

under the rules applicable to other trust lands, except that the Secretary of Agriculture may supervise the establishment and maintenance of conservation measures for the lands. The 17,550 acres of the 50,000 acres that are not presently under permit to the pueblo pursuant to the act of May 31, 1933 (48 Stat. 108), will be held subject to existing rights of non-Indians who hold Forest Service leases or permits. These leases or permits will continue to be renewable under Forest Service regulations. The Indians may purchase with tribal funds relinquishments of the non-Indian leases or permits if the owners are willing to sell.

Under the act of May 31, 1933, the Pueblo de Taos Indians have had the use of some 32,450 acres of this land under a 50-year permit with provision for subsequent renewals. The purpose of this legislation is to give title to the Pueblo de Taos Indians to this acreage and to an additional 17,550 acres. A large part of the 50,000 acres is unsurveyed and the acreages mentioned may not be exact. On several occasions in the past legislation has been introduced to add the 17,550 acres to the area under permit to the pueblo.

The 50-year permit authorized by the 1933 act was issued on October 24, 1940, and gives to the Indians the right to use the lands for water, forage for their domestic livestock, wood and timber for their personal use, and as the scene for certain of their religious ceremonies subject to certain control by the Forest Service.

The background of the area aboriginally occupied by the Taos Pueblo Indians, which includes this 50,000 acres, is found in the case entitled "*Pueblo de Taos v. United States of America*," docket No. 357, before the Indian Claims Commission.

An interlocutory order was issued by the Commission in this case on September 8, 1965. The case involved two claims. As to the first claim, the Commission found that the Indians established Indian title to an estimated 130,000 acres and that the United States extinguished Indian title to the lands without payment of compensation by establishment of the Taos National Forest on November 7, 1906. (The Taos National Forest was later incorporated into the Carson National Forest.) The Commission ordered that the case proceed to determination of the exact acreage and value of the lands as of November 7, 1906. In the second claim, the Commission found that the United States had extinguished title to town lots within the town of Taos and agreed to pay the Indians the sum of \$297,684.67 as the purchase price for the lots; that the Indians had agreed to waive payment of this money in consideration that they be given title to the Blue Lake area; and, that the Indians had received neither the title they desired nor the payment in money. The Commission held that the Indians were entitled to recover the sum of money mentioned, less the value of the use permit given under the 1933 act, less offsets if there are any.

In the 72d Congress (S. Rept. No. 25, pt. 2, 72d Cong., first sess.), a Senate committee in reporting on the amount due the Pueblo for these town lots (and on an additional amount the Pueblo Lands Board found due the Pueblo for adverse claims within the original Taos Pueblo Grant) stated as follows:

"At the time of the hearing at Taos, the board was advised by representatives of the Pueblo that no claim would be asked by the Pueblo for those adverse claims within the town of Taos if the board would recommend to the Government that an area hereinafter described, known as the Blue Lake area, was patented to the Pueblo.