

5-1100

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

REFER IN REPLY TO THE FOLLOWING:

Education-
Law & Order-DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
99808-1911
78370-1912
P H D
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
WASHINGTON

Labor and plural
marriages.

Dine Yazzi,
Dine El-tsi-hi,
Pesh-la-kai-et-setty,
c/o Mr. David Hubbard,

Tolchaco, Arizona.

FILED BY C. P. F.

My Friends:-

Replying further to your letter of July 12, 1912, wherein you discuss the action of your Superintendent, Mr. Charles H. Dickson, in issuing a marriage license to one of your tribe who had apparently taken a third wife without having been lawfully separated from his former wives, and the matter of labor for the Indians, you are advised that the Office is in receipt of a report from Mr. Dickson.

The plural marriage case referred to by you is that of Joe Williams and the facts as reported are as follows:

It appears that after separating from his wife, Joe married the twelve year old daughter of this woman, but could not get along with her on account of her mother. Upon separating from these women he divided his property with them, and, before taking a third wife, he waited the period of eight months, being two months longer than the time set by your former Superintendent, Mr. Maxwell, within which Indians might marry.

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Marriage and divorce by Indian custom, where the parties are non-citizens, have been recognized in the distribution of estates, but plural and child marriages are repulsive to good morals. Every effort is being made to have the Indians marry and divorce according to the law of the land, even though in this case apparently this was disregarded for what appeared to be exceptional circumstances, and if possible to reconcile clashing family interests. I am sure Superintendent Dickson is just as much interested in breaking up their plural and child marriages as you are, and will do all in his power now to do away with such customs.

Concerning the labor proposition, the Superintendent says that he has never refused a single Indian work when there was work to be done, and that he has never asked any of the Indians who were not living in the Butte District to go there and work. Of nearly \$1,000.00 expended for labor the Superintendent says that \$940.84 has been paid to the Indians residing outside of the Butte District and not to exceed \$50.00 to the Butte people. From this you will see that your people are receiving by far the larger portion of the labor to be performed.

Respectfully,

8-AS-26
10-GHC-10

Carbon to Leupp.

Acting Commissioner.