

53457

OFFICE OF  
Indian Affairs  
Rec. JUN 25 1906

MOQUISCHOOL,  
BEAMS CANON, ARIZONA

June 16, 1906

*Mr. [Name]*

*Dear Sir:*

*Enclosed are the reports and the best of the [Name] Commission of Indian Affairs.*

*Very truly yours,*

*[Signature]*

RG 75 Bureau of Indian Affairs  
 E.91 (PI-163) Letters Received, 1881-1907  
 Box 3171  
 year 1906 letter #: 53457

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

Moqui School,

Keam's Canon, Ariz. June 16, 1906.

The Honorable,

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,

Washington, D. C.

Sir:-

I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of yours of June 11th, "Land 48300" relative to celebration of July 4th at home and I am indeed much pleased with the idea and will see what can be done. It is along a line I have advocated for years except that I have urged that the big celebration of the year mark the opening of school in the fall and be at the school.

The Commissioner has been on the reservation but did not come to the Agency nor call me to him so I did not meet him. I regret this very much. Upon call I could have met him and saved something over a hundred miles wagon transportation and taken him over the very ground he covered and some he did not.

There never was a time that such a trip could have been made with better results and shown more of the actual condition, and the Indians were never nicer than now. While I was in Washington some troop of cavalry made a practice March in this direction as far as Ganado and then returned. As soon as I came back the Indians brought me word of it and asked what they wanted. I assured them I was away and knew nothing about it. They have gotten it all over the reservation that the soldiers

started out here about ~~De-yak~~ De-yal-te's trouble and heard at Ganado that I was at Washington and went back to the fort. Then came the news that De-yal-te was killed in the Frisco earthquake so that his band has settled down to good behavior, accepted the new Chief Sepai in good faith and promised more children for next year's school than we can possibly accommodate. I made a drive of 65 miles among the Navajoes the other day and found them in the finest temper imaginable. I was going to make a trip up in the direction from which the Commissioner could have come at the greatest saving of time and travel but delayed it expecting I would be called to meet him and bring him across and would thus accomplish the two objects at one trip.

There has been no time since I have been here that the average condition of the reservation could have been seen as well, as it is the first time since I came that the springs have been failing. I have to put in every minute that I can to get away to study the conditions at water sources and have the work done that will keep the stock alive, and have had Indians working with pay and without it for such purpose.

Heretofore they have not been willing to work even at what ~~to~~ they claim as their own water supplies for anything other than a dollar a day. Week before last I told a lot of them that I would send an employe among them and if they would work for half a dollar a day, or one dollar with team we would go at it. They accepted the proposition and twenty one men were worked last week. This was not to save the money so much as to impress upon them that they are able to help do the work they need done and will have to come to it and had as well begin now. I have more requests to go on along that line than I can possibly deal with in the time that it should have attention but we will keep at it.

3.

From reports brought in some work must be done up in De-yal-te's country to save the stock and on Monday I will start with the interpreter on a camping trip up there to learn if it is possible to developement of enough to save what it is up there. The Navajoes are in despair. Water is short and three times some of them have planted their fields to have them eaten out by the kangaroo rats, a miserable little nocturnal rodent that seems to be here in millions this year. The navajoes are now consenting to go to work on the railroad to get money to live on next year and ten came in this morning and enrolled for that work and will leave tomorrow morning

I would have been glad for the Commissiner to have had personal knowledge of this and the fact that a number of Hopis are now down there at work. But if he was made familiar with the fact that the conservative Hopis at Oraibi have been driving the friendlies from their lands and taking possession thereof perhaps he will inaugurate a policy that will teach a few who would be outlaws in other lands that there is some power that must be respected.

I am aware that he is under the impression that I have not the welfare of the Hopi at heart, in which there is error. I am not ready to be a silent observer of the mistreatment and robbery of the great majority of well behaved, peaceable, really interesting and loveable Hopis while soft sentiment is wasting energy and time in futile attempts to win to the ways of the weakly sentimental a minority who claim they are the people and to them all else and all others are must be sub-servient.

But the time with them is short and it is now probable that I will never see the Commissioner Officially as the opening of In-

dian Territory is practically assured and when that is done my interests there demand that I shall leave this and go there. But the facts here will remain the same. The Hopis as a people are really worth all that that can be done for them but they do really, sorely need as a people some protection from a few of the worst of their own people, not only as to robbing them of their fields, that is the least of it, but for maintaining practices, that would hang them elsewhere and which are as polluting as is conceivable to man and it is the veriest rot for people familiar with it as some are who object to any action that promises something of retribution to these scamps, and female vagabonds. There are both polluted, immoral, unmitigated scoundrels and prostitutes among the Hopis as among other people, and these people know the significance of their crimes as other of their kind do. And whoever approves I have no sympathy with the sentiment that protects these people for time to reform them by persuasion while they continue to prey upon others. This is a continual condition here and is at its worst at Oraibi and yet I will warrant no mention of it was made to the Commissioner, though it is known to those with whom he spent his time there.

Very respectfully

*Thos. G. Shannon*  
Superintendent.