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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
UNITED STATES INDIAN SERVICE

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Fort Apache Agency,  
Whiteriver, Arizona,  
August 26, 1919



*[Handwritten signature]*

The Commissioner of Indian Affairs,  
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

So far as the local officers at Fort Apache know the War Department will construct a military road from Cooley to Fort Apache. This line is about 26 miles long and passes through this place. If constructed it will serve as a freight road for the Agency and will enable us to substitute tractor service for teams.

Whether this will be constructed from funds now available or whether an item will be asked for by the War Department in the bill to be presented to the next session of congress is one of the things concerning which there is no definite information here. Tentative estimates for this road run from \$100,000 to \$140,000. The War Department will assume the construction of the road in its entirety as plans seem to be now making.

The War Department is now constructing a bridge across a stream on this road to replace one built by the Indian Service some years ago. This bridge is old and has such a short turn that it was deemed unserviceable for the tractor service the War Department desires to put in. The Constructing Quartermaster came to me with the request that I permit him to use the Agency sawmill and cut timber from the reservation, saying he would bear all other expenses for the new bridge. I allowed him the free use of the mill and all necessary stumpage. He employed Mr. Reskinin who was formerly sawyer at this mill.

When the bridge is done I will probably bear a portion of the expense of approaches. We are doing about all the temporary road repairs. So far the Post at Fort Apache has done about nothing on road repair work, confining its work to bridge construction.

A bill was recently introduced by Honorable Carl Hayden appropriating \$3000 for survey and investigation looking to the construction of a road from Springerville to Globe. This proposed line would include 22 miles of the line the War Department proposes building.

BY M. P. J.

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