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Office Chief Eng'r.  
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,  
 UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE,

MAY 22 1908

U. S. Indian Service

Santa Fe, N. M. May 20, 1908.

Mr. W. H. Code, Chief Engineer,  
 522 Bumiller Bldg.,  
 Los Angeles, California.

Dear sir:-

Your telegram of the 19th received last evening, stating that Alsop was not now available but Hincks was. I wired you, "Have secured both engineer and foreman", which I hereby confirm. After waiting some little time for word from Mr. Alsop, and receiving none at the date he promised, I decided that he was not available, and I was unable to get track of a man in this vicinity. I also needed a good foreman that I could send out on small work, leaving him in full charge for a considerable period of time alone. Not being able to find either and to avoid further delays, I went to Denver, got in touch with quite a number of good engineers and foremen, and secured the services of two young engineers. One of them, Mr. R. G. Bush, I employed as assistant engineer at \$125.00 a month, promising to give him \$150.00 later if he made good. The other man, whose name is Don T. Hover, who had been out of a job for some months, I engaged as foreman at \$100.00. They will both report to me here tonight, and I will start for Gallup with them tomorrow. Mr. Hover I will take out immediately to the work in the Navajo Reservation, letting him finish up the Wheatfields project that was commenced by Mr. Butler and left unfinished. When he completes

RG 75, BIA, Div. Dir.  
 Gen. Correspondence, 1901-31  
 Dist. 5, General, Box 103  
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W. H. C. No. 2.

that I will have him go down to Red Lake and put the ditches there in good repair. I will outfit him from the tools and camp equipage left by Mr. Butler at Fort Defiance.

I will send Mr. Bush to Leupp to make a plane table survey of the reservoir site and the lands susceptible of irrigation under it. This will probably take him a month in the field, and a little longer in making up his maps, etc.

Mr. Ritter reported by wire last night that he had reached the railroad, and within a day or two, as soon as I can get the other two men at work, I will go into Blackrock with him and we will decide on the details of the ditch location, etc. and commence construction work as soon as possible thereafter. Mr. Newhall will move the office there within the next couple of days, and I will make that my headquarters for awhile, so address me there until further notice.

I herewith send you two photographs of the Seama dam, giving you an idea of its appearance as finished. The work on the Mesita dam is progressing rather slowly, owing to the lack of laborers, the Indians being very busy at present with lambing, shearing, and putting in their crops. The foreman has the deck all stripped off, and is leveling up the crest of the dam, and refilling the cribs up to the grade line. I send you a couple of poor photographs, the one showing the main bed of the dam after the deck was off, the other showing the point where the river cut around the end of the dam. Most of the logs are hauled in by this time and a considerable quantity

W. H. C. No. 3.

of rock. The lumber needed should be delivered at the siding about one-half mile from the dam by this time, and if the foreman is able to secure a sufficient number of laborers, it should not take more than two or three weeks to finish the dam. As soon as he finishes there, I will transfer him to Blackrock.

As it is now near the end of the fiscal year, I suppose you desire information upon which you can base the amount of money to be allotted to the work in this section. Owing to Mr. Harper putting his entire time and attention to the Suni dam, all of the other work has been badly neglected for the last three or four years, and there is a great deal to do and a great deal that can be done next <sup>(fiscal)</sup> year. I think that it would be advisable for me to run in to Los Angeles and have a personal conference with you regarding this work, as the time is short and there are so many small projects that I would like to talk over with you, which is rather a difficult thing to do at long range. I had thought that I would be called to Phoenix by this time, and would have suggested going in from there, but I have had no word from United States Attorney Alexander, so have no idea when I will go in, but if I receive notice to come in within a few weeks, think I had better go on to Los Angeles, and if I do not go to Phoenix, I think I had better run in for a day or two, unless you desire to come over here, and I suppose you do not care to do that until I get work under way that you can see.

The next important small work to do after finishing what

W. H. C. No. 4.

I have already mentioned, is a ditch to be constructed at Taos. I enclose a copy of a letter from the Special Attorney for the Pueblo Indians, in which he states that the Indians need more land; that under a decree of the court they are entitled to more water than they are actually using at the present time; that the statute of limitation for the beneficial use of this water will take effect next March, and in order to secure the title of this water to the Indians, it will be necessary that this ditch be constructed and in operation before that date. It will not be a very large job, probably not to exceed two miles long, and a ditch four feet on the bottom would be large enough, I presume.

Following that is the repairing of the Santa Clara Pueblo ditch, which is partially destroyed with every period of high water in the Rio Grande.

There are quite a number of things necessary in the Navajo country in addition to this Wheatfields and Red Lake work. There is a lake lying some six or seven miles south of Fort Defiance, that I think a small amount of work will make a considerable reservoir of, and there is plenty of good land below it. There is a considerable reservoir proposition at Ganado that if built will cover quite an area of land below <sup>at what</sup> ~~that~~ is known as the Cornfields. There ~~is~~ a large spring some sixteen miles below St. Michael's that I understand can be conducted to a reservoir, and one hundred acres or more irrigated therefrom.

W. H. O. No. 5.

Then we should take up the proposition of storing small quantities of water for stock water and for domestic water either in small surface reservoirs, or in gravel reservoirs, such as was suggested in a letter from Mr. Murphy received through your office. There are several large areas over there that need wells, and there is a possibility, of course, of developing artesian water. In this connection I would like to suggest the advisability of securing some man who is familiar with geology and artesian water, to make a trip over the reservation, and see whether in his opinion, there would be a possibility or probability of securing artesian water, and whether at the points where some water is needed, we would have to depend upon ordinary wells, either dug or drilled, and pumping.

Then there is all of this work in Western Navajo covered by Mr. Ritter's report that should receive attention. I hope to make a trip into the Hopi country as soon as I get all of the other work under way so that I can leave it for awhile. That is the most desolate part of all of the country under consideration, with a minimum quantity of water, and efforts should be made to do something for them either with surface tanks or wells. With so many small propositions, I would like to have this conference with you so that we can decide on the relative values of the work, and the amount of money that can be set aside for the various parts of the work; then, too, I would like to know as soon as possible relative to the amount of work to be done at Zuni.

W. H. C. No. 6.

If you can reply to this letter immediately, address me C/o C. N. Cotton & Co., Gallup, New Mexico, as I will probably not go into Blackrock before the middle of next week. If you think it advisable for me to come on into Los Angeles for a day or two, I will do so as soon as I get the three outfits at work and in shape so that I can leave them without any detriment to the work, ~~and after the~~ *first of the month.* Mr. Granville's representative is at Blackrock and is sorting and packing the stuff to be sent him, and as soon as Mr. Newhall reaches there the stuff will be hauled out as fast as it can be transported from Blackrock to Gallup.

Yours very truly,

*A. J. Robinson*

Superintendent of Irrigation.