

Subject:
Navajo Extension
Irrigation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

522 Summner Bldg.
Los Angeles, Cal.

April 26, 1909

The Secretary of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

On March 22, 1909 the Indian Office addressed me a letter requesting me to detail Superintendent Robinson to proceed to Tolchaco, on the Navajo Reservation, Arizona, for the purpose of conferring with Mrs. P. G. Gates, and to investigate the possibilities of providing irrigation for certain lands on the Navajo Extension, on which Mrs. Gates hoped to establish a colony of returned students.

The proposed reservoir at Leupp, in the vicinity of Tolchaco, had proved, on previous investigation, to be a very expensive project, and I advised against it. The situation is such as to render it infeasible to construct a dam of less height than that calculated upon, since the amount of storage capacity would be very small in proportion to the cost of a low dam, owing to the great width of the stream channel at the dam site. For this reason the Leupp Project cannot be considered in connection with the plan of Mrs. Gates.

Superintendent Robinson reports upon several other projects, none of which I would recommend as a business proposition for a

white man, hence do not regard them as feasible for the Indians.

Irrigation with flood waters from these torrential southwestern streams, which are dry for a good portion of the irrigation season, is a discouraging proposition. If these flood waters could be supplemented by underground waters, obtained by pumping, as in the instance of the Gila River Reservation Project now under way, a small project might be developed on the Navajo Extension, but the cost of fuel for pumping would probably be prohibitive.

Superintendent Robinson will go over the valley of the Little Colorado shortly with the underground water expert of the U. S. Geological Survey, and report further on the possibility of underground water development in the vicinity under consideration.

Very respectfully,

A. B. Code

Chief Engineer.

L.S.

P.S. Superintendent Robinson's report is enclosed herewith.