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GOSPEL MISSIONARY UNION.

Kansas City, Mo., Oct. 31, 1906.

Hon. F. E. Leupp,
Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D.C.

Sir:

I have recently returned from a visit of inspection to our Mission among the Navajo Indians, located at Tuba, Arizona.

Our work was started there in 1896, when the Mormons were in full control of that place, and I have made four different visits to our Mission, and have kept quite well informed regarding the work of our Missionaries, and the general matters that have affected the welfare of our Indians.

I was very glad to learn of the extension of the Reservation and the buying of the watered lands from the Mormons by our Government for the use of the Indians some years ago. I am, however, sorry to have to report to you personally that I found a large part of this purchase lying waste this summer, because, in some way, the dam that furnished the water for the lands in the Moen Copie Wash had not been cared for, and perhaps some 300 acres or more was destitute of water and producing nothing but weeds. A fine orchard that had been put out by the Mormons, was liable to be entirely destroyed, and so far as these lands were concerned, the Indians were reaping nothing from the large amount of money that the Government had expended in their behalf.

There are other matters in connection with the work at Tuba under the direction of the Superintendent, that are, I judge, in a very disturbed condition, but as he has not seemed to be entirely friendly to us, I think it better not to speak farther, but may I ask if it would not be possible for you to send a special Inspector, in whom you have full confidence, to investigate the condition of that part of the Reservation at an early day? The Secretary of our Mission, Mr. D.E. Brown, understands the Navajo language quite well, and we will be glad to have you make any use of him as interpreter, that you might desire.

It is not the intention of our Society to take an active part in the general secular and governmental affairs of the people among whom we labor, and we do not care at this time to be involved in this matter more than to suggest as above, with the hope that the true condition of affairs there may be brought before you, and that you may arrive at such conclusions as the facts in the case may warrant.

Trusting, Sir, that the great God may rule and overrule for the blessing of our poor Indians,

I am, In the work of the Gospel,
Sincerely yours,

George S. Fisher,
President.

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