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Land-Contracts
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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE.
31-33 Gazette Building,
Reno, Nevada.

Land-Allotments
92559-12
W A M

May 26, 1915.

Land Allotments.
116299-14
P B M

Water right, Ruby Valley.

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Washington, D. C.

S i r :

The situation of the Indians living in Ruby Valley, Nevada and a water right claimed by them, has been the subject of considerable correspondence and I have made two or three visits to that locality. They are disposed to contend for a certain large tract of land, that they allege was given to them by some military officer a long time ago, but of which there is absolutely no record in the land office. They have used some water on land that was applied for as State land, a number of years ago, as reported in my former letter. I have tried very hard to make it clear to these Indians, that they had no claim to the land, except that on which they recently filed, under the General Allotment Act and that under the State law, they could only hold a right

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to such water, as they had used beneficially and that the rights of others, who had made use of the water and of the young men, who recently filed on the water under the State law must be recognized by them. A few days ago, in Elko, I met the men, who have taken up land under the Desert Act and who are going ahead with the development of it. They say, that the Indians are still disputing their right to the water and they fear that when they get a larger part of their land in cultivation, that the trouble will be augmented.

I admit reluctantly that I did not succeed very well with my work among these particular Indians, in my effort to settle this controversy. They are suspicious of their white neighbors and seem to think that I, being a white man, have favored the latter in the opinion that I expressed. They recently told their neighbor, Mr. Wines, that: "Pretty soon, big man come from Washington and make them get off;" that "Reno man no fix 'em right. Big Washington man, he alright." It has occurred to me, that it might be a good thing to have some other Special Agent visit that locality, go over the situation and advise with these Indians. It is just as convenient for Mr. Creech, from Salt Lake, as it is for me. These Indians visit back and forth

with the Indians living over the line of Utah, with whom, Mr. Creel has done some very good work. If he should go in there and find the facts, as I have advised them, they might accept his statement, especially if he goes in with someone in no way connected with Mr. Wines, or others having adverse claims and does not go to Mr. Wines, at all. It seems, that there was recently, someone in there, probably an agent from the land office, who talked with Mr. Wines and later went to these Indians, but they declined to talk to him, at all, saying that he had better go to Mr. Wines and ask him. Should the Office concur in this suggestion, it might be helpful for Mr. Creel to have copies of some of my reports on the situation there and a list of the lands allotted to these Indians.

A treaty was made with these Indians, in this very locality in October 1883 and I went over this treaty with them, one day, line by line, with a good interpreter, showing them, that the Government had complied with all of the requirements, but they did not so accept it, as stated in my former letters. It is true, that that treaty provided that the Indian should give up every claim they had and the white men should have everything he wanted, but the treaty was made and signed and I know nothing that we can do now, except to make the best of the present opportunities.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) C. H. Asbury,
Special Indian Agent.

(188-8-10-72)

Land-Allotments
58874-1915
P B H

Land and water rights,
Ruby valley.

7M

JUN 15 1915

Mr. Lorenzo D. Creek,
Special Agent in Charge,
Scattered Band of Indian in Utah.

My dear Mr. Creek:

You are requested to examine the enclosed copies of correspondence relative to the situation of certain Shoshone Indians living in Ruby Valley, Nevada with respect to their land and water rights, also to confer with Special Agent Asbury, if you deem it advisable so to do and then to proceed to the vicinity of these Indians who the Office understands are located on the

NE/4 of NE/4 of Section 25, Township 30 N.,
Range 58 E., Nevada,

and see if you cannot secure the confidence of these Indians, persuade them to recognize the exact facts with respect to their rights and thus forestall any possibility of future ruptures with their white neighbors. As you will learn from the enclosed copies of correspondence the financial obligations of the United States arising under the treaties of Ruby valley dated October 1, 1853, (18 Stat. L., 639) have been

discharged by the payment of twenty installments of \$5,000.00 each to the Western Shoshonee. Also there is no appropriation to buy land for these Shoshone Indians and the Indians should be advised again that the present owner of the above described land apparently has a perfectly valid title from the State under the two million acre grant to Nevada, List No. 206.

Because these Indians did not at the proper time record any filings on land and water rights, it is regretted that there is very little that can be done for them at this time in the absence of any congressional appropriation, and the Office suggests that the most feasible procedure now is for them to develop assiduously what land and water rights they actually have under their recent filings mentioned in Special Agent Asbury's letter of May 25, 1915.

Very truly yours,

Signed C. F. Banks
Second Assistant Commissioner.

IPR-6-10

Carbon to Special Agent Asbury.

Land-Allotments
60574-1915

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Land and Water rights, Ruby Valley.

Salt Lake City, Utah
March 2, 1916.



Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Washington, D. C.

file
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1913

Sir:

Replying to your letter of June 15, 1915, relative Shoshone Indians living in Ruby Valley, I beg to state that I have made a thorough investigation of this matter and the conditions as follows:

The cause of dissatisfaction among these Indians has been caused by one Jacob Browning who informed them as to the treaties of Ruby Valley, dated October 1, 1863, and has told them that these treaties had never been fulfilled. He has made them believe that not only this land but the whole country through there belongs to them. Browning being an Indian, and one to whom they look for guidance, it is impossible for any white man at this time to gain their confidence. Browning constantly collects money from them to spend his time in travel and think of all the disturbing things he can impart to them. They sometimes impoverish themselves to the state of hunger in order to comply with his demands for money.

After careful consideration and investigation in regard to this matter I do not see what can be done ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ to better their condition.

I have advised with them to cultivate what land they have and make beneficial use of their water.

Respectfully,

Lawrence G. Bell

Special Agent Scattered Bands Indians
in Utah.

1916 BY M. A. B.