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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

GENERAL LAND OFFICE

WASHINGTON

March 31, 1917.

ADDRESS ONLY THE
COMMISSIONER OF THE GENERAL LAND OFFICE

*File
175909
1915*

Transmitting Departmental
order, instructions.

Register and Receiver,
Elko, Nevada.

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Sirs:

I am transmitting herewith copies of a letter addressed to the Secretary of the Interior by the Assistant Attorney General under date of March 13, 1917, requesting that, as a precautionary measure in view of certain facts set forth relative to the occupancy of the NE¹ NE² Sec. 25, T. 30 N., R. 58 E., M. D. N., by one Joe Timoke, an Indian, this office be instructed without delay to inform the State Land Register at Carson City of the Government's views as to the alleged improper certification of the lands to the State under its school land grant, and to ask that no sale be made until the rights of the Government can be judicially determined.

The assistant Secretary of the Interior has

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accordingly directed that the State Land Register be informed of the facts referred to by the Assistant Attorney General and be requested to make no sale of the said land until the rights of the Government can be judicially determined. Copy of Assistant Secretary's letter herewith.

From reports of an investigation recently conducted by a representative of this office it appears that the land referred to was certified to the State of Nevada at a time when this Indian was in actual occupation thereof. It is, therefore, directed that you furnish the State Land Register with the inclosed copies of these letters, and request that further action by his office looking to the granting of title be suspended until judicial determination of title to the land shall be had.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Clay Tallman

(Signed) D.A. Millrick

Commissioner.

3-31 OLB

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Elko, Nev. April 14, 1917.

Col. E. A. Dorrington,
Special Indian Agent,
Reno, Nevada,

{ E. A. Dorrington }

My dear Mr. Dorrington:-

I accidentally, just this minute, met Mr. Edwin E. Caine in the U. S. Land Office here. He is the attorney for the whites in the Ruby Valley Land and Water case vs the Indians. From what I learn of their plans the situation is liable to grow serious as Spring advances. The whites are going ahead & putting in a crop and Mr. Caine says that his clients will not stand for any having their ditches & fences cut as they were last year, but will arrest the Indians and push their case to the limit. If this is done bloodshed may occur as I know how unreasonable these Indians are and they firmly believe in their moral and other rights.

Mr. Caine says he expects to be in Reno Monday A.M. and will call upon you & Mr. Woodburn. He did not know of Mr. Asburys transfer & was waiting to see or hear from him before pushing matters. He saw something in Salt Lake paper of my work and had been on the lookout for me. I informed him that you & Mr. Woodburn had the matter in your hands.

I am getting this off once so you may be able to see both him & Mr. Woodburn together if possible & possibly see some way to adjust the matter & head off any violence as will surely follow if some preventive action is not set in motion. The Dept. of Arg. is pushing everybody to raise everything possible & the Indians will get no sympathy in court.

Sincerely,

(Signed) Lorenzo D. Creel

Special Supervisor.

Copy

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
DISTRICT OF NEVADA

EX-13
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Reno, Nevada,
May 31, 1917.

Col. L. A. Dorrington,
Special Agent, U. S. Indian Service,
Reno, Nevada.

Dear Colonel:

Mr. E. E. Caine, an Attorney of Elko, Nevada, called upon me the other day relative to the situation in Ruby Valley, Elko county, this state, as between the Indians and whites of that section. He states that the feeling there between the ranchers and the Indians is quite strained, on account of the Indians taking water from a ditch that supplies water for irrigating a considerable number of acres of land in that vicinity.

Mr. Caine also mentioned the Joe Tomoke land, in connection with which, as perhaps you know, the government is contemplating a suit in ejectment against one Stanley Wines, in favor of Tomoke, an Indian. He stated he believed that if a representative from your office would call upon him he felt satisfied that this whole matter might be settled amicably, and that he felt reasonably certain that he could obtain a conveyance from Wines of the Tomoke property, in favor of the Indian.

I believe that this matter is worthy of investigation, and would respectfully suggest that ~~you~~ at your earliest opportunity you designate someone to confer with Mr. Caine in the premises. It would be advisable to notify Mr. Caine several days in advance of the coming of the agent.

Very truly yours,

(Signed) Wm. Woodburn

United States Attorney.

A true copy.

Special Agent.