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Refer in reply to the following:

Land

21543-1895

Department of the Interior,

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

WASHINGTON, May 22, 1895.

Capt. Constant Williams, U.S.A.,
Acting Indian Agent,
Navajo Agency,
Fort Defiance, Arizona.

#1

Sir:

I am in receipt of your letter dated May 11, 1895, asking as to what action has been taken on your letter of February 3, 1895, relative to the allotments of land to Indians on the Moencopi Wash.

You state that the Mormon intruders in that country are now very aggressive; that sometime ago they obtained a decree from the courts in Coconino County giving to them the right as original appropriators to all the water of the Wash; that this decree was made in an action against a white man, but that it gives to the Mormons the right of water as against all other claimants.

You add that it is of great importance to the Indians that the original settlers and farmers in that fertile spot that their claims to the land and water should be established, and further say that if this office will see that their claims to the land are officially recognized, you will, with its permission, see that the injunction is dissolved, being in possession of sufficient

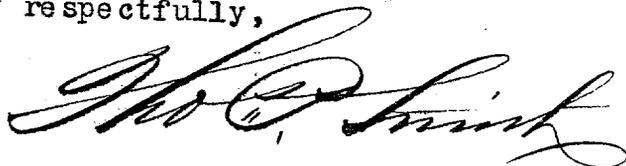
evidence that they are the original appropriators of the water of said Wash.

In reply I have to state that the claims of the Indians to the lands in dispute with a full history thereof were laid before the Department February 15, 1894, with recommendation that they be given early consideration to the end that the lands applied for by the Indians in that vicinity might be allotted to them and approved by the Department.

On February 14, 1895, this Office invited the attention of the Department to the matter under consideration, and again requested early action thereon, and on April 22, 1895, this Office respectfully urged upon the Department the necessity of taking action upon the claims submitted with Office report of February 15 1894.

As yet no action has been taken in this matter by the Department, and in view of all the facts and circumstances in the case, I do not feel justified in ^{again} inviting its attention thereto now. As soon as a decision is had, you will be advised thereof and instructions given.

Very respectfully,



Acting Commissioner.

Hinton. (H)