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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

SUPERVISING ENGINEER
ALBUQUERQUE, N. M.

July 28, 1920.

CHIEF ENGINEER
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Mr. W. M. Reed,
Chief Engineer,
Washington.

My dear Mr. Reed:

I have written at length at other times on the matter of reimbursement for irrigation works in the District and you will find considerable on the same line in my Annual Report sent you last week.

I am just in receipt of some news that will throw additional light on the attitude of the Indians.

The report on Ganado shows that the Indians have put in some 330 acres of land this year a considerable increase over last year. I am advised that just after the report of cultivation came in Superintendent Paquette, following out what he considered his instructions regarding the reimbursement plan, I presume, was on the project, and told the Indians that they would have to give a part of their crop each year to the government to pay for the project, ^{most of the} decided that they could not or would not do this, and as a result all but a very few of the man with a small area abandoned the work, leaving the land with crops in. One man had hauled posts to build a fence and had them distributed. He abandoned them as they lay as well as his crops.

This would seem to indicate that the work of this service in furnishing land with water has been set back very materially on this project.

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I am not blaming Mr. Paquette in the matter, but simply citing this to show that the Indians are not in shape to reimburse the government at this time, and further, that when they are told about the reimbursable plan they must have the matter put to them in a diplomatic manner so they will not be antagonized. The Office is doing this work to advance the Indian in civilization, and every effort should be put forth to that end and antagonizing them against the use of the irrigation project whether by lack of diplomacy or in any other manner will set back that project and the civilization of the Indians very much.

It is probable that the Ganado project will be set back several years in its development by this incident.

Very truly,

W. F. Robinson
Supervising Engineer.

To rectify this condition as early as possible. The Indians have not been allotted under this project & therefore are not in the class who must begin making payments. Possibly the Dept Com. may get out & establish the survey & get the Indians to agree to the farming operations. We have a large area in this project which will be nearly lost unless the land is farmed.

Aug 2 1920
Respectfully forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the recommendation that steps be taken.