

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

WASHINGTON

Dear Mr. Hayden:

In reply to your letter of February 1 requesting that you be supplied with a statement showing the total area of patented land in the area covered by the proposed Grand Canyon National Park, I take pleasure in sending you herewith statement furnished by the General Land Office giving these data. You will note that there are only 391.48 acres of patented land in the proposed park, which has an area comprising approximately 996 square miles.

This statement will also supply the information requested in your letter of February 12, with which you inclose a letter from Mr. Thomas J. Croaff of Phoenix.

Mr. Croaff in his letter advances the proposition that the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railroad owns approximately half of the land proposed to be included in the park. So far as our records indicate, the railroad company owns no land whatever in the proposed park. It has occurred to me, however, that Mr. Croaff has in mind the purchase by the Santa Fe Railroad of the right, title, and interest of Ralph Cameron in the large number of mining claims on the rim of the Grand Canyon and in certain sections of the Canyon itself. None of these claims are patented, and of course the railroad company could not acquire patent to

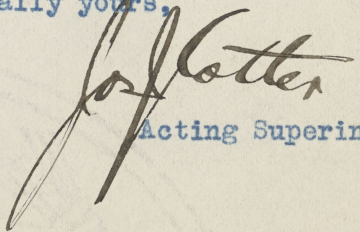
them without fully complying with the provisions of the mining laws. If the national park is created a repetition of the administrative difficulties encountered in connection with the handling of the Cameron claims will be made impossible, and the railroad company would doubtless make no effort to proceed further with the development of the claims purchased by it. This statement, of course, is made with no knowledge of the plans of the railroad company.

In the region immediately west of Cataract Canyon there appears to be approximately 15,000 acres of land which are embraced within unsurveyed odd sections, a grant to the Atlantic and Pacific Railroad Company, now in the Santa Fe System. These odd sections are within the primary limits of the grant under the act of July 27, 1866. The railroad company also has certain rights of way for its Grand Canyon branch railroad, station, depot, and other terminal purposes.

It is obvious, therefore, that there is nothing that the Government could purchase for park purposes except perhaps the hotel and other improvements which it is very desirable that the railroad continue to own and use in connection with the operation of its tourist resort.

I am returning herewith Mr. Croath's letter, as requested.

Cordially yours,


Acting Superintendent.

Hon. Carl Hayden,

House of Representatives.

(Inclosure 19878.)