

Washington, D.C.  
February 7, 1911.

IN THE MATTER OF THE REQUEST FOR ALLOTMENTS TO NAVAJO INDIANS LIVING ON PUBLIC LANDS IN COCONINO BASIN, ARIZONA.

1. STATEMENT OF GENERAL FACTS.

Of the 28,000 Navajos in Arizona and New Mexico it is estimated that one-third of the tribe, or about 9,000, are living on the public domain outside the limits of the old reservation.

2. APPLIED FOR ALLOTMENTS.

The Navajos living on the public lands in Coconino Basin, Arizona, where they have always lived and supported themselves, made application to have their homes allotted to them. Accordingly, about two years ago the Indian Bureau directed an allotting agent to make the necessary surveys and schedule the lands desired by the Indians for their homes, and under this authority lands were scheduled for allotment to one hundred and fifteen Navajos in conformity with the General allotment laws.

3. THE FIRST AND ONLY SETTLERS.

These Navajos are believed to be the first and only settlers on the lands claimed by them for allotment, and no filings are reported in the Government land office contesting the right of these Indians to the lands. They are not "roving bands" which "have broken away" from their reservation; they have always occupied these lands as their homes. Their forefathers lived there before them.

4. THEY ARE SELF-SUPPORTING.

The Indians in question have always been self-supporting and should not now be weakened by returning them to the reservation to become dependent through such pauperizing influences.

The distinctive policy of the Government for a generation has been to break up reservations and induce Indians to become independent citizens.

5. INDIANS HAVE MADE IMPROVEMENTS.

In addition to the many Indian dwellings (Hogans) they have more than twenty reservoirs and dams on these lands which they have built for the purpose of storing the flood waters for the use of their families and herds.

6. STOCKMEN NOT SETTLERS.

The stockmen and others who object to these allotments being made to the Indians, with one or two exceptions reside in Flagstaff or Williams, Arizona, located some fifty miles distant from the lands in question.

7. THE RESERVATION ALREADY OVER-STOCKED.

Every available range on the reservation is now occupied and in many cases over-stocked.

The Superintendent of Leupp Indian School, Arizona, in reporting upon the advisability of removing three families from the Hopi to the Navajo reservation, advised the Indian Bureau under date of January 26, 1911, that:

"The question may be asked: Where are the Navajos to be removed to? All of the range in this part of the country, available for the Navajos, is occupied, and I know of no location to which even three families can be removed and located."

8. ATTEMPT TO DEVELOP WATER ON THE RESERVATION.

About two years since Professor Gregory, Geologist, of the Yale University, after a personal investigation reported upon the water supply which might be made available within the Navajo reservation, and stated in part:

"In all of these locations, permanent wells of moderate supply may be secured at selected spots at intervals of from three to four miles and at depths rarely exceeding thirty feet."

To secure all possible benefits to the Navajos from the Professor's findings, the Indian Bureau through a fully equipped outfit drilled wells over an area of at least thirty-five miles as indicated by the geologist and failed to find available water, although tests were made by sinking wells to a depth of ninety feet in many instances.

A further report showing a dearth of water within the reservation was made by Assistant Commissioner F. H. Abbott, of the Indian Bureau, under date of July 9, 1910, to the Commissioner Indian Affairs. Commissioner Abbott states that if unlimited funds were available for establishing boarding schools within the reservation that on account of the scarcity of water "you would not find sites for one-quarter of the schools needed". This report was made soon after Commissioner Abbott's trip through the reservation embracing six hundred miles in the journey.

#### 9. THE INDIAN SIDE OF THE CASE HAS NOT BEEN HEARD.

The Indians complain that no officer from the Interior Department has given them an opportunity to present their side of the case in which to establish their claim that they were the first settlers and entitled to these lands through allotment, and that although themselves denied a hearing they claim that the stockmen have been given full privilege of presenting their claims.

In view of the foregoing statements it seems evident that suitable lands are not available within the reservation for the 9,000 Navajos located on the public domain. On account of the increasing danger of loss of title to their homes through

homestead settlement and otherwise we urge that lands selected for the homes of these Indians be approved without further delay.

(Signed) W. R. JOHNSTON,

Field Superintendent, Mission to the Navajo and  
other Indian tribes, Tolchaco, Arizona.

To the Honorable

The Secretary of the Interior.