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Navajo Agency N.M. May 30/89

C.E. Vandever

U.S. Indian Agent

Submits copy of Report of Lieut Stokenburg and makes recommendations & explanations.

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Navajo Agency N. M.
May 3rd 1889.

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to submit herewith copy of a report, (and communication) of the reconnoissance of this Agency made by Lieutenant J. M. Statsenburg of Ft Wingate N. M. and desire to state that I agree with the Lieutenant in all his views, except those in regard to the amount of farming done by the Navajoes, for I know positively that a great many Indians on this reserve are now cultivating from five to ten acres and are gradually enlarging their farms and would do so to a much greater extent if their ditches and reservoyers were properly fixed.

I think the Lieutenants, suggestion, regarding the employment of four good men, to reside

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on different parts of the reserve for the purpose of instructing the Indians in ditching, irrigating and in taking care of work that has been done, is an excellent idea, as something of this sort is certainly necessary, to bring about the desired result, these men could be classed as Additional Farmers and could when their services are not otherwise required, look after the farming in their respective districts.

The Additional Farmer, to be stationed near the San Jean river, should also be compelled to see that the ditches and reservoyers in his district are kept in repair. I mention this for the reason that some men sent out by the Department as Additional Farmers, have an idea that they are not expected to perform any other

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duties.

In this connection I desire to state that I have just returned from a visit to the Moqui Pueblo Villages, and discovered a fine spring named "Shush-be-to," or "Bear Spring" - about 30 miles east of Kearns Canon, which was evidently not discovered by Lieut. Stotsenburg on his recent reconnoissance.

This spring now flows profusely for a distance of 1/4 of a mile, where the water loses itself in the sand.

There are about 10 families living near this spring, who are all farming and have under cultivation from five to ten acres each.

Sam Bookodi, a very prominent Indian, son-in-law of Chief Gana-munsha, and most likely his successor, resides at this spring.

"Bear Spring" should be repaired at

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once - walled up and the water piped into a trough and ditches dug for irrigating purposes.

The Indians residing at this spring are higly deserving and I know will make the best possible use of the additional supply of water, sure to be derived by repairing this spring.

In my judgment $300.00 dollars properly expended would place this spring and ditches in excellent condition.

I also desire to add that it was impossible for me to accompany Lieut. Stolzenburg over the reservation at the time he was here for the reason that I was very busy and had to go to the Moqui Pueblo villages for the purpose of making a general issue - and for the additional reason that I have but one old team of horses at this Agency, which is

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kept more than busy about the Agency and School and cannot be spared even for an hour. For this reason I was compelled to make the journey from here to the Moqui Villages, a distance of 90 miles, on horse back, and was also compelled to hire three horses, (one for myself, one for the Interpreter and one for an employe) at an expense of one dollar per day each, for a period of 9 days, for the purpose of making the above named trip.

I have repeatedly asked for authority to purchase a team and if the Hon. Commissioner was aware of how I am daily, yes hourly hampered by the lack of horses at this Agency — he would — I am certain — not hesitate in sending me authority to purchase at least one team.

Lieutenant Stolsenburg certainly is

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in every respect thoroughly qualified to perform the work for which he has been detailed, and I am more than pleased that the Department has chosen so efficient a gentleman to perform this much needed and laborious task.

Very respectfully
Your obedient Servant
G. E. Vandever
U.S. Indian Agent

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