

Office Chief Eng'r.
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

U.S. Indian Service

Santa Fe, N.M., May 1, 1908.

W. H. Code, Chief Engineer,
522 Bumiller Building,
Los Angeles, Cal.

SIR:-

I herewith make my report as Superintendent of Irrigation for the month of April, 1908:

Pursuant to your telegraphic and written orders to proceed to Santa Fe and take charge of the work of the late Supt. J. B. Harper, I arrived at Santa Fe and assumed charge April 1st.

On the 3rd inst. I proceeded to Leupp, completing my tests of pumping there, a full report of which I have already rendered you, under the date of April 14th. Since making that report I find in the office specific instructions to make surveys of the reservoir site in San Francisco Cañon there. I await your reply to my note of recent date asking if Mr. Alsop could run a plane table to make this survey. If he can, will be glad to give him a chance to try, if not, will get an asst. engr. who is familiar with plane table work, as soon as possible, and have this survey made.

I then went to Taos, in response to telegraphic request from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to gather data to be used in a contest on a water filing that would interfere with the rights of the Indians. The matter came up for hearing, but was postponed to allow the Territorial Engineer to visit Taos and personally look over the ground. He expects to go up next week and I will accompany him.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

W.H.C.-2.

I wrote you April 18th regarding the Laguna work, stating that the Acomita dam was finished, and a good job, (I enclose photo of it), that the Seama dam was in course of construction, and regarding the failure of the Mesita dam.

The Seama dam will be completed in a few days now, and will prove a good piece of work I think. I found, that according to Mr. Burwell's plan they were putting down one row of sheet piling, only three feet long. - I had that changed, and the piling was all driven down twelve feet. I also added to the apron below, and had some wing walls of dry rock laid. - I send a photo of the beginning of the work. When completed will send you one taken then. The Mesita dam sunk, as I described in my former letter. I enclose two photos of its condition then. Since that time there has been high water which went around the south end, the end first built, cutting into the bank, and taking out the end cribs that were not sufficiently anchored. It will be necessary to practically rebuild the whole dam.

There is no place to put one in on a better foundation for several miles in either direction. The present dam was built on the site where, for years, the Indians had been putting in temporary dams of rock and brush. It may be impossible to get sheet piling down there on account of the sunken rock and brush. I have instructed Foreman Rathbourne to go there and make soundings to see if we can drive sheet piling, allowing us to repair the present dam. If he reports adversely, it may be necessary to entirely rebuild, far enough up stream to avoid the debris in the sand.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

W.H.C.-3.

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Nothing but long sheet piling will keep the water from going under the dam, as it is a bed of fine sand for an unknown depth.

At this point I have a foreman and two carpenters, white, and about a dozen Indian laborers.

I forwarded to you Asst. Engineer Rollin Ritter's report from Tuba. Under date of April 26rd he writes: "Expect to finish work on the diversion dam in the Maescopie in a day or so. Have about a week's work here getting more data for Reservoir Canon and lands in the west. Will then proceed to Moen A4va (six miles west), and to Willow Springs, to measure the flow of the springs at these places and get some sketches showing the situation there." I have written him directing him to return as soon as he has this completed, to go to Black Rock and, together we will complete the surveys etc., decide on details and commence work there.

I visited Black Rock with Mr. Newhall, and went over the work there and also visited the Navajo Reservation, going to St. Michaels and Ft. Difiance to get in touch with work to be done. I have been very busy familiarizing myself with the situation (having traveled 2100 miles since the 1st of April), and think I have grasped it, and hope to be able to make a good showing from now on.

I have been advised by the U.S. Attorney at Phoenix, that the water suit there will probably be set for some day about May 25, and he will advise me as soon as possible.

Very respectfully,

H. J. Robinson

Supt. Irrigation.

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