

Field  
Irrigation.  
647 - 1912.  
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Copy for Chief Engineer.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES INDIAN IRRIGATION SERVICE  
SUPERINTENDENT OF IRRIGATION

Albuquerque, N. M., August 5, 1912.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

(Through the office of the Chief Engineer).

Sir:

I am in receipt of your instructions, sent through the Chief Engineer under date of July 25, 1912 numbered and initialed as above directing that I send one of my well drilling outfits into the country indicated as having been allotted - being lands in Townships 25, 26, 27, 28 and 29 North, Ranges 8, 9 and 10 East (Gila and Salt River Base and Meridian), - and determine whether water can be developed for domestic and stock purposes and for the irrigation of small gardens.

Before sending in the rig, I wish to report to the office that this particular land is some of the most barren and broken land in that portion of the country, and much of it has been covered with a lava flow. As shown in the report of Supervisor Bascom Johnson, there is no living water in the whole district excepting the Little Colorado River and Tappan Springs.

To move a rig there overland a distance of between 150 and 200 miles would be a costly piece of work, and I believe that an examination of the ground should be made by a geologist, if possible, before such a step is taken.

I understand that Prof. H. E. Gregory, of the Geological Survey has not quite finished the work he has been doing in this section, and that he expected to return to the Navajo Country this summer, provided the appropriation bill gets through in time to allow it.

I would suggest that, if possible, Prof. Gregory be sent to the field

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to investigate this particular section, which is about 27 miles long and 18 miles wide.

He could be accompanied by a man who would make investigations at the same time of possibilities of small tanks or reservoirs on these various allotments.

The time consumed and the cost of moving the rig to this field, not to mention the damage to the rig from being taken across country, and over miles where there is no road would be much greater than it would to have an examination made by an expert who could positively say whether it would be possible to reach water at any reasonable depths.

I would therefore recommend that some competent geologist be sent to the field to make the examination.

Until I hear from the Office I will not start a rig, as they are all busy now in the Hopi and Navajo countries.

Very truly,

Superintendent of Irrigation.