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UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

N. A. V. A. J. D. Agent
Fort Defiance, A.T.

January 3, 1894.

Mr. C. H. Fancher,
General Agent A. & P. Ry.
Gallup, N.M.

Dear Sir:--

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your favor of the 27th ultimo, and in reply have to say that while I am willing and anxious to accomplish all you desire I can not see how it can be done at present.

There is a law allowing Indians to homestead land, under the most liberal terms, and many of the Navajos living off of the Reservation have taken steps to secure the privileges of this act. Ofcourse such Indians cannot be moved on to the Reservation. But again these are not the ones who make the trouble for settlers.

The Reservation is not large enough or in condition to support the herds of the Navajos and this has been made the subject of several reports by me.

Last winter money was appropriated for the purpose of developing the water on the Reservation, constructing ditches, reservoirs &c. Up to the present time, so far as I know nothing

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10 p.m.

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Hon. Com. of I. A. -2-

whatever has yet been done toward carrying out this work. I believe that if done the resources of the Reservation would soon be so developed as to draw nearly all of the Navajos on to the Reservation. As it is now they could not be provided for on the Reservation, unless fed by the Government. They are considered by the Government a self supporting tribe and it is very difficult to get anything for them from the Government. The annual appropriation for the Support & Civilization of the Navajos is only \$7500.00. Out of this comes all the running expenses of the Agency.

I have frequently represented to the Indian Office the condition of this tribe and that in their present condition, unless assisted, must starve or steal.

I believe you will understand from what I have said that it is not possible to move all the Navajos on to the Reservation, at present. But if you will designate where they are living on land belonging to the company, or any such lands from which it is desired to have them moved, I will see that the particular land, or lands, is vacated, without delay.

I fully appreciate the situation and have for a long time. But have not been able to make it clear to the authorities in Washington. The same or a similar state of affairs exists in

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other localities where the Navajos have been compelled to move off of the Reservation to get grazing for their flocks.

I would recommend that you have the authorities of your road in the east visit the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, in Washington, and fully explain the situation to him. If this were done persistently by your road and by cattle men and others interested I believe that proper measures would be adopted to relieve the situation, which I consider, and have so reported, very serious. It is not understood or appreciated in Washington or any where away from the Reservation. Only those in continual contact with these Indians know how impoverished they and their Reservation are and what urgent necessity there is that something should be done for them, as well for their sakes as to give the settlers about the Reservation the enjoyment of their rights. If these Indians must be fed and supported it should be done by or through the general Government and not by those who are compelled to live on and about the Reservation.

Please understand that I am willing and anxious to assist you and others to secure their rights and am ready to do anything in my power, appreciating the situation as I do, but I also understand the situation better than anyone else and see difficulties to speedy adjustment of the difficulties that do not appear to those living at a distance.

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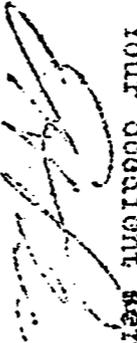
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Mr. Trencher -4-

On the 29th ultimo, in a report urging the necessity for assisting these Indians I made reference to your complaint.

Very respectfully,

Your obedient servant,



1st Lieut. 10th Infantry,

Acting J. S. Indian Agent.

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