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AUG 14 1920

REPRODUCED AT THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

Mr. Peter Paquette,  
Supt. Navajo School.

My dear Mr. Paquette:

21209-20

This Office is in receipt of a report from Mr. H. F. Robinson, Supervising Engineer, addressed to the Chief Engineer, Mr. W. M. Reed, and by him referred to this Office.

67267-09-341

This report relates to the matter of reimbursement for irrigation works as provided for in the Indian Act for the present fiscal year. Mr. Robinson states that the Indians have put in some 330 acres of land this year under the Ganado project, this acreage representing a considerable increase over last year's farming activities. Mr. Robinson further states that he is advised that in pursuance of the instructions, as interpreted by you, regarding the reimbursement plan, you told the Indians that they would have to give a part of their crop each year to the Government to pay for the project, and that most of the Indians, upon learning this, decided that they could not or would not make such payment, and as a result all but a very few abandoned the work leaving the land with crops in.

The situation as above outlined is very much regretted. 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 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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Please take this matter up immediately, and do everything possible to rectify the unfortunate error. In this connection it is desired that you submit, somewhat in detail, the method you are following in assigning land to Indians under this project. It is necessary that these assignments be made carefully because at some future time it may be deemed advisable to make allotments to those Indians who have shown the proper interest in the cultivation of the lands assigned to them. This idea is, of course, merely tentative, and should not be spread among the Indians until definite plans are worked out.

Please acknowledge receipt of this letter at once, stating what prospect you have of being able to induce the Indians to return to their farms.

Very truly yours,



Assistant Commissioner.

6-MME-12