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Mr. E. W. Miller, Supt.,
Keams Canon, Arizona.

I am in receipt of your letter asking for a statement as to the necessity of holding what lands are now occupied by the Navajos and Hopis.

In the first place this is an arid country. Our rainfall from year to year varies. With such disadvantages I do not know of a country nor section of country in the United States that grazes more stock under similar conditions, depending entirely on the natural vegetation for its forage.

It is particularly interesting that the existence of most every family, depends on stock raising. In view of this fact, everything should be done to insure these people of a permanent hold on what lands they now occupy, and arrangements be made to procure them more land.

There should be an efficient program for the development of water, so that the entire be utilized as needed, and not dependent on snow as it is now in certain sections. I am a great believer in dams for the storing of water for stock purposes, and if possible for irrigation, a work that the Indians could do.

Much care should be used in the purchase of lands off the reservation, particularly if these lands are to be taxed by the state in which they are located.

The reservations as a whole are overstocked. When you consider that thousands of these Indians are stock owners, it is plain to see that they must hold land, so that the younger generations may follow the stock industry, which is so natural to them if they so choose. Nothing of greater importance can be done for these Indians than to help them with their stock raising. Today they are deriving a greater income from it than any other source. I believe they should be encouraged to continue in this industry.

Respectfully,

Lorenzo Hubbell

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