

Land-Allotments.
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Mr. Peter Paquette,
Supt. Navajo School.

AUG 12 1918

My dear Mr. Paquette:

Reference is made to prior correspondence regarding allotments of Navajo within the Ganado Irrigation Project, viz., in Townships 26 and 27 North, Ranges 25 and 26 East, G. & S. R. M., Arizona.

The following excerpt is taken from report of Superintendent of Irrigation Robinson, for the fiscal year 1918, relative to the use of irrigable lands by Indians within the Irrigation Project, Navajo Reservation:

Quite a number of Indians are farming small tracts of land this year, and more would undoubtedly be doing something if they could be assured that the tracts would be allotted to them after they commenced their improvements. So far, I have heard of no action being taken by the Indian Office or by the Superintendent in charge to allot any Indians on this tract or to give them any encouragement in settling there. A tract of about 270 acres has been reserved by a notice posted on the ground, "For a School Farm," warning the Indians to keep off. Until some action is taken looking towards the encouraging of the Indians to settle on the lands under this project, not much will be done. I have directed our Foreman in charge to tell any Indian who wished water, that it would be furnished to him, but no assurance could be given him that he could remain on the land more than from year to year, and that for any permission to remain on the land he must see his Superintendent at Fort Defiance. This has deterred many from settling on the ground that they did not care to clear and level a tract of ground that might be taken away from them at any time.

If the Office desires immediate settlement of this land, I would respectfully suggest that a farmer in charge be located here, and he be given authority to make tentative allotments to

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the Indians will full assurance that they would either be allowed to remain there or that they would be reimbursed for any improvements they might make in case the land was allotted to somebody else.

This project covers about 1500 acres, of which about 500 acres are at present irrigable. Inasmuch as available water should be utilized by the Indians to the greatest possible advantage, you will make a special effort to encourage Indians in the beneficial use of these lands, with the understanding that their rights in specific areas will be protected insofar as possible when permanent allotments are made.

In order, however, that we may have more detailed information as a basis for allotting these lands, you will report at once as to the number of Indians that will make beneficial use of such areas and should receive allotments; the number of Indians now occupying and using the lands; and the area so occupied and otherwise improved; extent of substantial improvements, etc.

The record indicates that there are possibly one hundred acres being utilized by whites within this area. Your report should therefore indicate also as to what rights, if any, the whites might have to any of the lands within this Project.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) E. B. Meritt

Assistant Commissioner.

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