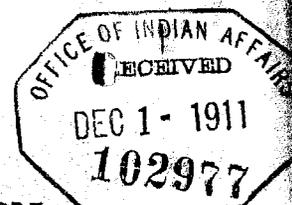


X. N. STEEVES,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

TELEPHONE 4

Office of the
District Attorney
of Cochise County
Flagstaff, Arizona

In Re

November 4, 1911.

Mr. Charles H. Dickson,
Leupp Indian School and Agency,
Leupp, Arizona.

FILED BY C. P. F.

Dear Sir:-

Your letter of the 2d inst. just received, and in answer, I beg to inform you that there is a United States law which makes it penal for a person to take more than one wife. This is bigamous, and the Courts have held that there being such United States laws, the Territorial laws upon that question are of no force, being super-
seded by the United States statute.

There is also a Statute of Arizona making it the crime of Rape to have sexual intercourse with girls under seventeen years of age; providing, they are not the wives of the persons having such intercourse.

In this case, if such exist, the customs of the Indians in regard to marriages are recognized as making valid marriages among these people; I suppose upon the ground of public policy; therefore, it would be very difficult to sustain any conviction for such offense, where the Indian had taken a wife in accordance with their customs.

Again the Territorial Courts regard the Indian as a ward of the United States itself, and are very lothe to interfere in any matters which properly come under the control of the United States as to their wards.

I can imagine that you are having some difficulty in these respects, and are very much annoyed thereby in many ways, but I have heretofore talked the matter over with the United States District Attorney, and he expressed himself about in the line which I have above mentioned, and did not seem to regard it advisable for the local administrations in Arizona to interfere in these matters.

It gives me pleasure to advise you in respect to these things, and regretting the annoyances which you may possibly have, I beg to remain

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "X. N. Steeves".