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STATE OF MISSOURI
City of Jefferson



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ST. LOUIS, MISSOURI

[Handwritten notes and signatures]

Mr. Edgar K. Miller,

Supt. Hopi Agency, 18th
1928

My dear Mr. Miller:

MAY 14 1928



Hon. E. B. Merritt
Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington, D. C.

For your information there is enclosed
copy of a letter from Mr. H. E. Freeland together
with copy of my reply which is explanatory.

Dear Mr. Merritt: It is requested that you take every pre-
caution possible looking to protection of the Hopi
Indians from encroachment by the Navajo Indians.

Last June I made a short visit to two of the western
agencies, where I spent a number of years in the service.
The visit to Polacca and Oraibi was particularly interesting as
we had some very interesting stories. The
store at Polacca is doing very well and is a tribute to
what the Indians are doing (possibly there should be an
apology to the Iowa tribe in this statement as Tommy is one of
their number). His store was the best by far I have ever seen
on an Indian reservation and would be a credit to any white
community. Mr. Pavatea has not only developed his business but
in the midst of desert surroundings has built a home with
modern conveniences. Twenty-two years ago he went
to Polacca, he only had a very small shack and a
dark building. His wonderful success shows what an Indian may
do among his own people. Mr. Pavatea has accomplished this
through the supervision of Engineer Robinson.
The day school at Polacca shows splendid progress as does also
the school at Oraibi. Mr. Myers has shown wonderful leadership
and I believe has the confidence of the people. The fine
thing in the work of Mr. Myers and Mr. Bubank is the develop-
ment of native Indian ideas and culture into harmony with mod-
ern life. Twenty years of service with various tribes convinced
me that the biggest element in our failure properly to fit the
Indian to cope with civilized conditions has been due to the
attempt to turn him into a copper-colored white man. I consider
the service is exceptionally fortunate in having such men as
Mr. Myers and Mr. Bubank in its employ. One unfortunate feature
of the Hopi situation is the continued encroachment of the
more aggressive Navajos and the apparent yielding of the govern-
ment to the continued pressure of this more aggressive tribe.
At Burro Springs, south of Oraibi, I found the Navajos had been
at their customary tactic of forcing the Hopis from out-lying
points. It seems regrettable that the Leams Canyon school
Carbon for Indians

Filed by J. M. S.