Navajo
Ft Defiance Ariz July 3d 3

Hon Commissioner
of Indian Affairs
Washington
D.C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to submit herewith estimate of funds required for the third quarter 1883, together with estimate of amounts of forage required, of additional repairs needed on Agency buildings and of additional work which will be required on dam and irrigating ditch in order to carry out the objects intended.

In explanation, I beg to say that the amount of forage required is based on the belief that Auth: 5855 for the purchase of mules and horses will be renewed, in which case the amount estimated for is less than

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will be needed but as the Restrictions do not permit of the purchase of more than $500.00 worth at any one time in open market I had to confine myself to that sum.

The additional repairs to the Agency buildings are rendered necessary by the thoroughly rotten condition of nearly all of the wood in them. This is rendered more painfully apparent the more work we do on them. Bad as these buildings were to even a casual observer, and bad as I have stated they were I had no conception of their tumble-down condition until I began to repair them. The vigas (or roof timbers) will barely support their own weight in many cases. Nearly all are absolutely unsafe from age and dry rot. The dirt roofs which generally require and should be repaired every year are in the condition

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that one hardly knows what to do with them. I tried the plan of putting more dirt on at first. That resulted in, what a miner would call, a cave. The whole mass came down; dirt, timbers and cloth ceiling. I cleared away the debris and tried taking off the roof and putting on fresh timbers. The result was, the walls fell down. It is disheartening. The walls and roofs are the abodes of snakes and other vermin, the roofs being like a sieve in places with rat-holes. The conditions are bad enough here, God knows; and hard enough on a lady to justify the Government in furnishing those of us who have wives and children with decent habitations. As far as I am personally concerned I cannot and will not endure any set of conditions that prevent my

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giving those I love a suitable protection from the elements, a comfortable house to live in. I can command that for them anywhere on this continent as long as my health remains good.

I presume Dr Sampson feels pretty nearly the same way. It is not pleasant to come into a room, as I have done; and find your baby scared to death, nearly, by a snake whose forked tongue and half his body is writhing in air within two feet of the child's face. I do not believe you desire a man who has to cut himself off from the amenities of life almost entirely; and to live in a high priced country on less than half the salary he ought to have, to do his work under these conditions Nor do I believe the Government does. And the only way I know of to bring about a remedy is to state the facts.

I could not believe the condition of these things was so bad. One could spend the whole $1500.00 I was allowed for repairs from last year's funds, on a single one of these buildings and then be hardly able to show where it was gone to. The work I have done so far has scarcely more than revealed their deplorable condition. Ten thousand dollars would not make them all habitable, but if I can get the amount I ask I will do my very best with it to render the designated houses fit to live in.

The additional work on dam and flume here is rendered necessary by reason of the investigations I have made into the matter of dams in this canon. The site I first selected, I found after work was begun would not do.

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It had a quicksand bottom and was faulty otherwise. With the ruins of several dams before my eyes, scattered along the creek, I determined to put in a dam that would stay or none at all. Slipshod work is sheer waste of money. There is no place I know of where the truth of this is more forcibly illustrated than right here. I propose to do my work so that those who come after me will find every dollars worth of it here. My plan now is to continue the work on this dam through the fall and winter, raising it as the water raises; and making every foot secure. It will be forty two ft high when finished and if it stands one freshet will last as long as the Navajo tribe does. I will anchor the ends into the rocky wall of the cañon itself, instead of

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against a sand bank as has been the practice heretofore. The result in previous cases was uniform: The first freshet took the dam out. In one instance the dam stood five years — because there was no flood. The first one came along carried away the dam. In some cases the dam itself gave way; in others the end washed away and the creek went round it. The same practical result in all cases. The water resumed its old bed and went down 40 to 50 feet below where it is needed. I propose to get it out and put it to work raising food for these people, if I get the funds. Raising it gradually as I propose to, I lessen the strain on the dam, the water settles and deposits the sand above it adding to its strength every day; and when the dam is finished the bed of

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the creek is forty feet higher, above that point, than it was.

In estimating for pay of agent I did not estimate for pay of the other employes because no reply has ever been received to my list of employes required for the present fiscal year submitted May 9th 1883, consequently I do not know what employes I am to be allowed nor what wages they are to get.

The estimates for mail service and incidental expenses do not need special mention the necessity for both being apparent and permanent.

The funds which were re-deposited by me on the 30th ultimo should all be again made available if possible; the time limit and requirements of paragraph 165 of the Instructions preventing as they did, the objects for which those

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funds were granted from being more than partially carried out.

I request to-day, in another communication the renewal of the authorities necessary for the transaction of my duties and the performance of the work inaugurated.

I remain, very respectfully
Your obedient servant
D. M. Riordan
Agent.

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