is to be done and all the Navajos are making a plea for their land.

Gen'l Scott: Why are you not on the reservation?

Platero: Big reservation as it is, no room for horses, cattle and sheep, no water to take care of our horses, cattle and sheep.

Gen'l Scott: Where do you live?

Platero: About 12 miles east of agency.

Gen'l Scott: How long have you lived there?

Platero: 49 years.

Gen'l Scott: (Pointing to Left Hand) What is this Indian's name?

Platero: Left Hand.

Gen'l Scott: Where does he live?

Left Hand: Kinebeto Reserve.

Gen'l Scott: How old are you?

WR. 1922

Left Hand: Do not know.

Gen'l Scott: Was you alive when the stars fell? (Stars fell in 1833)

Left Hand: Heard about it when I was in the cradle.

Gen'l Scott: Where have you been living all this time?

Left Hand: Part of time near Shiprock and most of the time here.

Gen'l Scott: When did you move here?

Left Hand: I have been over 50 years here.

Gen'l Scott: To Platero: How long have you been living here?

Platero: 49 years.

Gen'l Scott: to Casa Mera: How long have you lived here?

Casa Mera: 48 years around Mariano Lake.

Gen'l Scott: Why did you not go when Reserve was made?

Casa Mera: When the reservation was made, one Chief Manuelito moved to the reserve and one Chief Mariano lived here around Mariano Lake so we followed Mariano.

Gen'l Scott: How about these other people? Do they live off the reserve?

Indians: Yes.

Gen'l Scott: Born off the reserve?

Indians: Yes.

Gen'l Scott: Parents live here?

Indians: Yes.

Gen'l Scott: Is this your home?

Indians: Yes.

Gen'l Scott: Indians belonging to the reserve, have they been coming here?

Indians: No.

General Scott: Being off the reserve, have your forefathers lived here?

Indians: Yes.

Gen'l Scott: No changing back and forth?

WR 1923

Indians: Same place where forefathers lived.

Gen'l Scott: What do you think the best way to settle this?

Mariano: What the two men (Indians) said before me was true. Let the cowboys have their own and the Indians have their own. About boys and girls going to school and to big schools, where are these boys and girls going to live when they come? No place to live. How are you going to take care of these boys and girls? Where are they going to live? We are willing to assist in placing these boys and girls in school, but where are they going to be placed when returning from school. Cowboys and ranchers come from two directions squeezing us and pinching us for room. I live away from these other Indians, I live among the Mexicans and cowboys.

Gen'l Scott: To Stacher: Are these representative men?

Stacher: Representative men.

Gen'l Scott: Are they talking for these people?

WH ~~1924~~

Stacher: Yes.

Gen'l Scott: Number of the children do not go to school, what do you think about it? Do you want your children educated or do you care about it?

Jeff King: Letter from Commissioner wants us to send children to school, in certain cases we keep one or two at home to help work.

Gen'l Scott: How do you feel about others not being educated? Do they like them being behind? Do you want them to be in a position to compete with white man? Look at this man (pointing to Kemble) Look at this man (pointing to Left Hand) pointing to Kemble; He knows how to get along. Look at his clothes; he made them for himself. Do you like your children to be half clothed? Look at you (Morgan) you have been to school, you can talk to me just as well as I can, you can take your own part, you know how to make a living anywhere in this world.

To Indians: Do you like to have your children live like you? I have always understood Indians love their children. Indians I know love their children, they get for them the best there is, nothing too good for them, I have seen all Indians from British Isles to Mexico. Nothing

too good for their children. The way I feel about my children I want them to live better and know more than I do, fight their own way. It is a battle for all. Battle for nature to get things out of the ground. Battle to keep other people from taking things away from us. We will have to be educated for this battle. I give my children best preparation to meet this battle, all words of past recorded in books. I want to open the books for my children. Do you want books shut for your children? Go to the whiteman's house and see all kinds of books, you go to the white man's house take down the book and see what is in it. Any man that tells me he loves his children and then do not get wisdom and knowledge for them, I do not believe him. If he does not get the best for his child, then he does not want his child to know more than he does. I want to thank these Indians for listening to me and telling me what is on their mind, and glad that you are patient. Let agent settle these questions so far as he can, live with the cowboys peaceably and quiet, and any trouble with the cowboys only flies back and hits you on the head.

I am glad that they are patient, their friends will try to arrange for them, let us hope that they will succeed, it is very difficult question because so many interests are involved, but as for me, I wish and look forward to have it properly arranged. The Board of Indian Commissioners feels as I do.

I think they are proud Indians for having taken part in this war; about 15,000 men can pass the doctor's examination One half of the effective white men were not in that war. The Indians bought over \$25,000,000 worth of Liberty bonds, their white friends have been proud of them; it shows the Indians are good Americans; it shows the white people that they want to do what is right. I am very proud personally of the part they have taken and they can very well be proud of it themselves.

What about the children going to school? The children are growing up without education. Some 7000 children are not in school, 7000 Navajo children never will be able to compete with the white man; always going to be poor; no chance of making themselves rich. What do you think about that? Tell me what they think about that.

Pratero: Indians feel different, some say yes, and some say no, I cannot say for all.

WR 1925

Gen'l Scott: What do you say for yourselves?

Charley Short: No difference in being in school or on the reservation, if they do not go to school they look after the sheep and stock at home and they learn how to take care of stock at home.

Stacher: Children must go to school and learn something and they must be given the chance. We must not use them like work horses.

Indians: We are willing to bring so many.

Gen'l Scott: Consider this, the whole world is changing, this old man (Left Hand) can see how it is changing since he was a boy. It is going to keep on changing, your children will live in a different world, every one here have seen conditions harder, your children will see harder times, something that cannot be helped. People in Russia are dying by thousands, people of China, people of India, very hard to live in China, and 7,000,000 starved to death last year. We need the best preparation to look forward to that light, prepare your children for that light; that is all I have to say.

Stacher: Commissioner requests every school open on one date, bring your children when you go home. General Scott has given you good advice. We have good men here, stir up enthusiasm, send your children to school.

---

WR \_\_\_\_\_ 1926