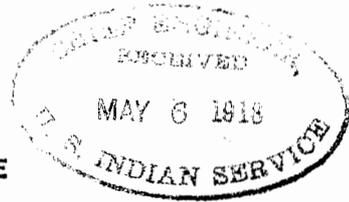


Original forwarded
to Indian Office

Navajo-Hopi

May 6 1918

6-1143



DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
UNITED STATES INDIAN IRRIGATION SERVICE
SUPERINTENDENT OF IRRIGATION

Albuquerque N. M.
May 1st, 1918.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington.

(Thro the Chief Engineer).

Sir:

For a long time I have been satisfied that the most important work, from the view point of immediate use and returns), has been the well drilling and spring development for the Navajo and Hopi Indians on the so-called Painted Desert.

As soon as a well begins to deliver water the stock is there to use it, and the Indians come miles to get domestic water which they haul, and to drive their stock there for water.

It is believed that in the regions where the wells have been put down that the quantity of stock, especially sheep, have doubled and in many cases more than doubled. What this means to the Indian in material advantage, especially in this time of high prices for wool and stock can readily be seen, and there is also the great advantage to the country at large in the increased production of the much needed wool and meat.

In order to get the ideas of the man on the ground, I had Mr. Womack, the foreman in charge of this work address a letter to most of the traders and the missionaries on the reservations and they have answered his communications, and I herewith submit copies of their replies for your information.

If copies of these letters could be placed in the hands of the Committees on Indian Affairs in Congress when the next bill goes before them, it is possible that a greater appropriation could be secured for this purpose.

Very respectfully,

H. J. Robinson
Superintendent of Irrigation.

May 6 1918
Respectfully forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with the recommendation that it be

used as justification in securing a liberal appropriation for this work next year
W. J. [Signature]
Chief Engineer.