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Mr. Peter Paquette,

Supt., Navajo School.

My dear Mr. Paquette:

Reports indicate that of the 800 acres under the Ganado Project for which water was available for delivery, only 565 acres were cultivated, leaving 435 acres unused. It is very important that every acre of irrigable land be cultivated. In no other way can the expense of the system be justified.

Please take this matter up aggressively and exercise your utmost endeavors to have every acre of this land cultivated next season. How many Indians live under this project and can they be persuaded to utilize all the land? If not, would it be advisable to lease any of it? Do the Indians need any additional equipment for this purpose, and if so, how can it be provided?

In this connection, attention is invited to Office letter of August 14th, relative to reimbursement by the Indians for irrigation charges, and particularly that portion thereof reading as follows:

As a matter of fact, these Indian lands not being allotted are not subject to the charge provided for in the bill, as it applies only to allotted lands. It is presumed, of course, that you were not aware of this interpretation of the item; consequently, no blame attaches to you for your effort to make collections. However, since the collections need not be made, some way must be found of getting the fact before the Indians who started the farming operations in such a way as to induce them to return and continue their work, and it is hoped that, with your knowledge of their characters and dispositions, you may be able to accomplish this.

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The above portion of the letter mentioned related only to getting such Indians to return as had already started farming operations on the land, while the report now desired relates to getting in cultivation the land on which the Indians have not yet started operations. However, as you have not replied to that letter, you might cover both features in a single report.

Please give this matter your prompt attention, and submit the desired report as soon as possible.

Very truly yours,

E B Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

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