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NA VAJO AGENCY,

FORT DEFIANCE,A,T,APRIL,11,1899

S,E,SHOEMAKER,Esq,

KEAMS CANON,A,T,

DEAR SIR,

Yours of 9,just recd,am glad to know you are progressing well in the way of cleaning up the moqui,country,also that you find it possible to save the corn which has been in accordance with my views all the while MR,Meagley wrote me soon after Dr,HOURY,went there that it would according to estimates cost $8000,on the first and second,mesa,to replace the corn,to be destroyed,and as much on the oriba,if the disease,got over there,I answered him I thought it a very unwise conclusion,and have held to that idea all the while,and am well pleased to know you have by experiance,arrived at the same conclusion,you ask that the goods ordered from N,Y,and Chicago be stopped later you say you wired the Department,to that effect but it was all too late as the invoices show the goods to have been shipped the first of the month,and no doubt the chicago shipment is already at Holbrook,and the other on the way,however we will have to make the best out of that we can and will probably later get orders to issue them or otherwise dispose of them,as the are not perishable property there will be no serious loss,
I am hunting for a good civil Engineer with the prospect of going to Keams to make a profile of the place and make some estimates, &c,to determine the feasibility of putting in a dam there,and turning the water,all to the south side of the valley or to the south bank and it may have a bearing on the question of new buildi -gs,there,as to this I cannot positively say,I am now awaiting funds and authority to pay off,if I was ready I would start your way next week and go on and make a general inspection of every poi -nt,necessary on the reservation,while roads and weather is good, will explain matters to the department tomorrow as to your progres now as to the tools &c,you wanted for those Navajos,south west of the black mountains will try and hold quite a number for you and I would like if you could come over at the time and have a list of the needy and worthy,in order that we might make a fair distributi -on,and place two or three wagons to be loaned to all as necessity required,I am much in favor of the government retaining ownership and loaning as needed,how does that strike you

yours respectfully, [illegible]
U.S. Indian Agent

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