

CHICKASAW

1870-1933

PAPERS



Litton Papers

Oklahoma
Historical Society

CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Ind. Ter.

Nov. 5, 1870

Vol. 1 No. 30

W. P. Boudinot, Editor

EDITORIAL ON J. F. BROWN

We have been informed that the Governor of The Chickasaw Nation recommended in his Annual Message to the Chickasaw Legislature this fall, that a Printing Office with all the necessary material, be furnished some chosen Printer at the National expense, to be paid for in National printing at a reasonable price. No report of the action, if any, of the Council upon this suggestion now has reached us.

The Chickasaw lands are worth, say five million dollars. The Nation has besides in money invested, including School Funds, perhaps a million more. Now put down the Nationality of the Nation without which, political, civil, and even physical, death would soon blot the Chickasaw name and Nation from existence, at as much again, and consider that all of these blessings and benefits are now in jeopardy, and may only be saved to the Tribe by a judicious use of every means avail-

able to inform the people concerning what their rights are, and how and from whom they are in danger, -- and with these considerations fully in view, tell us whether the Chickasaw Nation would be wise, in spending a few hundred yearly, to establish and support a National Organ by which it will be put in communication with its own citizens and the world, -- a voice enabling it to speak for itself, -- to expose attempted outrage, -- to defend disputed right, -- to expostulate and protest against the works of bad men, -- to appeal to the honor and honesty and solicit the moral aid of good men; or would it be wiser still to save for a few months the few hundreds which might thus be successfully expended -- to sit still and sullen, in the face of surrounding peril -- to encourage encroachment by seeming indifference when the people expect and would listen to the voice of expostulation, and finally in one fatal hour to lose all, the hundreds that were saved for a time and the millions that were thrown away forever?

Of course there can be but one intelligent answer to this question. In this country of public opinion, printing presses and newspapers are necessities. It is through these means and these only, if we except

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what is called stump-speaking, that the public understanding is addressed and public opinion moulded. Why enlarge upon so plain, so universally acknowledged, a truth. The press is an instrument of aggression in the hands of our opponents. The same powerful weapon is at our disposal for defence. Not only the Cherokees and Chicksaws, but every Tribe in the Territory should now, before it is too late, speak out for themselves and make use of every opportunity and every means to do so.

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CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation
Saturday, October 14, 1871
Vol. 2, No. 26-78
W. P. Boudinot, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF J. F. BROWN AND COL. PARKER

We had a call last Saturday from A. D. Irwin, Esq., of Boggy Depot, Choctaw Nation, who reports every thing quiet and prosperous in his section of country and gave us some items of interest.

The travel from the northern and western States towards Texas is immense; and what, with returning movers and the freight trains going to and coming from the M. K. & T. Railway terminus, the stream of vehicles of all descriptions pouring through Boggy Depot is continuous and incessant.

The Chickasaw Council is still in session, but little has been done so far. Governor Brown has resigned and the President of the Senate, Parker, a full-blood Chickasaw has assumed the gubernatorial functions. Col. Parker is a venerable old gentleman reputed to be the oldest Indian in the whole Territory. D. H. Barnes Esq., of

Little Rock is in attendance on the Legislature, seeking to obtain the right of way for the road he is connected with but the Council don't seem very partial to the project.

The surveying and sectionizing of the Chickasaw country is about completed and it is said the Chickasaws are anxious to select their own lands, 160 acres per head, and sell the balance to white settlers. This is sensible.

The Choctaw Legislature or Council meets today (Sept. 25th,)

There is about to be started a new paper at Boggy Depot, called the, Choctaw and Chickasaw Vindicator, Dr. Moore publisher and proprietor. It was expected to have been out before this, but it appears that all the type ordered had not arrived yet. Dr. Moore is a white man, but has been living in the Choctaw Nation some ten years and is married to a Miss Folsom, of one of the principal families of the Nation. We will be glad to exchange with the Vindicator when it does make its appearance.

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CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation
Saturday, March 2, 1872
Vol. 2, No. 45-97
W. P. Boudinot, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

We learn from Rev. Willes Burns that a company has been formed in the Chickasaw Nation for the purpose of working the immense petroleum bed on the property of Gov. Cyrus Harris, in the Chickasaw country.

This company is composed chiefly of gentlemen from Suffolk, Va., and some in the Nation.

This company has leased 320 acres of land from Gov. Harris for 10 years, and agree to pay him \$48,000 for it; and are to be at work as early as the first of April next. It has also contracted to bore and prospect on some 21 sections of land in the same region, for the owners.

The Chickasaw country has all been sectionized, and it is gratifying to note that the immense hidden wealth of that country is about to be developed, and that our Indian neighbors will be likely to realize handsomely from it.

CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Ind. Ter.
Saturday, June 15, 1872
Vol. 3, No. 8-112
W. P. Boudinot, Editor

EDITORIAL ON OIL LEASERS IN INDIAN TERRITORY

Mr. P. H. Burchfield, of Oil City, recently returned from an extended visit to the Indian Territory, whither he went to prospect in the interest of the St. Louis Oil Company. Some 7,000 acres of land have been leased from the Indians, and arrangements made by Mr. B. for drilling a number of wells. The Oil City Reporter gives some account of Mr. Burchfield's observations in the Indian country. At Oil Creek, Chickasaw nation, the principal petroleum deposits are found. The oil comes to the surface and runs out of broken rock in the hills. It is gathered by the Indians in the same manner as practiced in the early days of our oil regions. The surface oil is a beautiful dark green, of about twenty-seven degrees gravity. The rocks presented an appearance of upheaval at some remote period, by earthquake or other cause. By introducing a stick in

the fissures on this rock, gas and oil bubbles forth freely. Sinking a stick in the ground is followed by the same results. The rock is hard, white sand, limestone and slate. This latter seems on edge, while the sand rock and limestone lie flat. Occasional ledges of granite and fine marble are also found. From the surface indications Mr. Burchfield is satisfied that developments will lead to the discovery of an oil field as productive as our own. The distance from the oil fields to the Missouri, Kansas & Texas Railroad is about forty miles, which road is being completed as fast as possible.

THE VINDICATOR

Atoka, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,

April 17, 1875

Vol. 1, No. 4

J. L. Caldwell, } Editors
J. H. Moore, }

LETTER OF PETE MORRISON TO EDITOR VINDICATOR

Tishomingo, C. H.

April 12th, 1875.

Editors Vindicator.

I have been receiving the VINDICATOR regularly and I am well pleased with it. I thought you might desire to have the news of this portion of our country. Gov. B. F. Overton, has issued his Proclamation convening the Chickasaw Legislature in extra session, Wednesday the 21st of April, 1875, to take into consideration the \$100,000 appropriated by Congress, at its late session, for destitute Chickasaws. The Governor was a schoolmate of ours in the Arkansas college (1854) then in charge of Prof. Robert Graham--hence his energy and ability. I hope the St. Louis merchants will send me one bushel of potatoes for seed.(?)

PETE MORRISON.

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OKLAHOMA STAR

Caddo, Choctaw Nation, I. T.
Thursday Morning, Sept. 28, 1876
Vol. 3 No. 36
... Editor

MESSAGE OF B. F. OVERTON

Chickasaw Nation

Executive Department

Tishomingo, Sept. 5, 1876

Honorable Senators and Representatives
of the Chickasaw Legislature:

Today I re-assume the high and honored trust to which I have been called, to watch over and guide the political and material interests of a people who are recognized by the United States Government as being an independent political community, having such rights, privileges and immunities as can be destroyed only by superior force of arms or by a voluntary surrender of the same by the people; and the only things requisite to make us in a degree equal to such rights and privileges are men and the necessary implements of war -- the only means by which we can enforce our legal and just demands upon foreign powers and make them strictly adhere to all international provisions governing such independent communities. But, alas!

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how sad our present condition! Time and the ravages of the most cruel wars have swept our race from the stage of action, and we, the few survivors of a once powerful race, will no more be numbered with communities of national strength and greatness.

Our condition, then, naturally presents the question to our minds for consideration, as to how long, and in what way, can we best exist as an independent political community. In my humble opinion, after a candid and serious deliberation of the question, it can only be answered by the consolidation of the entire Indian race, whose population is inaccurately estimated at three hundred thousand souls, now under the control of the Federal Government, and scattered over one-half the American continent in communities of from one hundred to fifty thousand strong, and divided into three hundred and forty-eight distinct nationalities, each under treaties with the United States. This state of affairs forces the conclusion that such nationalities are only temporary and must soon cease to exist. It further impresses upon my mind that the political, material and social interests of the Indian race demand their consolidation, and that it is the

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duty of every individual possessing the least national ideas and principles to come forth in his might and assist in shaping and maturing the grand union of the Indian people, reducing them to a narrow compass and to a more perfect system of government.

Let the Chickasaws, Choctaws, Cherokees and Creeks who own and occupy a large portion of the Indian Territory known as the "Red Man's Home," and bounded as follows: South by Texas, east by Arkansas and Missouri, north by Kansas and west by New Mexico, take the lead in the consumation of this confederation so as to form a perfect union, establish justice, insure domestic tranquility, provide for our common defence, promote the general welfare and secure the blessings of liberty, to ourselves and our posterity, and urge upon the President and Congress of the United States their approval and confirmation of said articles of confederation.

The Sioux Indians, the largest tribe - being one sixth of the present estimate of the Indian population - are now engaged in a bloody war with the United States, not as a matter of choice on their part, but in defence of their tribal and individual rights.

Their country has been invaded by the whites for the purpose of conquest and plunder, and they like other races are acting out the first laws of nature in the preservation of their lives and the maintenance of their property rights and corporate capacities by taking up arms against their destroyers. And for this spirit of resentment the Federal Government has sent her armies into their country for the purpose of making them submit to as open and high-handed a robbery as was ever committed upon a weak and defenceless people.

Fellow countryman, in the name and behalf of our persecuted brothers of the Black Hill, I appeal to you this day to raise your voice of protestation against the prosecution of such an unjust, unholy and unchristian warfare upon our race. God forbid that you, the representatives of our one common Indian interests, should be unmindful of this great and important crisis. Your political and material interests as Chickasaws is hinged upon the termination of the Sioux question. We have no better rights to territory than they, and are no better able to defend them, although we have bought and paid for our country which has its metes and bounds. They hold theirs by solemn compact

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with the United States Government, by the right of discovery and by original occupancy, which is and must be considered good titles by the people of the United States, or they would have no shadow or right under heaven to the lands they now claim and occupy. And if you stand aloof and use no influence in checking this unjust and brutal war, by your prayers and memorials and by enlisting the help and sympathy of our white friends who have ever been our safe guard; we too will be called upon at no distant day to make a surrender of those same rights that the Sioux are now wasting their heart's blood in defence of, and we will have but one of two things to consider: either make a shameful and disgraceful surrender of our national pride, together with all rights, privileges and immunities acquired by such, or perish like brutes in a war of extermination. This is no fanciful or imaginary working of the brain; there is a reality in what I have said concerning the war with the Sioux Indians and the results that are to follow. It should remind us of the necessity of immediate action in bringing about a friendly relation between the two races and maintaining the rights and privileges belonging

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to the weaker race. We have the right in a peaceful manner to apply to those invested with the powers of government for redress of grievances or other purposes by address or remonstrance. We not only have the right but it is a solemn duty we owe ourselves and our oppressed and persecuted brothers.

The first article of the treaty of 1866, enjoins us to make every exertion to induce our brothers of the west, to maintain peaceful relations with each brother and with the United States, and now is the time when we should appeal most strenuously to the letter of our treaties which require the United States to protect our sovereignties forever, and to the sense of justice of the President of the United States, asking him to withdraw his army from the Sioux country. And should it meet his approbation, let the five civilized tribes send out their commissioners and negotiate a treaty of peace; and rather than see them

urge them to

the United

other compelling upon a disgraceful surrender of our homes and to the acceptance of treaties repugnant to our minds and ruinous to our interests, These things

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are matter of history and have doubtless not been forgotten by that God who says, "Vengeance is mine."- But though we be called uncivilized and barbarous, I urge that we appeal to the United States in His name who proclaimed "Peace on earth and good will to man," to stop this unholy slaughter of brave and warlike men - ignorant though they be -

and I claim that they fill the definition of the word; I even claim more for them: they are capable of receiving and practicing those holy truths contained in the Book of Inspiration. They have long since been reclaimed from a savage state- if the time has ever been when they could be justly called savages. They have often been instrumental in inducing their

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brothers of other tribes to live in peace with the whites and to accept the influences of civilization. Sixty-four years ago they actively assisted the United States in compelling the Creeks to a quiet obedience to that Government; and though the Creeks of that day were as unmanagable as the Sioux are now, they are to day as moral, industrious and peaceable as any of the civilized tribes.

From the unhappy condition of the Sioux Indians, I turn with some degree of pleasure to the affairs of our own Nation. It is a matter of gratitude to the Great Dispenser of Blessings that whilst some of our Indian brothers are involved in the horrors of an unequal and hopeless contest - fighting with no prospect of victory but with a manly determination to avenge wrong, we are enjoying, in a marked and eminent degree, the comforts of peace, prosperity and national quiet. Perhaps at no time in the history of our nation has the work of the farmer been more abundantly rewarded than now. The spirit of agriculture is entering into all classes of our people; the wild lands of the country are being rapidly converted into farms whose produce will soon give us an ample store of all the necessaries of life.

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He who doubts the fitness of the Indian for the pursuits of civilized life, has only to come among us and be convinced.

In ~~all~~ communities there are violent and law - breaking men, but I am prepared to assert that the record of crimes committed by Chickasaws within the past twelve months will bear favorable comparison with a similar record of the same number of any other people. Our people, with few exceptions, have rendered willing obedience to the laws, and the officers have been prompt in compelling a forced obedience from the few who were disposed to bid defiance to their authority, and it is with great pride that I call attention to the fact that though the canvass for our general election of officers was conducted with more than usual vigor, there was none of the riot, disorder and blood-shed witnessed at the polls which has so often disgraced the States of the American Union, on occasions of similar character.

I will now render to your Honorable Body my reasons for not convening the Legislature to take action on the Revision and Codification of the Laws as the law directed.

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In September last the Legislature, believing that it would only be the work of a couple of months to complete the revision and codification of our laws, passed an act requiring me to convene that body to act upon the same, and also take into consideration the results of a conference held by commissioners of the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations, for the purpose of effecting a solution of the Negroe question. No policy was agreed upon by the commissioners, in regard to said question. The revision of the laws was not completed until the 18th of last March. Now that being the most busy season of the year for farmers, and as it would have cost the nation about six thousand dollars, or more, to convene the Legislature, while only two courts could have been held under the revised laws; I considered it a matter of useless extravagance to convene the Legislature for the purpose set forth in the act, and depending upon the correctness of my judgment, and knowing that such a course on my part could not work an injury of any magnitude to the Government, I refused to convene it.

The revised code is now submitted to you for

your consideration and action, together with the report of the revisors; and I respectfully ask that you carefully investigate the work, before any action thereon.

The adjustment of the status of the negroes who are among us, is still before you for consideration, and will likely remain in its present shape as long as a joint action is required on the part of the Choctaws and Chickasaws. I have, on two occasions, consulted Chief Cole on the subject, asking his co-operation in demanding their removal by the President of the United States; but he positively refuses to act in that direction, claiming that we have the right to enact such laws as would compel the negroe to take the oath of allegiance to our respective Governments, and become amenable to our laws, without having any of the privileges and immunities of citizenship conferred upon him. But the most ignorant can see how utterly foolish such a position is.

The negroes are becoming much interested in having this question settled in some way. They have interviewed me on the subject, wishing to know

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know what course to pursue in order to bring the question to a speedy settlement. I could, of course, only refer them to the respective Councils of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations.

It is more probable that your Honorable Body will be visited by the representatives of that race, or be memorialized; and it is of vast importance to us and to them that their complaints be heard, and such action taken on our part, as will lead to a speedy adjustment of this most difficult question. And I solemnly appeal to you, now, not to admit them under the provisions of the third article of the treaty of 1866. If you do, you sign the death-warrant of your Nationality with your own hands; for the negroes will be the wedge with which our country will be rent asunder and opened up to the whites; and then the grand scheme so artfully devised by the treaty of 1866, will have been effected, and the ends of the conspirators attained.

The mining interest of the Choctaw nation is becoming a matter of much profit, and as we hold these mines in common with that nation, your attention is called to the passing of such laws as will protect our interests therein.

The Choctaws have, by act of their council, asked that a committee be appointed by both Nations to meet at Caddo to frame a law regulating mining interests, and present the same to their different Legislative bodies for action. These mines were, in the first place, leased to mining and coal companies of the States by individual members of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. The Choctaw authorities protested against this, on the ground that all minerals came under the exclusive control of our respective Governments. In this they were sustained by the Secretary of the Interior, who issued an order compelling all mining companies to contract directly with the National authorities of both Nations, or cease further operations.

Under that direction of the Secretary of the Interior I instructed your National Agent to contract for the time being, with the different mining and coal companies already in operation. These contracts have already yielded us a revenue of fifteen hundred and thirty-two dollars. They are, however, subject to your approval, and will be submitted to you for investigation.

I must again call your attention to the large and steady influx of white people into our country, and I ask of your Honorable Body such legislation as will prevent their further introduction.

This can only be done by the repeal of our present permit law; and by restricting the citizens in the employment of white people, except upon their homestead. We hold our lands for our own use and for the benefit of our posterity. We owe it to them that such of our domain as is not required for our own use should be kept for them, fresh and not despoiled of its timber.

Under our present law, this is not being done. Our own citizens are locating claims throughout the country and selling the use of them to the whites; the timbers are being destroyed, the lands impoverished before our people can reap the benefit of it, or before they even need it. Worse than all, an element of discord is being needlessly introduced into our country, which must eventually give us much trouble, unless handled with the greatest wisdom and prudence. Let your citizens pay five dollars for each laboring non-citizen, whom they employ, and let his labor be confined

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to the homestead of the employer. The money thus paid for this privilege will make a respectable sum towards the support of your Government, and stop the wanton waste of timber and wear of the land which is now going on and from which the Nation is receiving no benefit whatever.

Our Nation should not be the refuge of men whose crimes unfit them to live among honest people of their own race, but our present permit law, and our indiscriminate manner of renting make this the easiest of all countries for them to live in, and so long as our citizens are allowed to sell them the privilege of living here, or renting them out-of-the-way farms, so long will we have to bear the responsibility of their lawlessness, and the honest white men who are among us, the disgrace of being classified with them.

The next matter to which I will call your attention, and upon which I ask your action is the collection of the interest due the Chickasaws accruing on Arkansas and Tennessee bonds, prior to July 1st, 1866, and amounting to \$297,890.25. The amount of this indebtedness on the part of the United States

to the Chickasaws, has been fully admitted by the Interior and Treasury Departments, and sustained by the opinion of Attorney General Ackerman. We should be represented at the coming Congress, and demand some action in regard to the debt, the equity of which has not been disputed.

The condition of the different schools throughout the Nation, and the progress made by the scholars the past year are very encouraging, and in order that your information be more in detail, I will refer you to the quarterly and annual reports of the National Superintendent of Schools. The education of our youth naturally demands much of our attention. Indeed, the best, cheapest and most effective mode of educating the youth has been a question of grave deliberation in older and more established Governments than ours, and in view of the fact that the question has not yet been solved, and that all systems are found to have imperfections, I am not prepared to recommend to you any radical departure from the system we now have in operation.

I am aware, however, that dissatisfaction with our present system has been honestly felt and expressed,

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and I shall listen with pleasure to any suggestions from your honorable body in regard to this question, only saying that our finances naturally control and limit our efforts toward the education of the children. And whilst I am in favor of our schools being conducted in the most liberal manner consistant with our means, I would caution you against the inauguration of a system likely to involve us in trouble by going beyond the means now in our possession for that purpose. The mere knowledge of school books constitute but a small portion of practical education. The moral training of our young men is a subject of the gravest importance to us. They constitute our future hope.

By them our churches, schools, laws, and governments must soon be administered. Our future greatness depends mainly on what they are and what they become. Let them be taught those principles calculated to elevate them in social standing, enoble them as a race and enable them to reach a higher order of politics. Then we can safely give to them the government which we have inherited from our fathers and which of necessity must be theirs, when one by one we shall have been called to render an account of the deeds, official as well as private, which

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have marked our course on earth. Let me express the hope, gentlemen, that when that great day comes each and all of us may be able to exhibit a pure record and an unblemished official life, and that none of us may be missing from that eternal home which is not held by treaty, nor subject to the cupidity of man, but a gracious gift from the Great Father of Nations to such of his children as have done his will according to the lights before them.

B. F. OVERTON,
Governor.

THE STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Jan. 13, 1877

Vol. 3 No. 49

G. McPherson & Co, Editors

PERMIT LAWS APPROVED BY B. F. OVERTON

Section 1. Be it enacted by the legislature of the Chickasaw Nation, that citizens of any state or territory of the United States wishing to hire or rent land, or be otherwise employed in this nation, shall be required to enter into contract with a citizen, said contract to be reported by the citizen to the County Clerk of the country where said citizen resides.

Section 2. Be it further enacted,

That any citizen employing any non-citizen shall apply within fifteen days, after entering into contract, to the clerk of the county where said non-citizen wishes to reside, for a permit for every male non-citizen over eighteen years of age in his employ, and for each permit so obtained, the non-citizen shall pay to the clerk issuing the same, the sum of twenty-five dollars, and the clerk shall retain for each permit issued twenty-five cents for his services, and shall report to the Auditor

and Treasurer quarterly, of all money received by him for permits, and after deducting his fee, shall pay the balance over to the Treasurer for national purposes.

Section 3. Be it further enacted, That every foreigner, who shall come into this nation for the purpose of farming, or being otherwise employed, without the proper authority of the United States government, shall be deemed an intruder, by virtue of section 2134, of the revised statute of Intercourse law.

Section 4. Be it further enacted, That all licensed merchants and traders (non-citizens,) shall, in addition to the tax paid on goods, be required to procure from the County Clerk of the county in which they wish to trade; and physicians, (non-residents) wishing to practice their profession, shall procure from the County Clerk of the county in which they wish to reside, a permit for which they shall each pay twenty-five dollars, conditioned upon the faithful observance of the laws of this nation, and the clerk shall dispose of the funds in the manner prescribed in section 2 of this act.

Section 5. Be it further enacted, That no permit shall be granted for a longer time than twelve months, and in case of violation of any law of this nation, the offender shall be ordered out of the limits of the

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Chickasaw Nation, and any citizen who shall employ any non-citizen for a longer time than fifteen days, without procuring a permit for the same, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor, and be subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars, before the county court having jurisdiction, and all fines collected under this act shall go to the country treasury for county purposes.

Section. 6. Be it further enacted, That any non-citizen having entered into contract with any citizen of this nation and obtained a permit under his employ, and shall leave the employ of said citizen without his knowledge or consent, shall forfeit his permit, and no other permit shall be granted any non-citizen forfeiting the same by either clerk or either county of this nation.

Section 7. Be it further enacted, That any person living in this nation under permit shall not be allowed to bring into nor hold more than five head of milk cows, and shall have no hogs outside of enclosure; but shall be allowed all the work-horses, mules and cattle as may be necessary to work said farm, and shall be allowed to feed surplus crop to beef cattle under fence.

Section 8. Be it further enacted, That all

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freedmen, not owned by Chickasaws or Choctaws at the date of the treaty of Fort Smith, shall be required by the sheriffs of the respective counties of this nation to procure permits as provided in this act.

Section 9. Be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed, and that this act take effect and be in full force from and after its passage.

Approved Oct. 17th, 1876, by the Governor.

B. F. OVERTON,

Attest:

JOSIAH BROWN,

National Secretary, C. N.

I do hereby certify that the above and foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original act of the Chickasaw legislature, which may be found on file in this office, at the city of Tishomingo, Chickasaw Nation, bearing date as above stated.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this, the 23rd day of October, A. D., 1876.

JOSIAH BROWN,

National Secretary Chickasaw Nation.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

Moalester, Ind. Ter.
Jan. 20, 1877
Vol. 3 No. 50
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON REV. ALLEN WRIGHT & B. C. BURNEY

Rev. Allen Wright will preach here on the
1st Lord's day in Feb. and celebrate the Lord's
supper.

B. C. Burney, Treasurer of the Chickasaw
Nation, passed through town this week on his way
home from the Ft. Smith court.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Jan. 27, 1877
Vol. 3 No. 51
McPherson, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF B. F. OVERTON

We see by the Denison News that Gov. Over-
ton, together with a party of other officials and
distinguished citizens of the Chickasaw nation,
were in Denison the other day on important busi-
ness.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 3, 1877
Vol. 3 No. 52
McPherson, Editor

A CARD OF R. H. LOVE

Chickasaw Nation, Feb. 1, 1887

United States Indian Agent, Hon. S. W.
Marston, has called on B. F. Overton, Overton Love,
L. L. Wood, Tom Johnson, Bill Morris and other
distinguished Indians (?) for my character. And
now, for the benefit of Mr. Marston and the rest
of mankind I will state that I know my character
better than they do and will give it. Either of
the above named gentlemen can get on forty-nine
drunks to my one. And the records of the United
States and Chickasaw courts, for the last twenty
years, will show that I've never been hung for
murder, whipped for stealing, fined for slander,
or sent to the penitentiary for dealing in in-
toxicating liquors.

Four suicides committed in this county

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since the passage of the \$25 permit law.

Yours truly,

R. H. LOVE.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Vol. 3 No. 52
Feb. 3, 1877
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON ALLEN WRIGHT

Rev. Allen Wright came up Friday evening,
and will preach to-night and to-morrow.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 3, 1877
Vol. 3 No. 52
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIALS ON B. F. OVERTON & E. C. BOUDINOT

Gov. Overton, Maj. Vore and others from the Indian Territory, had a good time at the Nelson House in Denison, last week. Champagne flowed freely and the whole party enjoyed themselves hugely.

Col. E. C. Boudinot has succeeded in getting a new post-route from Fort Smith to McAlester, for which the people along the route should feel very grateful, as it will give them mail facilities which they have so long been deprived of.

If the Chickasaw authorities still continue to refuse the Chickasaw children resident in the Choctaw nation the benefit of the school fund, the United States government should take the matter in hand and see that they get justice.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 10, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 1
McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF CYRUS HARRIS TO EDITOR AND FRIENDS

Mill Creek, I. T., Feb. 5

I suppose I can consider my subscription to the Star and the old Vindicator as having expired although the blue X has not made its appearance.

As I know of nothing worth noticing by the reading community, I do not propose making any remarks, as anything from me would only have a tendency to create hard feelings among friends.

I have long since laid politics on the shelf, hoping to live a more pleasant and comfortable life. My policy did not suit the times, and in order that a more prosperous government might be established for the good of the coming generation, I thought it best to drop all holds and retire.

Hope you may succeed in making the STAR-VINDICATOR a prosperous and long-lived journal.

CYRUS HARRIS

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 10, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 1
McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF CYRUS HARRIS TO EDITOR AND FRIENDS

Mill Creek, I. T., Feb. 5

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Feb. 10, 1877

Vol. 4 No. 1

McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON E. F. OVERTON

Gov. E. F. Overton and Capt. John E. Anderson, delegates from the Chickasaw nation, passed up the road last Tuesday evening, en route for Washington.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.
Saturday, March 3, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 4
Ellis W. Folsom, Editor

ACT OF B. F. OVERTON

All laws relative to the appointment of delegates to Washington were repealed in 1874 by the Chickasaw legislature, and in 1876 the following bill was passed, under which Overton, Johnson and Anderson are now in Washington City. It concludes the long petition they presented to Congress on their arrival there:

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the legislature of the Chickasaw Nation, That the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation be, and he is hereby, authorized and requested to appoint and commission two persons to visit Washington City, District of Columbia, during the next session of Congress, with full and efficient power to represent the interest of the Chickasaw people in all things touching their interest and welfare, under any treaties existing between the United States and the Chickasaws, wherein the interest

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and happiness of the Chickasaws may be advanced.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted, That the governor of the Chickasaw Nation be and is hereby authorized to accompany said delegation, to render all assistance necessary in the prosecution of all claims held against the government of the United States, and if necessary, to employ counsel to assist in recovering all claims which may be justly due the Chickasaws by treaty stipulations or otherwise.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted, That any and all awards by the United States, on back annuities, orphans, and incompetent claims, or any other claims of a national character, shall be paid over to the national treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation, taking his receipt therefor, and giving him an exhibit and statement of the source from whence derived, together with such other items of information as may be necessary and advantageous to the nation. -- And it is hereby made the duty of the national treasurer to lay all exhibits of moneys received by him before the legislature or any authorized committee for their information and action.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted, That the said delegates are hereby required to protest against any and

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all territorial forms of government which may be introduced into the United States Congress for the purpose of extending the same over the Indian Territory against the express sentiments of our people. And they are further required to report the proceedings of their mission in full to the next session of the legislature. And for such services they shall each receive the sum of \$1,000 out of any money now in the hands of the national treasurer, and the auditor of public accounts as authorized to issue his warrants accordingly.

Approved November 2, 1876.

B. F. OVERTON

Gov. Chickasaw Nation.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 3, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 4
McPherson, Editor

PERMIT LAW APPROVED BY B. F. OVERTON

Sec. 1st. Be it enacted by the legislature of the Chickasaw Nation, That citizens of any state or territory of the United States wishing to hire or rent lands, or be otherwise employed in this Nation, shall be required to enter into contract with a citizen; said contract to be reported by the citizen to the County Clerk of the county where said citizen resides.

Sec. 2d. Be it further enacted, That any citizen who shall employ any non-citizen, shall apply within fifteen days after entering into contract to the clerk of the county where said non-citizen wishes to reside, for a permit for male non-citizen over the age of eighteen years, in his employ, and for each permit so obtained, the non-citizen shall pay to the clerk issuing the same the sum of twenty-five dollars, and the clerk shall

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retain for each permit issued, twenty-five cents for his services, and shall report to the Auditor and Treasurer, quarterly, of all money received by him for permits, and after deducting out his fee, shall pay the balance over to the Treasurer for national purposes.

Sec. 3d. Be it further enacted, That every foreigner who shall come into this Nation for the purpose of farming or being otherwise employed, without the proper authority of the United States government, shall be deemed an intruder by virtue of Section 2134 of the revised Statute of Inter-course law.

Sec. 4th. Be it further enacted, That all licensed merchants and traders (non-citizens) shall, in addition to the tax paid on goods, be required to procure from the County Clerk of the county in which they wish to trade, and all physicians, non-citizens, wishing to practice their profession, shall procure from the County Clerk of the county in which they wish to reside, a permit for which they pay each twenty-five dollars; conditioned upon the faithful observance of the laws of this Nation, and the clerks shall dispose of the funds in the

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manner prescribed in section 2d of this act.

Sec. 5th. Be it further enacted, That no permit shall be granted for a longer time than twelve months, and in case of violation of any law of this Nation, the offender shall be ordered out of the limits of the Chickasaw Nation. And any citizen who shall employ any non-citizen for a longer time than fifteen days without procuring a permit for the same, shall be deemed guilty of misdemeanor and be subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars before the County court having jurisdiction, and all fines collected under this act shall go to the County Treasury for county purposes.

Sec. 6th. Be it further enacted, That any non-citizen having entered into contract with any citizen of this Nation and obtained a permit under his employ, and shall leave the employ of said citizen without his knowledge and consent, shall forfeit his permit, and no other permit shall be granted any non-citizen forfeiting the same, by either clerk of either county of this Nation.

Sec. 7th. Be it further enacted, That any person living in this Nation under permit shall not be allowed to bring into or hold more than five head

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of milch cows, and shall have no hogs outside of enclosure, but shall be allowed all the work-horses, mules and cattle, as may be necessary to work said farm, and shall be allowed to feed surplus crop to beef-cattle under fence.

Sec. 8th. Be it further enacted, That all freedmen not owned by Chickasaws or Choctaws at the date of the treaty of Fort Smith, shall be required by the sheriffs of the respective counties of this Nation to procure permits as provided in this act.

Sec. 9th. Be it further enacted, That all acts and parts of acts in conflict with this act, are hereby repealed, and this act take effect and be in force from and after its passage.

Approved Oct. 17, A. D., 1876.

B. F. OVERTON

Governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

NATIONAL SECRETARY'S OFFICE,)
Tishomingo City,)
Chickasaw Nation, I. T.)

I do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and correct copy of the original act of the legislature of the Chickasaw Nation, which may be

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found on file in this office.

Given under my hand and seal of office, this
the 25th day of January, A. D., 1877.

JOSIAH BROWN,
National Secretary, C. N.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.
Saturday, March 3, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 4
Ellis W. Folsom, Editor

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Approved November 2, 1876.

B. F. OVERTON

Gov. Chickasaw Nation.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 3, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 4
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

On the 22nd of last month Governor B. F. Overton and the two delegates from the Chickasaw Nation presented to congress, through Gov. Throckmorton, of Texas, a lengthy petition, setting forth the repeal of the contract with J. H. B. Latrobe, etc., which was referred to the committee on Indian Affairs and printed in the Record.

The usurper Hayes' term will be 'otter than

L.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

Maalester, Ind. Ter.

March 3, 1877

Vol. 4 No. 4

McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

Gov. Overton makes a pronunciamiento.

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 3, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 4
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

The following is an extract from a private letter, dated Feb. 23, from R. L. Ream, who is in Washington City, to his wife: "Gov. Overton is very sick at his rooms on Thirteenth street. He is suffering with a severe cough; will start home as soon as he recoveres sufficiently to stand the trip. I doubt if he is ever able to return. All the other delegates from the Indian Territory are well.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 10, 1877
Vol. 4 No. 5
McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

No use talking about thieves, the more we talk the more they steal. Messrs. Johnson, Peter, Leak and Wilson, full-bloods, all of Tishomingo county, were playing their hands on the property of three citizens and one non-citizen. They were followed to the grocery in Cook county and the horses recovered and brought back, five head. The slight of hand operators, on their return, fell into the hands of the Sheriff and Constable and their posse, and are now boarding in Tishomingo at the National Hotel awaiting further orders. Hands off, Mr. Marshal, your time next. (Hickory oil first this time.)

About two weeks ago eleven head of steers were driven from the ranch of ex-Gov. Harris and slaughtered for their hides; no meat touched. The detective police reports the thieves as living on

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the river near the slaughter ground. The police have their eyes on them. Tishomingo county is gaining ground and will soon graduate.

A few weeks ago a gentleman and lady entered the hide house of a neighbor and helped themselves to about fifty dollars worth of furs. One of the party perhaps claimed an interest, as we suppose neighbor had failed sometime previous to settle his dues. My old friend, pay as you go and save the furs.

RANCHO

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

April 21, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 11

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON E. F. OVERTON

If the proper authorities have really decided that Gov. Overton has the legal right to put white men out of the Nation, who do not get the twenty-five dollar permit, then, as a matter of course, he is not blamable.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
April 21, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 11
W. McAlester, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

The Cresset says Gov. B. F. Overton of the Chickasaw Nation, was in Denison last week purchasing arms and ammunition, preparatory to ejecting the white people from the country. We truly hope this thing may pass off without serious trouble, but must confess it looks hardly possible. Let the result be as it may, the interests of the Chickasaw Nation must suffer, anyhow. The finest farms in the Territory are in that Nation, and they are all cultivated by white men; and of course this move of Overton will completely paralyze farming operations.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
April 28, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 12
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON E. T. OVERTON

As the Star said last week, if it be Gov. Overton's duty to put all white men out of the Nation who fail to get the twenty-five dollar permit, he is not so blamable for doing it; yet, knowing as he must the great damage it will do to his country at this particular season of the year, he should be less rigid in the enforcement of that odious act. If there ever was an instance wherein an executive officer was justifiable in evading a duty it is certainly this.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
April 28, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 15
G. McPherson, Editor

THE CHEROKEE PERMIT

Colbert, I. T., April 23, 1877

Governor Overton, with United States troops and Chickasaw militia, visited this part of his dominion. The permit law in Panola county is established beyond a doubt. There are but few who have not paid the permit. If the Secretary of the Interior had given his decision last January, I do not think there would have been a non-citizen who would have to leave this country, and I do not think that there would have been any land in this country but what would have been in cultivation. I cannot help thinking that the present permit law will prove a national blessing; but I do not think that you could find any one who thinks that the law is a good one. The native Indian made the law, and the best way to get rid of an offensive law is to enforce it. The law is paying the national debt for this year. I think

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the nation has or will take in all of the jury tickets that have been issued.

I should like to hear the subject talked upon. I will give you my views. They may not please others, but I think it would be better than the present law. I know that the full-bloods want to put down a monopoly. I think that if each citizen, from the oldest to the youngest, could be allowed to have fifty acres in cultivation, and be required to pay a permit of five dollars each for two hands to cultivate the same, and for every acre over fifty, that said citizen may have in cultivation, pay a fifty cents additional for having said land cultivated, would work well. I think that some such law would make a tax more equal. For those who now hold more land than they possible could hold if the land was divided, would be the party that would have to pay the greater tax, and the poor widows and orphans, and full-bloods, would not have to pay the exorbitant tax which is now imposed upon them. I also would like to see our legislature enact a law defining a claim, so that notches on a tree, or four or five logs stuck up for the purpose of a holder-on, may not be considered a legitimate claim, which prevents those citizens who would actually put such claims into cultivation from doing so, for fear of being prosecuted as an

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intruder. These are my views, and if you think they will not disgrace the Star, please give them room.

The governor and party left this county last Friday for Pickens county. I have not heard from them since they arrived in that county.

Everything is very quiet here. Business more than dull.

I am as ever, a lover of

JUSTICE

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 5, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 13
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER AND BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF NATHANIEL FOLSOM

Folsom Station, I. T.

AS I am one of the great grandsons of Nathaniel Folsom I wish to give the birth-place and other matters relating to him, which has been in my possession for several years. It is my request to have it published in the STAR VINDICATOR for the information of his numerous decendants amongst the Choctaw people.

RUFUS FOLSOM.

"I was born in North Carolina, in Bowen country, May 11th, 1756. My father was born in Massachusetts or Connecticut. My mother was born in New Jersey. My parents moved to Georgia, and there my father sent me to school; about six months during which time I learned to read and write. My mother taught me to read and spell at home. My father had a great desire to go to Mississippi to get money; they said money grew on bushes, and we set off and come into the Choctaw Nation. The whole

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family came. We hired an Indian pilot, who led us through the Nation to Pearl river, where we met three of our old neighbors who were returning on account of sickness. This frightened my father, who then determined to return to North Carolina. We came back into the Nation to Robert Welch's (at Boktuklo) a white man, the father of Mrs. Nail. I was about nineteen years of age, and at that place we parted. My father knocked me down; I arose and told him I would quit him, and did so, walking straight off before his face. I do not remember what I did, but I always thought I was not in fault. My parents then moved into the Chickasaw Nation. I entered into partnership with Mr. Welch, and could do many things for him.

In the Chickasaw Nation, my brother Israel ran away from my father and came to me, and died at the age of eighteen, near where Mrs. Juzan now lives. He was a good young man. My parents moved again to Fort St. Stevens. My brother, Ebenezer, there ran away from them and came to me. My mother died at Fort St. Stevens about the year 1776. My father visited me several times. Still he wanted to go to Mississippi, and wished I would raise him a gourd and send him there. I did so. Brother Edmund and two sisters went with him, and there my father died, on Cole's Creek, Miss. I traded for a long time in the Na-

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tion -- sometimes taking up three thousand dollars worth of goods. I followed trading about thirty years. I lived principally at Boktuklo, fifteen miles this side of Juzen's. There was there a great town of about four hundred Indians. The great king lived there. I learned the Choctaw language very slow. I was never perfect in the language. But after ten years, I could do any business with the Choctaws. I joined the church at Mayhew in October 1827, in my 72nd year. I have been the father of twenty-four children and fourteen of them are living."

In September 1830 the government of the United States made a treaty with the Choctaws for their lands east of the Mississippi, and in October 1832 our old grandfather, afflicted with a palsy of the limbs for many years, started from the old Nation to come to this. He reached Mountain Fork, and resided there till the ninth day of October, 1833, when he died, aged 77 years, 4 months and 27 days.

This statement was made by the old man himself, and in his own language, in the month of June, 1829.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 5, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 13
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON E. F. OVERTON

We have nothing definite this week from the Chickasaw country. The Denison Presset says that a man from Durant's Station reported a fight in Paul's Valley, between the people there and Overton's army, but we are not inclined to credit it. We hardly think that either party would be so rash as this. It would be very hard on the renters to have to pay \$25, and an impossibility for some of them to do it, and harder still for them to have to leave their crops after having them all planted, yet we think they would do so rather than resort to bloodshed. This of course would make the matter still worse, and we heartily hope nothing of the sort will occur.

Those enterprising citizens there who have gone to the trouble and expense of opening the finest farms in the world, and made the Chickasaw Nation all that it is, will be the main sufferers from the enforcement of this ruinous law; but bad as it is it would be much worse

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to attempt to resist it by force. They can stand it one year, and the next legislature is certain to make a change for the better.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 5, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 13
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON COMMISSIONER'S REPORT

The Board of Indian Commissioners have made their eighth annual report, in which they recommend:

"Immediate compliance on the part of the government with terms of existing treaties with all Indians; appropriations for consolidating the agencies; a generous appropriation for educating purposes; the discontinuance of tribal relations; the extension of the law for the protection of life and property; allotments of land; the establishment of industrial and agricultural boarding schools; compelling attendance of all between seven and eighteen years of age; the issue of supplies to be made to heads of families; increase of salaries to Indian Agents."

The Star-Vindicator heartily endorses the main features of this recommendation, and we truly hope to see them adopted before the falling of the autumn leaves.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

May 5, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 13

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON WINCHESTER COLBERT

Gov. Winchester Colbert, we learn, is moving to
Atoka county, Choctaw Nation, because of so much stealing
and disturbance in the Chickasaw country.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 5, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 13
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON INDIAN TERRITORY

A telegram from Washington says that the "Indians South of the Union Pacific railroad will be concentrated in the Indian Territory, and the region West to the Pacific Ocean will be open to settlement and civilization.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

May 12, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 14

G. McPherson, Editor

OUR PERMIT LAW

"Justice," in the edition of April 28th, has given us his views on the law and says he would like to hear the subject talked upon. He thinks the law a "national blessing." Just at a time when the produce of the farm would bring better and higher prices than for years heretofore, this "national blessing" (?) flops its shadowy wings over the land sweeping the plows from many acres.

"To get rid of a bad law enforce it." What logic! But we will say, friend "Justice," that we do greatly favor the firmness of Governor Overton in enforcing the law. That was what he was elected for and he has shown to all that he can and will do his duty. We think that "veto" would have been better than "militia," but as it did become a law he does but his duty in enforcing it.

Why should we come down heavier on one than another? Fifty cents per acre would make rather a big permit. If, through enterprise and frugality some have accum-

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ulated and made large farms, should we tax them proportionately larger? I think not -- rather encourage and try to imitate them. We ought by all means to encourage the farming interest of the country. If one is made to pay more than another, make those pay it who bring in large herds of cattle and herd or graze them in the Nation, thus avoiding the tax in our border states. My idea would be to establish some registration fee not to exceed one dollar, and compel each citizen employing a white person to see that he is properly registered in the clerk's office. Increase the pay of our sheriffs and constables, and if necessary increase them. Make it their duty to see that all white persons are lawfully registered, and all found not so, to show them the nearest way across the line. I think there is more justice in this plan than in that of "Justice."

Let me also state what I think we sadly need. More voting precincts in each county. As it now is, many persons would have to ride a hundred or more miles to cast a vote they do not, consequently we do not get a full vote in any county. In this matter our neighbors, the Choctaws excell us.

I agree with "Justice" in the want of a claim law. The time is past when a few rotten limbs or a defaced

25
tree ought to constitute a claim. A claim to be a claim, ought either to be inhabited or yielding a revenue.

On dit -- The Militia will be at Elm Springs this week, and come down the Washita. They are meeting with no opposition.

CHICKASAW.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 12, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 14
G. McPherson, Editor

A MAY-DAY PICNIC

The first picnic of the season, in this part of the country, came off at Limestone Gap, on Friday of last week. There were some seventy-five or a hundred people present, some from a long distance, among whom were Dr. E. Poe Harris, of Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, Capt. B. W. Carter and family, Jeff. Carter, and Gov. C. Harris' son and daughter, from Mill creek, Chickasaw Nation. The Star Vindicator was represented by W. J. Hemby.

Mrs. Chas. LeFlore prepared an excellent dinner, and spread it out in the beautiful grove near by.

A croquet party in the afternoon and a dance that lasted till the gray streaks of morning appeared in the east, were the principal features of the occasion.

It was what might be called a protracted picnic, as some of the party lingered around till the following Wednesday among whom was the distinguished doctor from the Cherokee country.

Everybody enjoyed themselves to their heart's content, and went home happy.

STAR VINDICATOR

Maalester, Ind. Ter.
May 12, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 14
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF R. H. LOVE

Oilsplings, April 30.

The simoom has just passed over our country and left its devastating effects behind. Gov. Overton and his milite, accompanied by Capt. Cruise, of the 4th U. S. cavalry, with sixteen soldiers, are making the whites pay \$25 for a permit or get out of the country; the result of which is, parts of a good many farms will go untill-ed.

R. H. LOVE

The above was received last week, but too late for publication.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 19, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 15
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

The report is -- whether true or not we are unable to say -- that the soldiers furnished Gov. Overton by Gen. Hatch were obtained under the impression that they were to be used in ridding the country of horse thieves; and that as soon as they found out the true nature of the duties required of them they returned to their quarters. We would be glad some of our Chickasaw friends would inform us as to the truthfulness of the report.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

May 26, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 16

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

That blessing which was predicted for the Chick-
saw Nation upon the enforcement of the \$25 permit law
seems to come very slowly; but likely it has not had time
to take effect yet. More crimes are reported from that
country since Overton's militia started out than were
through the whole of last year.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 26, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 16
G. McPherson, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF PERMIT LAW

"Chickasaw's" communication of April 28th says that the permit law will not prove a blessing. I accord that right to him -- to think for himself and his people; but I cannot help thinking that it will not only prove a National blessing, but also a blessing to the renters. I do not know of but very few farms in this country that are lying out. I think that there will be a market at home for the sale of all the surplus grain. Though my logic for an offensive law "may be bad," yet if the law is enforced, the very parties who helped to make the law will have to comply with it. I perceive some of them who helped to make it now think it will not do. I am truly very proud to think that my friend Chickasaw admires Gov. Overton for seeing that the law of our land is enforced. "Chickasaw" thinks it unjust for those who have the largest farms to pay the greatest tax. I say let the rich pay more than the poor. My motto is to give each Chickasaw one hundred

and sixty acres of land, according to the treaty, and let them pay five dollars for each hand it takes to cultivate it; then pay fifty cents per acre for every acre in excess of that amount. There is none of us who have ever had to pay one cent for the land, therefore we should pay a tax for that amount which we could not draw if the land was divided. It might be possible that "Justice" would have to pay at least fifty cents.

"Chickasaw" says to make those pay who bring in large herds of cattle to graze upon our grass. The intercourse law, I think, places the tax at one dollar per head -- rather a high tax. Let our legislature pass a law to compel our citizens to have the bills of sale recorded. Yes, let us raise the pay of the sheriffs and constables give the permits and receive 25 cents for the same. Also pay the clerks twenty-five cents for recording the permits, and I will venture to say that there will not be a non-citizen in the country but what will have a permit.

"Chickasaw" is right about the voting precincts. There should be at least three voting precincts in each county, and as they would not cost any money I do not see why they cannot be. Our court ground is in one corner of

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the county and there are some of our voters who are never seen at the polls, as they would have to ride some seventy-five miles. In Pickens county I know men who would have to ride at least two hundred miles, consequently they are never seen at the polls; therefore the county cannot receive --

JUSTICE

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
June 2, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 17
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON E. F. OVERTON

Kate Thorn, a spicy writer, says, "Writers now-a-days stand rather a poor show at originality because some bright fellow has been and said all the original things long ago;" but "Justice" has found one and seems so loth to give it up that we had better let him keep it. And maybe he will whistle when the blessing part comes in so that we all may see it and profit by it. I think that it will take good hunting to find any surplus grain at harvest time, and if "Justice," who in Nast's cartoons is represented blind-fold, will just slip the bandage up and go one eye on it, I think he will see things in a different light.

"Justice" is a treaty man -- give 160 acres to each one; the surplus I suppose he would put in some joint stock sort of an arrangement to belong to all, but which would only keep a few officials fat, and would never benefit the people one iota. Rather I say if we

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cannot hold it as we now do in common, and have to divide it, let it be equally divided among all. If the majority of our people are not now able to care for themselves, when will they be? Surely we are not advancing crawfish fashion, though I must admit our "National blessing" looks like it. Yes, the intercourse law says one dollar per head and it is none too high. It seems though that "Justice" here would favor the rich man.

Now, "Justice," let us agree. For a time take the bandage from your eyes and see things in their proper light. We need reform; we must try and pull up higher on the way to "progress and a higher civilization." We want reform, we ought to have it; but we never will while we stay idle. We have a duty to perform and we know not how far our influence may go. Let us use it for the best advancement of our people.

On the 27th the militia were at the Valley on their way down the south side of the Washita. Have heard it said that the Governor has collected somewhere near \$15,000. He meets with no opposition; our people are too law-abiding for that.

CHICKASAW.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

June 18, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 19

McPherson, Editor

"JUSTICE," VS. "CHICKASAW"

Justice has conceived one more idea which may not please all parties any better than his former ones, but he at any rate will "slip the bandage and go one eye on it," and those who have better ones to offer can do so. Perhaps they may be accepted by our legislature.

Repeal the law giving the blind and helpless fifty dollars per year, instead, pitch upon some good, healthy spot for a farm, and place the blind and helpless upon the same -- the person who takes the farm "under contract" to provide for those who may be placed there. The rent of the farm would go a long ways towards paying for their support. I see that there is one at least who has connections that do now wish to be troubled with her, and as we provide so well for the education of our children, I think it would be equally as just to provide for those of our citizens who cannot

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provide for themselves.

Hoping that I may give no offense I am as ever,
a lover of

JUSTICE.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
July 21, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 24
G. McPherson, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF B. F. OVERTON AND CYRUS HARRIS

Things generally quiet in Tishomingo county.

At the upper Washita, the negroes have been trying to make trouble under the leadership of one Fred Humphries; but like everything else that worthy might undertake it amounted to nothing. A negro committed a nameless outrage on two white women, for which he was arrested and started for Fort Sill. On the route he was taken from the parties and killed, at which the colored folks took offense and undertook to right matters; arresting one of the party, a young Chickasaw. The people, numbering about forty, surrounded them and took the young man away; nobody hurt; all quiet now. We have no fear of any further trouble. Gen. McKenzie is now at Sill, and with him there we feel secure from all horse thieves or other parties that are bent on wrong.

A most enjoyable picnic at Will Creek on the

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4th. Gov. Overton and Auditor were there. The coming city of Oklahoma was represented by Mrs. Ream, and in fact most all parts of the Nation were represented. Dancing, croquet, swinging and flirtation the order of the day. At Mr. Carbries the dance went on until old Sol kissed the dew from the buds on the morn of the 5th. The Misses Shirley, Bourland and Harris were the reigning belles.

Our old stand-by, ex-Governor Harris, in good health. Would he not fill the next Governorship with honor? I think so. Our people would do well to unite on him as their next Governor. He is trusty; we have tried him; can there one in the land say ought against him? I think not.

Full docket for next court on the 16th.

CHICKASAW.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

July 28, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 25

G. McPherson, Editor

THE CHICKASAW PERMIT LAW

An examination of the Constitution, laws and treaties of the United States, seems to show that the report from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, of March 23d, 1877, to Mr. Schurz, Secretary of the Interior, in regard to the Chickasaw permit law, was not well considered and consequently led the Secretary into grave errors of fact and law.

In the first place, the Commissioner did not quote in full, Art. VII, of the treaty of 1855 between the United States and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Had he done so, it would have been patent that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations have not, as stated by the Commissioner, "the unrestricted right of self-government, and full jurisdiction over persons and property within their respective limits," but have the same only "so far as may be compatible with the Constitution of the United States, and the law made in pursuance

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thereof, regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes." Thus it will be seen that the jurisdiction of these two Indian Nations, even over their own people and their property, is not "full," and that their right of self-government is not "unrestricted." An examination of said article will also disclose the fact, that "all persons with their property, who are not by birth, adoption or otherwise citizens or members of either the Choctaw or Chickasaw tribe, are entirely exempt from the jurisdiction possessed of the two Nations."

To ascertain precisely how far their right of self-government and jurisdiction extends, we must look at the Constitution of the United States, and the laws made in pursuance thereof, regulating trade and intercourse with the Indian tribes. An investigation of this sort would involve much labor, and swell this review beyond the limits of a newspaper. But it is sufficient for our present purpose to cite Art. I, Sec. 7, which declares that Congress shall have the power to "levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts and excises, within the jurisdictional limits of the United States, and that all duties, imposts and excises shall be uniform." This power having been given by the Constitution to Congress, is by implication, and the settled

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rule of construction, expressio, unius, exclusio alterius, forbidden or not given to another government; and nowhere, we venture to affirm, has the power to levy and collect taxes, duties, imposts or excises, and more especially discriminative taxes or imposts, upon citizens of the United States to any Indian tribe, either by the Constitution, the treaties, or laws of the United States. In this connection it is well to observe that the Chickasaw tax is not uniform, but discrimination is made between white and black citizens of the United States, former slaves of the Choctaws and Chickasaws, in favor of the latter, who are exempted from the tax.

The Commissioner correctly says; "The treaty provisions regulating the presence of persons not members of the Choctaw or Chickasaw Nations within their territorial limits, are found in article VII of the treaty of 1839, statutes at large, Vol. II, page 771;" but, as we have already shown, he incorrectly states that the former article which is in force, subject to the modifications made by the latter, gave to the Choctaws and Chickasaws the "unrestricted right of self-government and full jurisdiction over persons and property within their respective limits." "Exception was made," continues the Commissioner, "in this article,

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however, to all persons with their property, who were not members of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes. Such persons were to be considered "intruders," and removed by the United States Agent, with certain exceptions -- these being: 1st, employees of the Government and their families; 2d, persons traveling or visiting in the Territory under license from the proper authority of the United States; and 3d; persons residing there by permission of the Choctaw and Chickasaw authorities, with the consent of the United States Agent;" * * * and "by Art. 43d of this treaty of 1866, the United States stipulated to remove all white persons except officers (employees?) of any internal improvement company, or persons traveling through, or temporarily sojourning in the Territory; exception being made, however, in favor of teachers, mechanics, and persons skilled in agriculture." In regard to these," truly says the Commissioner, "the United States and the Indians both agreed that the power of the United States should not be exerted in behalf of their removal. Whether they should go or stay is a question to be settled by the parties in interest." Who the parties in interest are he does not say, but we suppose he meant the teachers, mechanics and persons skilled in agriculture, employed as such by either of the said Indian

Nations, or by citizens thereof, or those by whom they were employed; or else he must have referred to the parties between which the treaty was concluded. "But," illogically continues the Commissioner -- notwithstanding his correct statement, that the United States and both Indian Nations had agreed that the former Government, to whom alone the power or duty of removing white persons was given by the treaty, should not remove any teacher, mechanic, or person skilled in agriculture, temporarily employed as such, within the Choctaw or Chickasaw Nations, and that whether they should go or stay was a question to be settled by the parties in interest -- "if the Chickasaws, one party to the treaty, should deem it best to effect their removal, it is entirely competent for them to do so. If, on the other hand, the Chickasaws see fit to let them stay," continues the Commissioner, "I do not see how the persons thus favored can complain if they are called upon by the Chickasaws to bear their share in support of the National Government. If such persons desire the protection of the United States, they can readily obtain it by removing to some State or Territory, where no Indian Nation, invested by solemn treaty with the 'unrestricted rights of self-government and full jurisdic-

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tion over person and property,' can claim authority over them. Having voluntarily fled their responsibility as citizens of the United States, and come under the jurisdiction of this Indian Nation, they cannot expect the Government to violate a treaty to relieve them from the consequences of their own act." How this stump speech came to be injected into the report of the Commissioner, or whether he referred to the "heathen Chinese," or supposed that teachers, mechanics or persons skilled in agriculture, as a condition precedent to accepting such employment among the Indians, had expatriated themselves and fled their responsibility to, and lost the protection of, their own government, does not appear. But it does appear, that, in the opinion of the Commissioner, one of the "parties in interest" can effect the removal of the other "parties in interest" without their consent -- although in his opinion, "whether they should go or stay is a question to be settled by the parties in interest." An explanation of how teachers, mechanics, and persons skilled in agriculture, temporarily employed as such by the Indians -- with the consent of the United States, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, given in the most solemn manner by treaty, (Art. 43, treaty of 1886,) within the

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limits of said Nations, which Nations are within the jurisdictional limits of the United States -- "fled their responsibility as citizens of the United States," lost the protection of their own government, became outside barbarians and subjects of an Indian Nation; who can only regain their freedom and normal status by removing out of the jurisdiction of the United States over the Indian country, into some State or Territory of the United States, is not vouchsafed unto us. That this mysterious transmigration from the jurisdiction of the United States, into the jurisdiction thereof, without ever having departed from the same jurisdiction, we Indians must believe by FAITH in the Honorable Commissioner -- although the Judge of the United States District Court lately in session at Fort Smith, irreverently charged the jury in the Cherokee Cattle Tax case, that, "the decisions of a Commissioner of Indian Affairs are neither law for the Court or facts for the jury." It is true, too, this decision of the Honorable Commissioner seems rather inconsistent with that of Chief Justice Marshall and his associates in the Supreme Court of the United States, who declared, A. D. 1831, and again in 1832, that the Indian tribes are not "foreign Nations, dwelling within the jurisdictional limits of the United States." (See Cherokee Nation vs the State

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of Georgia.) Of course it becomes not us to doubt, much less dispute, the superior wisdom and freedom from erroneous judgement upon questions of law of the learned Commissioner, and only allude to the decision of the Supreme Court (1831-2) to show what wonderful progress we have made since that time, from darkness to light, in the science of Constitutional law, and what a fool Chief Justice Marshall was.

Oh! that the Judge of the United States District Court for Arkansas and the Indian Territory could bathe in the effulgence of that legal luminary, which shines within the Department of the Interior, and be brought to a realizing sense of the awful stupidity and temerity, in regarding the decision of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs as not at least equal to God's commandments, given amidst the thunders of Sinai. This is the "higher law" by which, Gov. Overton, his militia, and the United States troops were governed while robbing these much favored classes -- "teachers, mechanics, and persons skilled in agriculture" -- of \$25 each, or removing them for being found outside of the jurisdiction of the United States without that much money in their respective pockets, into the jurisdiction of the State of Texas, where inpecunious people are allowed to live in peace and harmony.

What a pity it would be if Judge Parker, not having the fear of Frank Overton and Coleman Cole before his eyes, and instigated by the Devil, should have them -- "blue boys" and all -- indicted and sent to the penitentiary for indulging in highway robbery and arson, under cover of the Commissioner's report, adopted and promulgated by Mr. Carl Churz, Secretary of the Interior. Now E. C. B. (the Errant Cherokee Bull) would bellow, paw, scrape the ground and sling dirt, and what howling there would be in the Territorial Government pack, led on by "yaller wolf," of Indiana, in case Congress should conclude that his most Excellency, Francis the First, and old King Cole (that merry old soul) are political nuisances, requiring to be abated even at the sacrifice of Indian nationality; thus taking away from the Chickasaws the already much restricted right of self-government and full jurisdiction over persons and property within their limits.

But our sovereign lord and master, say his jannizaries and worshippers, is not to blame; he is only an executive officer whose sworn duty it is to enforce the laws. That is true as an abstract proposition, and he would be blameless if he had not approved this Permit law, when his sworn duty required

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him to veto it, inasmuch as it is in palpable violation of the 31 section of Public Education, Chickasaw Constitution, which declares "the Legislature shall encourage, by all suitable means, the promotion of all intellectual, scientific, moral, and agricultural improvement." We are told that Governor sympathises deeply with the poor people who are ruined by the collection of an exorbitant tax on their labor; but his sympathy would have been exhibited in a far more practical and convincing form, had he saved them, as he could have done, from the imposition of the tax of \$25 on each male citizen of the States or Territories of the United States employed within the Nation. "Oh, but the Supreme Court decided the law to be constitutional," say his claquers, or hired applauders. But how was the matter brought before the Supreme Court? That court is solely one of appellate jurisdiction, and no case, so to speak was before the court; and it is a notorious fact, that one of the Supreme Judges who made the decision, knew so little of the law, that he actually sent \$26 to the clerk of Panola county, with a request that he issue a "permit" to a white woman! and the clerk, instead of giving the money to the poor woman as he ought to have done, returned it to the learned Judge. If the other Judges were equally ignorant of the fact that the law only re-

quires males over the age of 18 to pay the tax, how much respect ought to be shown their decision, which at best, as we have shown, was not constitutionally made, for want of a case on appeal, before the courts. But expressions of sorrow for the poor farmers, and fidelity to the laws on the part of His Highness, deceives no one. Everybody in the Nation -- and many out of it -- know that he carried the Legislature and the Judiciary in his breeches pockets, they being mere registrars of his edict. We trust a Congressional committee may investigate and report all facts connected with the late raid on peaceful, industrious and unoffending citizens of the United States, and especially under what representations and by whom made, were United States troops ordered out to collect taxes from, or remove from the Chickasaw Nation, citizens of the United States who were lawfully employed therein, with the joint consent of the three parties to the treaty of 1866, and who, even according to the decision of the Commissioner, could not be removed therefrom by the authorities of the United States -- which are alone, by treaty, competent to remove white men from the Choctaw and Chickasaw country. Quin Sabe.

CHICKASAW.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Sept. 1, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 29

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

The Chickasaws are having a rumpus about permits and things. Overton is in hot water because there was a slight mistake about the "law of the case." From last accounts he rather wished he had not done it. All these disturbances are only preparing a worse future for the Indians. They had better meet the government half way and get a good bargain, than to keep up strife until the government interferes on the score of humanity, law and order. If they wait for this, and it is sure to come, they must take the government's terms. The golden opportunity is rapidly slipping away from the "Nations." -- Van Buren (Ark.) Argus.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 15, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 31
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

As the Chickasaw legislature and Choctaw council will now have nothing more to do with the permit question, it is to be hoped they will find time to legislate on matters that will be of some benefit to the country.

Gov. Overton, will in the future, be relieved of the performance of a very unpleasant duty, that of going around with his militia driving men from the Nation who were trying to make something for the people to live on.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 15, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 31
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

In regard to Gov. Overton's message we will only say that had he postponed writing it until now it would likely have had a different jingle. There is nothing in it of importance except what refers to the permit law, which as a matter of course is now rendered of no consequence by the late decision of the Interior Department. Frank might have saved himself some humiliation by not referring to Dr. Marston's decision in the way he did. But what is done is done. Let him laugh who wins, and it's Marston's time now.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 15, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 31
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

The Legislature fully organized. Hon. Ben. Kemp, President of Senate; Wm. Guy, clerk; Hon. Wm. Brown, Speaker of the House; T. Johnson, clerk; B. W. Carter, clerk of law committee; Palmer Mosely, engrossing clerk. The last was a much needed office created by the last Legislature. The moving question of the day seems to be "on what footing do our white citizens stand." The treaty plainly says one thing, Mr. Schurz another. By his ruling most of the trading houses of those who thought they were violating no law have been closed, much to their loss as well as to the inconvenience of the people. Two white citizens of Panola county were not allowed their seats in the House, owing, I am inclined to think, to the ruling of the Hon. Secretary Mr. Schurz; but I think that it no more touches the case than the cramp colic does an eclipse of the moon. Mr. Collins has twice represented his county, and (notwithstanding the fact that he is a white-

man) has good sound sense; the other, Mr. Finch, I do not know; but they are the choice of the people and ought to be allowed their seats. What a great thing it is to have wise(?) men in our legislative halls. A man with a common, ordinary mind would never have thought of such a thing, especially when the treaty is as plain as it is on the subject. The message I suppose all have seen. It must have been written in early spring when crop prospects were good. The Governor still wants the "National blessing" to hover over us with its shadowy wing. That prince of good fellows, Josiah Brown, has a house full, and they look as if he might feed them well. All coming to town will do well to stop with him. I speak from experience. The face of Gov. Cy Harris is not seen in town. I think it would be a National blessing were he to again come into the field and let his many admirers on next election day make him their Governor.

qui non proficit deficit.

CHICKASAW.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 27, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 37
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

Gov. Overton and his cabinet, Josiah Brown, Ben Burney, L. L. Wood and R. L. Boyd, were at Caddo on Monday last, on their way to the Choctaw Council. The Governor was seized with an attack of bilious colic, which prevented the party from going any farther, although at this writing the Governor is some better.

Josiah Brown has resigned as National Secretary, and been appointed as a delegate to Washington. Gov. Overton and John E. Anderson being the others.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 27, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 37
G. McPherson, Editor

LETTER OF SIMON PETER TO EDITOR OF STAR VINDICATOR

October 16, 1877

Editors of the Star Vindicator:

When we look to the interest of the Chickasaw people and find obstructions laid in the paths of progression upon which the destiny of the people belong we can but hope that the day is not far distant when those holding the reins of government will see the folly of oppression forced upon its people. Notwithstanding the injury forced upon the poor, the aged, and the weak, the most obnoxious laws are enacted and enforced more to satisfy prejudices than to benefit the country. It is horrible to think of the sufferings that is bound to come in a short time. Many poor women and children are now without a bushel of corn in their cribs and the price of corn daily increasing; it is however, useless to lay this to the obnoxious permit law, as it is an old known fact that the young full-blood Chickasaws and many of the half-bloods care but little

for future necessities. On the other hand we emphatically say and contend that the obnoxious permit law retards the progress of farming by the old and settled farmers of the country, causing the scarcity of corn and increasing the price of the same.

Notwithstanding all this the Legislature has adjourned, leaving the permit law of 1876 still in force, imposing a tax of twenty five dollars on the poor farmer or his renter. Is there any justice in the hearts of those who are elected to legislate for the welfare of the Chickasaw people? We see no justice in the hearts of you who seek the ruin and downfall of the farmers, who are the bone and sinew of your country; impediments in the way of farming is a death-blow to your country. Repeal your obnoxious permit law and rent your farms to honest, industrious white laborers and you will find cheap corn, flour and potatoes for the poor women and children. Keep the country rid of thieving white men, but for God's sake do not obstruct the progress of farming by keeping honest, industrious white men out of the country. We glory in the execution of the laws by the Governor, but ye who enacted this law should be forever barred from public service. O! thou wretched sinner bring your poor

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people to want for the sake of satisfying your own prejudices. We lay no blame to the Governor, he has taken an oath to execute the laws, and he did it; but then he could have vetoed the law. But this is not worse than the decision of the Secretary of the Interior. Lord what a blunder. Please read article 26 and 38 of the treaty of April, 1866. Upon this decision we learn that two members of the legislature were expelled for no other reason than they were white men married to Indian women. Hope you will not take me to be a friend to all white men, never. I am only a friend to the honest class of them and only to the honest class of any other color, but I am a friend of justice and hope it may be instilled in the hearts of others before another September comes around.

Your uncle,

SIMON PETER.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Nov. 6, 1877

Vol. 4, No. 38

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

Gov. Overton visited Armstrong Academy for the purpose of trying to prevail on the Choctaw council to send delegates to Washington to fight legislation respecting this Territory but the House couldn't see it.

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STAR VINDICATOR

Nov. 17, 1877

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Vol. 4, No. 40

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

Gov. Overton has gone to Washington to show Mr. Schurz what the treaty of 1866 is, and to convince him of his egregious error in deciding that labor in these Nations cannot be taxed!

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind, Ter.
Nov. 17, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 40
G. McPherson, Editor

INTERVIEW WITH B. F. OVERTON

The Chickasaw delegation, en route for Washington, stopped at the Planters House in St. Louis, where they were interviewed by a Republican reporter.

Gov. Overton told the reporter that the delegation would oppose any and all territorial schemes changing the present status of the Indians in the Nation; and that there were not twelve men in the Chickasaw country who favored Boudinot's schemes, etc.

Now we don't know what particular schemes the governor has reference to, nor do we even know what "Boudinot's schemes" are, but if he -- the governor -- means to say that there are not twelve men in the Chickasaw Nation who are in favor of some change being made in the condition of that people he grossly misrepresents the facts, for he knows better. He knows that a majority of the Chickasaw people are in favor of a United States court in the country if nothing more, and

he knows this of itself would make quite a change in their status to the federal government. And Governor Overton knows further, that a great many of his people, all the more intelligent class in fact, also favor an allotment of lands. And if the Chickasaw delegation go to Washington and oppose all of these measures they will not represent the sentiments of their people, that's all.

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STAR VINDICATOR

Wesley, Ind. Ter.
Dec. 29, 1877
Vol. 4, No. 46
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON R. F. OVERTON

If the minds of our people here could once be disabused of the fallacious idea that this Indian Territory is a separate and distinct government from the United States then there would be little trouble in shaping a policy that would lead us out of all our difficulties; but just so long as they hold to the absurd notion that these little Indian governments stand in the same relation to the United States that England, France and Germany do, just that long will they find themselves floundering about in deep water, unable to swim and liable to be drowned at any moment. And it would seem that any man with intelligence enough to sign himself governor of a nation ought to know better than to look upon this country in any other light than as a part and parcel of the United States, the same in fact as any other unorganized territory of the government.

The bill lately introduced in congress enabling Indians to become citizens of the United States is objected to by Governor Overton and the Chickasaw delegates, on the ground that it would be a violation of treaties, inasmuch as it would allow citizens of the United States to hold an interest in Indian lands and Indian moneys, which, they claim, the treaties prohibit. Now here is just where the whole trouble lies, as we stated above; this idea that a man can't be a citizen of the United States and of this Territory at the same time. And this it is, we say, the minds of our people must be disabused of before they can understand exactly the position they occupy.

A foreigner comes to America and settles down in one of our states or territories and after a while takes the oath of allegiance and becomes a citizen of the United States, but at the same time he retains his citizenship in the state or territory in which he is domiciled. He is a citizen of both the United States and also of that particular state or territory in which he may have his home.

All this now of course is upon the assumption that Indians are not already citizens of the United States. So far as the STAR VINDICATOR is concerned,

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though, it contends that under the 14th amendment of the constitution of the United States they are citizens to all intents and purposes, and that no further legislation on the subject is necessary, but as the matter has not been settled by the supreme court we argue from the standpoint that they are yet to be made citizens.

The main point, though, to which we wished to direct attention in this article, was to the preposterous idea that this little Territory was a great sovereign power, endowed with all the prerogatives known to international law. It is high time these people had rid their minds of this erroneous notion and come to stare stubborn facts square in the face. They will have it to do some time, and we conceive it our duty to prepare them for it. Hugging a delusive phantom is sometimes dangerous. Better clasp the naked substance itself to your bosom, even if it is a little rough and knotty. We are all subjects of the United States government, and the reason she has not stretched her motherly arms around us before now and gathered us into her family fold was that she was willing to let us toy awhile longer with the childish rattle she gave us in our infantile days. These are facts, friends of ours,

and we give them to you because we deem it our duty. You have long been under a delusive spell and it is time it were broken. Shake off the childish dream of a great Indian Nationality, a government within a government, and come out and take your proper place in the family of states; in the household of the great American Union.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 2, 1878
Vol. 4, No. 51
G. McPherson, Editor

OBITUARY ON GABRIEL THOMAS

Died: At Mill Creek on the morning of the 25th of January, 1878, Gabriel Thomas, brother-in-law of ex-Governor Harris, and the last one of the old family of Thomas' in the Chickasaw Nation. He was suddenly taken with a chill on the 22d, followed by a burning fever which lasted until to-day, and subsided only when death had completed its work. In his death the Nation has lost one of its best citizens, and his friends and relatives an affectionate companion and the model of a genuine man. May his ashes rest in peace.

C.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Feb. 9, 1878
Vol. 4, No. 32
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

We learn that Gov. Overton, of the Chickasaw Nation, intends to evade the late decision of the Interior department regarding taxation in this Territory, by collecting the permit tax from the citizens instead of the renters or laborers. Now this won't do. It would still be a positive violation of the law as settled by the Secretary's decision. Just as much so as if the tax was collected directly from the white man, for he pays it at last. And even if he did not; even if the citizen pays it out of his own pocket and never requires his renter or laborer to refund it at all the case is just the same, the law is still violated for the Secretary decides that no tax law can be passed by the Nations of this Territory until certain other conditions of the treaty of 1866 are complied with. This is plain enough and Gov. Overton must know it; and while his people may have given him credit for his zeal

in enforcing an act before it was declared a nullity by the last court of appeal they will not sustain him in pushing this thing any further now, for he no longer has the excuse to offer that he is only discharging his duty in enforcing the laws of his country. Any attempt on the part of Gov. Overton to collect this \$25 permit, as the matter now stands, either off the whites or the citizens, would be an inexcusable usurpation of authority, and the Star Vindicator hopes he has too much sense and too much respect for the high office he fills to undertake it.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Feb. 9, 1878

Vol. 4, No. 52

G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

Ex-Governor Cyrus Harris, of the Chickasaw country, passed up the road last Sunday, en route to Ft. Smith, as a witness in the United States court. Never mind governor, the time is near at hand when you won't have to go so far to tell what you know.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 9, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 4
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

Editors Star Vindicator:

Martin James has been distanced in the land-selling business by Gov. B. F. Overton. To pay a fine assessed in the Pickens county court against R. H. Love, the constable; Holmes Willis, sold to the highest bidder 260 acres of land, as Love's property; giving his (Willis's) deed to the same, down to the center of the earth. Not a word was said about the Choctaws' three-fourths interest. Now what I want to know is, how are the Choctaws and Chickasaws going to reconcile this matter between themselves? Overton is a great stickler for treaties and law, yet his administration in this instance has grossly violated the laws of his Nation and the treaties of the United States.

I have a copy of this deed in my possession, and have sent a copy to agent Marston to show him how things are done in this country.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 9, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 5
G. McPherson, Editor

MEMORIAL OF B. F. OVERTON ET AL

Chickasaw Nation, I. T.

January 9th, 1878.

To the Honorable Commissioner of Indian Affairs,
Department of the Interior,
Washington, D. C.

Sir:

The undersigned, citizens of the Chickasaw Nation, respectfully represent, that under the so-called general permit law of the Chickasaw Nation, approved by Gov. B. F. Overton, Oct. 17th, 1876, all citizens of the United States and of the states and territories thereof who desired to be employed within the Chickasaw Nation, are required to enter into a contract with some citizen of said Nation, and to pay to the clerk of the county court wherein such citizen resides, the sum of twenty-five dollars, and

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such citizen of the Chickasaw Nation is required within fifteen days to report such contract to the said clerk, and if any citizen of the Chickasaw Nation shall employ any non-citizen for more than fifteen days without said tax having been paid, such citizen of the said Nation shall be subject to a fine of twenty-five dollars, to be collected as other fines are collected. Now we are informed, and believe, said pretended act of the Chickasaw legislature, in the form it was approved and promulgated, never passed that body, but the act which did pass was changed to make it apply to citizens of the states and territories of the United States instead of non-citizens of said states and territories; that nevertheless the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation caused this spurious act to be certified to by the National secretary, and promulgated as a law of the Chickasaw Nation; that being apprehensive, it seems, the officers of the Nation would not or could not enforce the pretended act of the legislature, the Governor proceeded to call out the militia or a select portion thereof, for the purpose of enforcing the so-called law. This before any resistance whatever had been made to its enforcement,

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and it appears, being still apprehensive that his militia could not or would not enforce it, he applied, as we are informed and believe, to the commanding officer of the troops of the United States at Ft. Sill, for the assistance of soldiers, under the pretext that they were required to expel from the limits of the Chickasaw Nation desperadoes, thieves and murderers. Having obtained a detachment of United States cavalry, who were instructed to report to and carry out the orders of the Chickasaw Governor, he proceeded with them and his militia to collect the tax, in many instances receiving the money in person thereby evading the law under which he pretended to act, requiring such payments to be made to the clerks of the county courts. Moreover, we are informed and believe he diverted a large amount received as a tax due to the Nation, without warrant of law, to defray the expenses of his raid upon peaceful and industrious citizens of the United States, who were quietly engaged in the cultivation of the soil, under the employment of citizens of said Nation; that sometime since the United States Indian agent decided said permit law to be invalid, and Governor Overton appealed to the department of the

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Interior, thus fully admitting its jurisdiction over this subject, and succeeded in obtaining a decision setting aside that of the Indian agent. But subsequently the question of the validity of the so-called permit law having again been brought before the Honorable secretary he re-considered his former decision and after full consideration, declared the law contrary to the laws and treaties of the United States and therefore null and void. Again, Governor Overton and the delegation from the Chickasaw Nation at Washington city, applied to the department, and it is understood that they failed to obtain a reversal of the Honorable secretary's last decision. So it appears that the so-called permit law of the Chickasaw Nation, as declared by the department of the Interior, is null and void in toto. This decision was communicated to Governor Overton by the United States Indian agent, acting under the orders of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, with a request that he would submit the same to the legislature then in session, and expressing the hope that the legislature would take necessary measures to have the taxes illegally collected, refunded to the proper parties. Instead of complying with this request, we

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learn the Governor openly derided the decision and denounced the agent of the United States government in the most indecent and insulting manner, declaring at the same time that if the Chickasaws would back him he would enforce the law, at all hazards; that if he could not collect the tax of citizens of the United States he would compel their employers, citizens of the Nation, to pay it or be fined. Thus he would, by indirection, enforce the tax, the decision of the Secretary to the contrary notwithstanding, and in defiance of the 43d article of the treaty of 1866, which excepts teachers, mechanics and persons skilled in agriculture, while employed as such in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, from being classified as intruders, subject to removal by the United States Indian agent, and really and truly amounts to a permit for such persons when so employed in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, given and granted by the three parties to said treaty, viz: The United States, the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Finally, the undersigned are informed and believe, and in fact it is notorious that the Judge of the circuit court of the Chickasaw Nation, recently held at Rock Springs, Panola county, charged the grand

jury that it was their duty to enforce the so-called general permit law of the Chickasaw Nation; thus, in obedience to the bequests of Governor Overton ignoring the decision of the Department, and openly placing or attempting to place the courts of the Chickasaw Nation in collision with the United States government. The undersigned regard the charge as an open declaration that the citizens of the Chickasaw Nation are to be fined, and failing to pay the fine, to be imprisoned, not for any offence or crime but for exercising treaty rights to employ teachers, mechanics and persons skilled in agriculture; and for regarding a law declared by the proper authority of the United States to be null and void. The question now presented is this: Shall the citizens of the Chickasaw Nation be subject to pains and penalties for violating no law? Under these circumstances, being desirous, as orderly, peaceable, law abiding citizens to avoid even the semblance of resistance to the constitutional authority of the Chickasaw Nation, and having otherwise no redress, inasmuch as the supreme court of the Nation, which is by the constitution a court of appeals only, without any case before it, went out of the way just before Gov-

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ernor Overton commenced his raid last spring to declare the permit law constitutional; and inasmuch as notwithstanding the courts of the United States have jurisdiction over questions arising under treaties as well as laws of the United States, we, as Indians, having no status in these courts because we are neither citizens of the United States or of any state or territory of the United States, and are not foreigners; we therefore appeal to the government of the United States to protect us in our rights under treaties with it, and shield us from wrong and oppression by the officials of our government, under the form of law.

For the purpose of presenting this memorial, and having before the United States government all the facts connected with the oppression to which we are subjected, we have appointed and deputed our fellow-citizen, Col. Lem Reynolds our representative, and trust he will be received as such, and permitted to act near the government of the United States as the special agent of the oppressed citizens of the Chickasaw Nation. Col. Lem Reynolds will ask an early and decisive action on the part of our guardian, the government of the United States, and we hope

it will be made without delay, inasmuch as the agricultural interests of the country will suffer unless speedily re-inforced by labor in the fields; all of which is most respectfully submitted.

(To the above is a long list of prominent names which we omit for lack of space. -- Ed.)

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
March 9, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 3.
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

There has been a great deal of surmising as to Col. Lem. Reynolds' mission to Washington city, and this week we set the matter at rest by publishing his credential and the memorial of the best citizens of the Chickasaw Nation to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Under the tyrannical rule of Overton the farming interests of that country are nearly ruined, and the people as a last resort took money out of their own pockets and sent Col. Reynolds to Washington to appeal to the federal authorities for protection.

The actions of Overton in this matter have been strange and unaccountable. In the first place he claimed he was only discharging his official duty, in going around with his militia and a file of United States soldiers and driving renters from

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their fields or wringing from them a tax of \$25 as the price of their privilege to toil and make bread for him and his people. And some were charitable enough to look upon it in this light, and think he was but performing what he honestly thought an unpleasant duty. But the course he has pursued since the decision of the Secretary of the Interior, setting aside this permit-law and declaring it unconstitutional, shows too plainly that he is not actuated by a sense of his official obligations, but on the contrary is disposed to over-ride the law and oppress his people. And is this not something strange and unaccountable?

Why does Gov. Overton not quietly submit to the decision of Secretary Schurz, instead of moving heaven and earth to have it set aside? When he knows too that all the better part of his people are petitioning to have the decision sustained, and that the best interests of his country require it should be. He sets himself up as a great advocate of law and order and the guardian of his people's sacred rights, yet by his petty tyranny and arbitrary rule he has brought his country to the verge of ruin; and if any executive officer in the world

ever deserved impeachment it is B. F. Overton.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
May 4, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 12
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

We had the pleasure of traveling on the train from here to Atoka with Col. Lem Reynolds the other day, and were glad to find his spirits high in the hope of brighter days for his Nation. Col. Reynolds had been on a visit to the agent for information regarding the permit law, and Dr. Marston told him he had just received instructions from the commissioner of Indian Affairs to issue permits himself for the five Nations regardless of any local laws on the subject. So Gov. Overton may now consider himself at the end of his rope. He will certainly not dare to interfere with any one the agent grants a permit to. If he does he will be carrying his stubbornness to a greater extent than we supposed even his tyrannical disposition capable of. Overton has insulted the United States government and trampled upon the treaty rights of his own people about long

enough, and he had better take the advice of the Star Vindicator now and check up in his head-strong career and give his country a rest. Peace and quiet are what the Chickasaw Nation needs to make it prosperous and its people happy, but what it will never have as long as Gov. Overton rules with an iron hand and goes around making inflammatory speeches.

STAR VINDICATOR

Maalester, Ind. Ter.
May 11, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 13
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

The Chickasaw legislature last session did a very reckless and unwise thing in giving Gov. Overton such unlimited powers at Washington; and if they don't yet have cause to regret it we will be more mistaken than we ever were in our lives.

THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, July 13, 1878
Vol. 5 No. 22
G. M'Pherson, D. M. Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

Let the people of the Chickasaw Nation stop and ask themselves why they should vote for a man brought out by Gov. Overton. If Burney were elected it would be but a continuation of Overton's administration, that's all. The only reason that Overton is not the candidate himself is because he is ineligible under the constitution. So the next best thing he can do is to appoint a man to his place. This is just what the election of Mr. Burney would amount to the government would be Overton's at last. The people should not lose sight of this fact. If they still want the kind of government they have had for the last four years they should vote for Ben Burney, but if they are tired of Overton's rule and want a change let them elect Cy. Harris. This is

exactly the way the matter stands and the people should
ponder it well.

THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, July 20, 1878
Vol. 5 No. 23
G. M'Pherson, D. M. Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

The nearer the day of election comes the
slimmer seem to grow the chances of Mr. Burney.
He carries too much dead weight to win the race.
That our old reliable stand by Cy. Harris will be
our next Gov. is a fact that August will fully
establish. He will have the vote of the brains
of the Nation. The rumor set afloat that he in-
structed his delegation to go for a territorial
government is a structure without any foundation,
and falls to the ground of its own weight. Our
people well know that we have a National Secretary's
office, in which all official transactions used
to be recorded, it will take but little trouble
to find there a most earnest protest against any
territorialization, which was sent to Washington
city, and there printed by congress; and a few

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copies are still to be found among our people. That was one of the last acts of Gov. Harris' administration. But it would be like hunting for the jaw tooth of a sucker in the turbid waters of Red river as to hunt for a record of any authority for the reduction of \$300,000 of the peoples money to \$70,000 less money fees.

The circuit court of Tishomingo county is largely attended this week, the fact that Gov. Harris will address them draws the crowd. His name is a household word -- everybody knows him throughout the Nation. There is not one who can say aught justly against him. Some say he is a friend to the white man. From a life-long acquaintance with him we think we can safely say he is a friend to the law, and law-abiding men without any distinction, and that he is a true, tried and trusty friend to his people; and that their interests are near and dear to his heart. Some say he is too easy, too lenient, too timid. He is merciful, and who does not love a merciful man? The trials of others touch his heart. But with him law is law, and he lacks not the courage to enforce it. In

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his talk to his people he speaks as one talking to friends and brothers, and not as though he were addressing felons and beasts. Under all circumstances and at all times he is the same old Cy. -- be he in the gubernatorial chair at the head of his people or be he in his old mill putting the grist of the poor widow untolled in the hopper. His head is always his own, whisky never claims it. With him at the helm of the country will be safe. United action and a general turnout will put him there. Lag not; come to the polls, 'tis your duty. List not to the oily tongue of the politician but use your own sound sense and vote for Cy. Harris.

Quid.

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THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, July 20, 1878

Vol. 5 No. 23

G. M'Pherson, D. M. Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

The old war horse has again been brought out, saddled, bridled and ready for the fray. He has been with you in your darkest hours, he has taken the lead; and during those dark and troubled days he brought you forth victorious, and left you a heritage that is so essential to the peace and prosperity of every nation, that is happiness and plenty. But alas! there are other leaders that have come to the front and dispoiled you of the fruits of your victory. And now the old tried hero says he again will bring you out of darkness into light if you will render that assistance and support to him as leader that makes success certain. My Chickasaw friends to you we are talking, and to Gov. Cy. Harris we refer. Will you support and elect him? We know you will.

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You, like your Choctaw brethren, want a better government, and the only way to get it is to unite your support upon one who has been tried and found wanting. The election is near at hand. Work late and early and yours will be a grand victory of right over wrong.

THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.
Saturday, August 3, 1878
Vol. 5 No. 25
G. M'pherson, D. M. Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON ELECTION OF HARRIS AND OVERTON

The Star-Vindicator of the 27th inst. wishes for a copy of the Overton-Burney speech. Friend Mc., spare us, for the love of heaven, spare us that. It was bad enough for a document from our Supreme court to get into print signed with "his X mark." No. spare us this other, do not let it get into print "verbatim." Why, the people outside our boundary would think that we were taking up the craw-fish gait and making rapid strides in it. If we have a deliverer!! who fought, bled and died for us let us keep it from the outside world, for then it might sound rather school-boyish and very absurd. It reminds one of the countryman's first drink of soda water. After drinking he asked what might that be? On being told it was soda water he

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first looked in his tumbler then rubbed his bread-
basket and said, "ah! O, I call it sweetened wind."
Burney alone would have run a much better race
than Overton and Burney; that pill is too much for
the people. As to Treasurer, the office has
been well filled by Mr. Burney; we have not heard,
nor can we find any fault with him there. But
when he, at the bidding of Gov. Overton, asks
for the governorship he aims too high. He has
many friends who would support him for any other
office. Col. Lem Reynolds -- than whom a more
disinterested friend to his people breathes not
-- was at all the courts, and ably responded to
Gov. Overton and Burney.. Gov. Harris spoke at
Tishomingo and Stonewall, and his words were full
of wisdom. He makes no vain and empty promises.
He did not fight, bleed and die for his people; but
in our last and trying struggle many of the soldiers
received substantial aid from him, and in those
dark days, when all seemed lost, he worked hard
and faithful for us. And when again he puts his
shoulder to the wheel he will lift us from the
stagnation in which we now are.

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To sum up all in a few words, in Mr. Burney we have a very good man, but too young for the place he seeks; and his assertion that he endorses and will follow Gov. Overton's course will alone defeat him.

In Cy. Harris we have a man who has been weighed and not found wanting. In him we have a man that takes law, treaty and constitution for his guides. In him we have "mens sano in corpore sano." On the 14th of August give him your vote. Place him at the wheel and he will take you into the harbor of plenitudo and safety.

Chickasaw Nation, July 29.

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THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, August 3, 1878
Vol. 5 No. 25
G. M'Pherson, D. M. Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON ELECTION OF HARRIS AND OVERTON

Mill Creek, I. T. July 24.

The all-absorbing topic in this country is politics. The interest which the people manifest in the coming election allows plainly what they have suffered under the present rule and their anxiety to get rid of the cause of their trouble by the election of a different class of men to the principal offices in the Nation.

There was quite a large number of people assembled at Tishomingo to hear the aspirants to office express themselves on the leading issues. Speeches were made by Gov. Harris, Ben. Burney, Col. Reynolds, B. F. Overton, Ben. Carter, Boyd and others. The annuity dodge by which Overton

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hoped to seat his proxy in the gubernatorial chair was well ventilated by Gov. Harris and Col. Reynolds. These public meetings, with the aid of the Star-Vindicator, has pretty well informed the people of the fraud which was about to be practiced on them, and the result is many will vote for Harris who would have supported Burney had Overton come out fairly and honestly and told the people the exact state of affairs when he returned from Washington.

Burney's speech was little more than laudation of Overton and denunciation of Harris. He charged ex-Gov. Harris with the intention to subvert the government and sell out the country to white men, and dwelt feelingly on the mercy of Providence, which had at the critical period "raised up a deliverer" in the person of Overton, by whose exertions alone the country had been saved. This part of his speech was more than ridiculous, and is having a very different effect to what he intended. Pontotoc county was the stronghold of the Overton party, and where they expected to get an almost solid vote for Burney,

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but after the meeting at Stonewall the party seems fearfully demoralized, and if Burney gets a bare majority in the county it will be more than is expected.

Burney's speech at Stonewall was merely a repetition of what was said at Tishomingo, and contained neither argument nor logic, while Gov. Harris took up the history of the Chickasaw funds, and went over it from the beginning, showing plainly just what Overton and his delegation had done, and exactly what credit they were entitled to for sacrificing over \$78,000 of the Chickasaw funds

-- interest on investments which should have been paid in cash -- by accepting the investment of the above amount in worthless Arkansas securities in lieu of cash; and that he had done this simply that he might be able to deceive his people with the cry of an annuity when there was no annuity to be paid, and that before they should find out the deception he would succeed in electing, his favorite and continue the "rule of ruin" which he had inaugurated. But it did win -- thanks to the Star-Vindicator and its

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friends -- the trick was discovered, and now the election of Cy. Harris is looked upon as a certainty. With an annuity of \$222,000 to distribute young Burney would have won the race; but it is very different when the people find out the deception that was attempted to be practiced upon them.

Gov. Harris is gaining strength every day, and if the election was deferred for a month Burney would be as perfectly out of the canvass as is Durant in the Choctaw Nation. The interest of the campaign centers in the race for the governorship, although the candidates for the attorney general's place are exerting themselves considerably. The applicants for this office are Capt. Ben. Carter, Boyd and Colbert. It is impossible to tell now which will win.

After the speaking at Stonewall a private caucus was held out in the brush by the faithful of the Burney party, and I believe among other arrangements effected B. F. Overton was nominated for the Senate. I learn from those who are well posted that his election in his own county is exceedingly uncertain.

You may mark down Cy. Harris, as he is familiarly called, as the next governor of the Chickasaws.

I have been enjoying myself hugely, and am indebted to the generous hospitality of Capt. Carter, H. Heald and Gov. Harris for much of the pleasure of the trip. With croquet, fishing and other amusements the time passed very pleasantly, even if the thermometer is up among the nineties, and makes me regret the necessity of soon leaving. May write you again. The Star-Vindicator is doing a good work, and is highly appreciated.

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THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.,
Saturday, August 3, 1878
Vol. 5 No. 25
G. M'Pherson, D. M. Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON ELECTION OF HARRIS AND OVERTON

Tishomingo County, I. T.

July 25.

Sir:

We understand that Pontotoc County has turned, and are going to vote for Gov. Harris. Frank Overton thought he had the dead thing in his hands, but I think he has failed badly as he has lost all his influence with the people. I think that the \$25 permit law, the annuity and Frank Overton are all gone overboard together. When Frank first offered for Gov. He let on that he was the friend to the full-bloods, but he has proved to be everything else. I told Jo. Brown some time ago that the scales were turned and they

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would never be able to turn them down any more.

The Overton party was very game at the start but they have become very weak in the knees. I think after the second Wednesday in August there won't be a greasy spot left of them.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Sept. 21, 1878

Vol. 5 No. 32

McPherson & Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

When a country is ruled by the arbitrary will of one man, as the Chickasaw Nation has been for four years past it is in a deplorable condition -- the people are slaves.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 21, 1878
Vol. 5 No. 32
McPherson & Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON B. F. OVERTON

Why could Gov. Overton not have had this thing decided in one day, or one hour for that matter, just as well as in three weeks? He knew right at the start what he intended to do and how he intended to do it, and could have done it in a few minutes. All that was necessary was for him to find eleven votes that had been cast for Harris and throw them out. It would have made no difference whose votes they were, for one was just the same as another. The petty tyrant though takes all this time and trouble to give his infamous proceedings the look of fairness, but it won't do. It is too plain to be seen that the object of this investigation is not that the ends of justice may be subserved, but that the Overton faction may have a longer lease of power. This is all. Overton knows himself that Gov. Harris was fairly and legally

elected, but is unwilling for him to take his seat because he knows the record of his own administration will not stand the test of an honest investigation, and because he is loth to see those in power who have opposed his arbitrary and imperious rule.

Since the time those infamous tribunals sat in Louisiana, Florida and South Carolina, and seated a man in the presidential chair who was never elected, no such a piece of high-handed injustice has ever been witnessed as that which is now going on in Tishomingo. And this is even worse than they were, for there was a law creating those returning boards, but this has not even the faintest semblance of legality. When the votes were counted and Harris was declared elected the legislature had gone to the extent of its jurisdiction in the premises; and the body that now sits in mock judgment over the case is nothing but a mob, with no more authority to over-haul the poll-books and throw out votes than any other assemblage of citizens would have.

We know not what Gov. Harris intends to do, in the event Overton carries his revolutionary schemes to such an extent as to seat the man who was fairly beaten; but we know what he ought to do, and

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what his people will expect him to do. He ought to call on the United States to give him and the majority that elected him that justice which is denied them by the haughty ruler that has lorded it over them for the last four years and is determined to still sway the scepter.

We do not believe that Mr. Burney favors this rascally scheme at all. We believe him too honorable a man and too much of a gentleman to contend for a seat which he knows is not due him; but he was brought out in the first place by Overton, and Overton still has him in his hands, and will use him, as long as there is any chance to keep the party down that dared oppose his tyrannical course.

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THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cher. Nat. I. T.
September 24, 1878
Vol. 4, No. 26
Geo. W. Johnson, Editor

MESSAGE OF B. C. BURNEY

To the Chickasaw Legislature

Chickasaw Nation, Ex. Dept.,
Tishomingo City, Sept. 1st, 1879

Gentlemen of the Senate and
House of Representatives:

We have again met together for the transaction of National affairs, and I am happy in the belief, that much of the excitement and even danger, which characterized your last annual meeting here has passed away, and I indulge the hope that the business of the present Legislature will be done with pleasure to yourselves, and profit to your people.

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STATUS OF THE NEGRO

Pursuant to an act of the Legislature passed and approved March 17th, 1879, I appointed and commissioned five persons on the part of the Chickasaw Nation to meet like Commissioners on the part of the Choctaws to determine the status of the Freedman. And, after an agreement by the Joint Commission, I issued an order for an election to be held throughout the Nation, for the purpose of obtaining the sentiment of the people on this constant and vexed question (the Status of the Negro). This is a question that must be met, and my object in calling the election at the time I did, was that the members of this Legislature might be instructed what to do in the matter.

In some of the counties, my right to order such an election was doubted, and the people were not allowed to give an expression of their opinion by ballot; therefore, I cannot, with authority, tell you what the people of the Chickasaw Nation desire in this matter, but would recommend some definite action on your part in regard to it. Justice to

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ourselves and the Negro demand this. It has already been suffered to go unattended to too long. Whatever your action may be on the subject, it will meet with my co-operation.

CEDED LANDS

In the treaty of 1855 between the Choctaws, Chickasaws and the United States, the Choctaws and Chickasaws leased the United States all that portion of their common territory west of the 98° of west longitude, for the permanent settlement of certain bands of Indians specified in the ninth article of that Treaty. These Indians were to be controlled by the United States Government, but the laws or regulations governing them were not to conflict with the rights and interests of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people. These leased lands comprise that portion of the Indian Territory west of the 98° and east of the 100° of west longitude, and bounded on the south by Red River, and on the north by the Canadian river. In Article III of the Treaty of 1866, the Choctaws and Chickasaws, ceded to the

United States the above named lands, relinquishing all their rights thereto, for the sum of Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (300,000). Provided, That they (the Choctaws and Chickasaws) would give to all persons of African descent, resident in their nations, the rights of citizenship and a homestead of forty (40) acres of land to every individual. The third article of the Treaty of 1866, was subject to approval or rejection of the Choctaw and Chickasaw people, with the understanding that, should they fail to adopt the negro, then the Three Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$300,000) to be paid for this ceded Territory, was to be used in removing negroes beyond the limits of the Choctaw and Chickasaw country. The treaty in the main was approved, but Article III, providing for the adoption of the negro, was rejected, and the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations requested the United States to remove the negroes from their country, at the same time, proposing to relinquish to the negroes all the rights of the two Nations to the leased district. The government of the United States failed to comply with the conditions of this proposition, and

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consequently the third article of the treaty of 1866 is null and void, and the IX Article of the treaty of 1855 is in full force.

I have been thus particular in giving you the history of this leased district because it has been held by some that we lost our rights to this land by the treaty of 1866, and a scheme was organized by designing men to settle upon these lands as public lands belonging to the United States. This movement excited grave fears throughout all the civilized Tribes, for we all felt that we were being robbed of our property. But the United States was prompt and vigorous in the suppression of intruders, and under the wise policy adopted by the Secretary of the Interior, enforced by the officers of the army, a feeling of security has again been established throughout our country.

TERRITORIALIZATION.

During the time of the excitement, respecting the ceded lands, and also in consequence of the supposed danger of Territorializing our country, the chief men of the Nations thought it best to have

delegates meet at Eufaula to canvass the dangers that threatened us, and adopt methods of concerted action to avoid them. Knowing the magnitude of the object to be accomplished by this wise action, I have twice sent delegates to attend conventions at Eufaula. I attended one of the conventions myself, and am deeply impressed with the conviction that much of the present urgent and hopeful condition of the country is due to the measures adopted by these conventions for our mutual preservation.

CONFEDERATION OF TRIBES.

There will be a meeting of delegates at Eufaula on the first Monday in May, 1880, to discuss the propriety of a confederation or union of the Tribes, and I recommend to your Honorable body the appointment of one or more delegates to that convention. Surrounded as we are by a people who can only be kept out of our Nation by the armed forces of the United States government, it seems to me eminently desirable that the relations of the Indian Tribes with each other should be closer and more binding than they are at present.

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LEBANON INSTITUTE.

A few days prior to the adjournment of the last Legislature, Lebanon Institute, the school for the education of our orphans, was totally destroyed by fire, together with all the bedding, clothing, etc., necessary for the maintainance of the orphans through the winter. The Legislature was notified of the calamity on the very day of its occurrence, and should have immediately adopted measures for the rebuilding of the Institute and the general repair of the premises. Nothing was done, however, and believing that the emergency of the object justified our action, your superintendent of schools and myself assumed the grave responsibility of building anew the Institute. We have had many difficulties to contend with but have at last had a building erected that is strong, roomy and substantial, and perfectly adapted to the purpose for which it was built. This, however, has not been done without money. Five Thousand Five Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$5550) of the money appropriated to Dr. Saunders for the support and education of the children, was given back to us to aid in building a new house,

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and has already been paid to the party with whom we contracted for the building of the house. There is still several thousand dollars due to the builder, which amount, together with the contract, plan of building, receipts, etc, I will at an early day, submit to your finance committee. And in reference to the contract, I wish to state to you that in the original agreement many things were omitted which we afterwards found were absolutely needed, and which we had to have done at additional expense. So that you will see that the actual cost of the building is more than the amount specified in the contract. Before I quit this subject I wish to state that this new house is eminently desirable as an orphan's home. I am convinced that our contract with Dr. Saunders ought if possible, be so changed as to enable us to keep our orphan children at Lebanon Institute the entire year. By this means all would have a permanent and good home, be well provided for through the whole period of their stay at school, and progress in their studies far more rapidly than under the present system.

PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The report of the superintendent of schools shows an encouraging condition in all the schools of the Nation. For this we should be grateful, for the future of our country, which depends upon those whom we are now educating, and in proportion to their mental progress will be the material prosperity of the country, when they come to govern it. Education is the lever by which our people are to be raised to a mental level with our surroundings, and I desire to seriously impress upon you how important it is that you use your influence in getting our people to see to the education of the young.

PROSPERITY

It should be a matter of deep gratitude to our Lord, that whilst the great drought, which has continued through the summer and completely destroyed the prospects of the farmers in the States, we have been blessed with a yield sufficient, at least to carry us safely through another year. But we should be especially grateful that man's greatest boon, health,

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has been enjoyed by us to a degree not experienced for many years before. But while we have been the recipients of so many blessings, we have not been grateful. Our young men (many of them at least) forgetful of the grave and responsible duties of life, have given themselves over to dissipation and strife to a degree rarely, if ever, witnessed before. Chickasaws, this should not be, and must not continue. Remember that we are a small and feeble race of people, to whom God until recently, has denied the lights which for so long a time has illuminated the minds of other races. And now, that He has at last granted to us the blessings of civilization and Christianity, let us not reject them, nor drive Him from us by ingratitude and rebellion.

RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES

In conclusion, I would state that while our affairs at Washington City, and our relations generally with the government of the United States, are satisfactory, still I would recommend to you the appointment

of a delegate to attend the next congress. We are not the barbarians and savages that many of the people of the United States think us, and which has been the chief argument used in the effort to rob us of our country and nationality, and it is essential to our welfare and the dignity of our Nation, that some good men amongst us, be sent to Washington to see that we are not represented by land grabbers and railroad magnates in a light unjust to ourselves and humiliating to the intelligence of Congress.

Gentlemen, I indulge the hope that our present session may be harmonious and result in good to the country. Be assured that in doing good to your people you do honor to yourselves, and though at times your judgement may err, and your opinions may differ yet honest convictions are always respected, even by those who do not approve them.

B. C. BURNEY

Gov. Chickasaw Nation.

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STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Sept. 28, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 33
McPherson, Editor

LETTER REGARDING E. F. OVERTON ET AL

Tishomingo, I. T., Sept. 23

We are about to witness the consummation of one of the most audacious frauds -- one of the most unblushing outrages on the rights of a free people that it has ever been the fate of this Indian country to suffer from.

From present indications the Overton party will to-morrow morning declare B. C. Burney governor of the Chickasaw Nation. It would be useless to follow the consecutive steps which have been taken, or relate all the disreputable measures which have been resorted to in order to obtain this action on the part of the House of Representatives, setting at present as a returning board. A few cases will be sufficient.

It is well known that the returns as furn-

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ished the speaker, and as by him counted, gave Gov. Harris a majority of 10 votes. The first step taken in order to do away with this majority was to challenge the vote of Morton Perry on the ground of insanity. Certainly his voting for Harris was a very sane act. Mr. Perry is afflicted with occasional attacks of epilepsy, but at all other times evinces a greater degree of intelligence than one-half the members. The only proof of any unsoundness of mind was the testimony of one witness, and he notoriously a horse thief, while the defense established, by the oath of Col. Reynolds and B. Kemp, that he was perfectly sane. His vote was thrown out, however, in the face of these facts. Then John Collins was charged with having removed from Panola county where his vote was cast, and the proof offered was by the same disreputable witness. It was in evidence that he had never removed his home at all, but had only gone into an adjoining country on a visit. Mr. Summers, a white man, who was married to a white woman who was the widow of a Chickasaw, next went over.

The requisite number of votes for Harris, necessary to give Burney a majority were thus ex-

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cluded on just such pretexts as those given, and finally this morning the vote of Gen. D. W. Cooper was cancelled on the ground that his adoption was not complete -- it being necessary, as they claimed, that the Choctaws should also accept him before he could be considered a citizen. Many of your readers know well how long Gen. Cooper has been fully recognized by the Chickasaw people. He has drawn annuity, voted and held office, and it was left to this returning board to discover that all this had been a mistake.

Of course there is no authority found in the constitution or any enactment of the Chickasaw legislature upon which the House of Representatives can depend for any interference with election returns; but in the face of all this Overton and his party proceed to defeat the expressed will of the people, and attempt to fasten again for two years that despotism and rule of ruin inaugurated by Overton four years ago.

Gov. Harris' friends have denied the legality of these proceedings all along, but being forced to make some defence attempted to off-set the decrease of Harris' majority by bringing up votes on

Burney's side which were subject to the same objections as those offered by Overton, but they were, with the exception of one case, unsuccessful. At this present writing they have reduced Harris' vote 16 and Burney's 2, leaving Burney a majority of 4. It is now reported that they will proceed to-morrow morning to inaugurate Burney.

Thus, after Overton has failed in preventing the majority of the Chickasaws from voting for Harris -- aided by all the influence of the patronage of his office; after deluding and deceiving the people by the false report that he had obtained an annuity of \$222,000, he is compelled to resort to uncovered fraud and open illegality in order to maintain his party in power. Mr. Burney has all along been considered blameless in this matter, but it has been hinted that his continued and unquestioning adherence to, and support of every measure calculated to increase his chances for the position of governor, and consequent control of the government may have a more interested object than laudable ambition, and that it is possible the management and disbursement of the funds of the Nation will not show a clear balance sheet under the inves-

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tigation sure to follow should Harris be declared
elected.

Will write you again when the coming events
of to-morrow have transpired.

VOX

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STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Sept. 28, 1878

Vol. 5 No. 36

McPherson & Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

Nobody will be surprised at the advices from Tishomingo. Things have gone there just as they were expected to go and just as the petty despot who rules the country intended they should go at the start.

And as we stated last week, they could have done in one day what they have taken three or four weeks to do just as well as not, but Overton wanted to give his outrageous proceedings something like the semblance of fairness and impartiality; hence the reason for consuming all this time.

But not withstanding the tyrant's heel is still upon the necks of his people there is no occasion for our friends to despair. Harris is the legally elected and legally qualified governor, and if he stands firm and his friends stand to him he will yet be recognized as such. Let Gov. Harris assert his rights whether he is allowed to exercise them or not; let his friends

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all recognize him as the legal governor of the Chick-
asaw Nation and appeal to the United States government
to sustain him and our word for it he will yet be
seated. In order to prevent vacancies being filled
by the usurper that Overton has set up over the people,
Harris' friends will keep their seats in the "rump"
legislature; but even this is unnecessary, as any ac-
tion that body may take will be null and void, and any
appointments Burney may make or anything else he may
do as governor of the Chickasaw Nation will amount to
nothing. By Overton's order Burney has been declared
governor, but this doesn't make him so by any means,
The dictator could have made his . . . well and he
would have been just as much governor as the tool that
now occupies the seat. The whole thing is a high-
handed outrage from beginning to end -- one of the
most bare-faced pieces of injustice ever perpetrated
upon any people.

The Star-Vindicator has stood by Gov. Harris
through this whole thing from the very commencement,
and will continue to stand by him to the end; and all
we ask is that he stands firm to himself, firm to his
friends and firm to his country. In this issue there

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is a principle involved that is dear to every freeman; and we solemnly appeal to all the good, right-thinking people of the Chickasaw Nation to stand up squarely and demand their rights. It is a fight between freedom and slavery; between self-government and despotism.

The Star-Vindicator has all along, up to this point, exonerated Mr. Burney from blame in this infamous scheme to defraud Gov. Harris out of a seat to which he was legally elected, but we can do so no longer. In accepting this position he has forfeited all claims to the confidence and respect of every honest man in the country. So Mr. Burney henceforth, or as least as long as he fills the seat of a usurper, may expect this paper to wage an uncompromising war upon him, as it is its special province to fight fraud and corruption wherever found -- even in a brother.

Gov. Harris should have established his government just as soon as he was elected. Then if Mr. Burney wanted to set up another government all well and good, let him have done so, it would have amounted to nothing; and very soon, like the Packard government in Louisiana, would have died out for lack of sympathisers. But as Harris failed to do this at the

start he should do so now. It is not too late even yet; and he owes it to his friends, he owes it to that majority of his people who elected him to take this step without delay, for he is the governor, and whether he cares anything for the honors of the office himself or not, it is due to those who have stood by him through the campaign, due to his country, and above all due to the cause of free government that he come forward and assert his rights. The liberties of his people are assailed, the very life of his country is threatened; for if he permits a usurper to assume the reins of government in this way there will be no more use in holding elections -- he and his people are slaves, subject to the rule of one man and that man a despot.

THE STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Choctaw Nation, I. T.

Saturday, Sept. 28, 1878

Vol. 5 No. 33

G. M'Pherson, D. M. Hailey, Editors

ELECTION OF CYRUS HARRIS

Office County and Probate

Judge, Tishomingo county,

Sept. 23, 1878

I certify that Cyrus Harris has this day personally appeared before me, J. H. Wolfe, county and probate judge, in and for Tishomingo county, Chickasaw Nation, and has been by me duly qualified as governor of the Chickasaw Nation in accordance with the 1st Sec. of the general provisions" of the constitution of said Nation. In testimony whereof witness my hand and the seal of my office on the date above written.

J. H. WOLFE

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... probate Judge Tisho ...

... James,

... Probate court.

... Sept. 24.

... ended

...

... legislature for

... and more, at

... of near

... but all action ... been confin... The senate
has ... matter.

Af... ...lature convened at 9 o'clock, the
certificate of the Judge that he had on yesterday
duly qualified Cyrus Harris as governor accompanied
with his (Harris') notice to both houses, signify-
ing his readiness to deliver his message and
assume the discharge of his duties was read and
interpreted.

The members were at a loss to know how to
proceed, and runners were immediately dispatched
after Overton, who soon made his appearance on
the floor of the House, and recognizing the fact

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that something must be done and that speedily, he directed the speaker to close the "investigation" and request the Senate to meet the House in joint session and witness the result. This the Senate refused to do as a body. As they had been allowed no part in the investigation they declined to endorse the results. A number of the members left the Senate chamber, the number remaining not being a quorum. This remnant, however, went into the House, but simply as spectators. The speaker then, reading from a dirty slip of paper, announced that 16 of the votes cast for Harris and 1 cast for Burney had been declared illegal, and that this gave Burney 5 votes the majority, and he therefore declared B. C. Burney as the duly elected governor of the Chickasaw Nation. Burney was then called in and Joe Brown directed to administer the oath of office. Brown enquired if this action had the concurrence of two-thirds of the members on a joint ballot, but as no ballot had been taken, and if taken would have resulted differently, Overton saw the question was liable to lead to mischief for his plans and peremptorily

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ordered Brown to administer the oath, telling him that was what they had sent for him for and not to ask questions. Of course Brown obeyed and Burney was sworn in, and is at this hour, 3 p. m., delivering his message to the Chickasaw legislature.

The Harris men will probably remain in council, as the governor is authorized to fill vacancies by appointment, but will act under protest which they will file to-morrow morning, setting forth that they do not propose to recognize Burney as a legally elected governor.

Harris will take immediate steps to bring the case before the Commissioner of Indian affairs, who may determine who is entitled to the seat as governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

Great dissatisfaction prevails among the people, and it is all the cool heads can do to keep down a disturbance which threatens to break out every hour. Any resort to violence now is to be deprecated as there is no telling where it would stop; but had Harris and his friends anticipated at the start the lengths to which this tyrant Overton would resort to maintain his grasp on power,

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it could and would have been stopped at the beginning. Had Harris then taken the action he did yesterday and been sworn in and then firmly claimed his rights, there would have been none of this tedious and expensive farce, and the Nation would have been saved a wrong which is enough to make every man engaged in it blush when he remembers it. The ignominy and shame which now covers the Louisiana returning board will not equal that in store for this rump legislature, acting in the same capacity. The Senate has had no hand in it. At the conclusion, under Overton's direction, not even the formality of a vote of the House was taken to confirm the result of the "investigation," but the speaker declared Burney elected and Harris defeated.

Upon the whole this has been the most barefaced, outrageous and downright piece of rascality that was ever openly perpetrated on any people.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 19, 1878
Vol. 5 No. 36
McPherson & Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

If our Chickasaw friends have concluded to quietly submit to the arbitrary decision of the returning board so be it the STAR-VINDICATOR can stand it if they can. We have done our duty and are content. We have never advised them to resort to violence, as this is a thing we are opposed to under any circumstances, but we did show them how they could have secured their rights peaceably, and urged them to do it, believing that as public journalists -- sentinels on the watch-tower guarding the interests of the people, we were doing nothing but our imperative duty. We told Gov. Harris to quietly organize his government and go ahead with it, and had he done so there would have been no bloodshed, no serious disturbance at all, and finally the United States government, as the Indians' guardian, would have interposed its authority and settled the question amicably

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and legally and all would have been well. But, as we have before said, if Gov. Harris and his party think it best to give up and let the thing go, all right with us. We have done all we can, and all that could be expected of us single handed and alone. But we have done nor said nothing in connection with the matter that we regret. We believed the rights of the people were assailed and stepped boldly to the front to defend them. Had we done less we would have felt ourselves derelict in one of the first duties a newspaper owes to the public.

This much in vindication of the stand the STAR-VINDICATOR took, and when we see the Chickasaws manifesting a disposition to throw off the yoke that has been imposed upon them, then they can count on this paper coming again to the rescue.

STAR-VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Oct. 26, 1878

Vol. 5 No. 37

McPherson & Hailey, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

Legislature elect Overton to go to Washington with pay of \$3,000. -- Simon James has been appointed treasurer in place of Overton. -- Mr. Grafton gets his \$5,000. -- The members get \$1.00 per day relief fund. Mr. Burney vetoed the bill but it went over his head. We understand that his reason for vetoing it was that it was unconstitutional. ("Dear me," once said the pot to the kettle, "you look quite smoky.") -- Legislature wind up to-morrow. -- Orphan Academy on Red river with all its contents, burned to the ground. Inmates all safe. Defective flue thought to be the cause.

The idea seems to prevail that had Gov. Harris organized his government and went ahead with it, all would have gone well. 'Tis true, it would have been better; but who for a moment thought our people could be led to do the wrong they have done? Who is there but thought that law, treaty and constitution

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they would have stooped it would have been otherwise. Gov. Harris has many warm and staunch friends who would have stood by his side to the last. They still adhere to him to-day, and he is their Governor notwithstanding "common law" says not. Matters have now gone so far that it is like a "brush heap on fire; it is easier to let it burn out than try to extinguish it."

Our legislators are beginning to see wherein they have erred. They will soon begin aright. An empty treasury; accumulating debts; \$3,000 to fill the place once so ably filled by such men as Col. Pickens and others at \$1,000, were things unknown before.

No circuit court. Legislature had the room used by them. There were but few minor cases to come up.

Two good frosts. -- Grasshoppers going south in search of something green. They evinced a good deal of sagacity in passing us by.

JIM J. HAKER.

Oct. 21, 1878.

P. S. Since writing I learn that the Governor has sent in message asking for the re-consideration of

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relief bill, delegate bill and annuity bill, and to
take steps toward rebuilding Orphan Academy. I think
the above is reliable.

STAR VINDICATOR

McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Oct. 26, 1878
Vol. 5, No. 37
G. McPherson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON CYRUS HARRIS

Did the Star Vindicator consult only its own interest and convenience it would quietly acquiesce in the outrage that seated a man in the gubernatorial chair of the Chickasaw Nation who was not elected, for the editors of this paper are not personally interested in the matter at all or effected by the results. It brings not a dollar to our pockets to denounce this swindle, but on the contrary subjects us to the loss of patronage and to the loss of friends; and besides, causes us to have to bear any amount of bitter abuse. Our only recompense is the satisfaction of knowing that we, as journalists, have discharged a duty we owe to the outraged people of the Chickasaw Nation, and to the cause of common justice. Yes, simply this and nothing more. We have no personal feelings toward a single individual concerned in the affair. Nothing but a sense of stern duty impels us

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to the stand we have taken. It is merely an issue between right and wrong, and the Star Vindicator, as it has always done, without stopping to consider whether it is popular and whether it will pay, arrays itself on the side it believes to be right. And no reasonable man, however much he may consider it a stroke of bad policy on our part, according to the general acceptation of the term, can help but accord to us honesty of purpose. Our sole object is to see right, and justice and law prevail. This is all. We have no individual axe to grind and no personal enemies to persecute, even if that were our disposition, which it is not by any means.

INDIAN JOURNAL

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.,
Thursday, Sept., 16, 1880
Vol. 5, No. 2
M. P. Roberts, Editor

MESSAGE OF B. C. BURNEY

Executive Dept.,
Chickasaw Nation

Hon. Members of the Senate
and House of Representatives.

The never ceasing flight of time has brought my administration to a close, and I am here to-day to surrender up to you the office powers which you conferred upon me two years ago. The honorable gentleman whom you will inaugurate today as governor, laid down for a time the insignia of power, and retired to the quiet and pleasures of private life, and I was installed into the responsible duties of the office. I had his cordial support and co-operation then, as he has my cordial co-operation and support now; and I congratulate him and you that he has been

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spared to again take charge of the destinies of our little nation.

The general condition of the country -- its finances, schools, agriculture, &c., will doubtless be fully discussed in the inaugural address of my successor, and to his able pen I leave it; but before doing so I desire to express my gratitude to the Great Ruler of the universe and the Protector of the weak, for the abundant crops and fine health He has so mercifully vouchsafed to our people, and to humbly ask of Him that He may continue to watch over us and grant to us protection against the powerful and help in the efforts we are making in the way of personal and national improvements and prosperity.

Of my administration I need say but little; no great conflict of interest amongst our people, or between our nation and the government of the United States, has occurred since I have been your governor, and therefore my administration has been in the main quiet and uneventful; but of one thing I desire to discuss at some length, and to make some (as I think) needful explanation. I mean the cattle question.

This has been, and I suppose will forever be a difficult and troublesome question. We have

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large prairies, vast feeding grounds, and but comparatively few cattle. Our citizens have in many instances been but too willing to listen to the seductive inducements of the stock owners who were prohibited by our laws from bringing their cattle here, and the result for several years past has been that many hundreds of cattle have been pastured here, claimed by citizens but really owned by non-citizens.

Under the United States intercourse law non-citizens can hold their stock here by paying a tax of one dollar per head; but by illegally contracting with our citizens they can have them held for less than ten cents per head. Now I suppose we all agree that our pastures, our prairies, are common property; that when we own stock they have the right to feed at large; but it is not supposed that any citizen has the right to rent out our prairies and appropriate the proceeds to his own use yet this has been done by many for several years past, and instead of the nation deriving a revenue from this source, individuals have reaped the benefits. And in order to stop this illegal introduction of cattle into the country, and to prevent individuals from deriving the entire revenue and the nation none, I thought

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it was for the best interest of the nation to levy a tax of twelve cents and a half per head on all stock grazing on our lands belonging to non-citizens, and the money paid to the nation instead of individuals, and in that way let all be benefited.

Besides this, our nation from various causes had become involved in debt. It is not our habit, as it is in the States, to levy special taxes upon our people to meet financial deficits, and I could conceive of no better or fairer way to increase our finances and relieve our difficulties, than by contracting with parties having stock to allow them the use of our pastures for a very moderate consideration. Even now I think the beneficial results can be seen and to some extent estimated. The grass season is about over. The citizens' cattle are as fat as if no other had shared their pasturage, and the nation is several thousands of dollars better off. Already the smoke of the prairie fires is being seen, and in a few more weeks our prairies will be burnt as they always are in the fall of the year, and in the burn (had I not admitted cattle,) would have been included the grass for which the nation has derived all this pay. This has been done, too, with the introduction

of but very few cattle. The most of these cattle were already here and had been for several years past. I did what has been done for the best, and I feel satisfied that your dispassionate verdict will be that it was the best. You will see from the report of the treasurer the amount of revenue which has been collected on these cattle, and no one interfered with. Although there has been some dissatisfaction in certain localities because of this tax, I am convinced you all will at once perceive that the nation has been a large gainer by the transaction.

This, gentlemen, is the only act of my administration I believe needs explanation now. My endeavor has been to increase the prosperity of the people and nation, and see that the laws were impartially administered. In this I hope I have made no failure. Indeed, the record of crime in our country is, I think, hardly so great as in the States adjoining us, and the material prosperity of the people is constantly increasing. For this we should be grateful to the Giver of all good, and try by constant exertion to merit a continuance of such blessings.

In conclusion, let me hope that wisdom and justice may abide in your counsels during this session

-- that national peace and happiness may be the crown of your labors, and that each and all of you may long live to guide and direct the destinies of your people, and to enjoy that happiness which always flows from the knowledge of having added by precept, example and effort, to the welfare and improvement of others.

B. C. BURNEY,
Governor Chickasaw Nation.

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INDIAN JOURNAL

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.,
Thursday, February 17, 1881
Vol. 5, No. 24
M. P. Roberts, Editor

PROCLAMATION OF B. F. OVERTON - AND AN ACT

A short time since the JOURNAL gave a brief history of the trouble between Gov. Overton and United States citizens grazing stock in the Chickasaw Nation. To-day we present the petition of the latter to Gov. Overton, the National Legislature, and

TO THE CHICKASAW PEOPLE,

We the undersigned citizens of the United States holding stocks of cattle in the Chickasaw Nation would respectfully represent that by reason of the Proclamation of Gov. B. F. Overton issued Oct. 4th, 1880, from said Nation, and that owing to the lateness and inclemency of the season it has been impossible for us, so to do, that we propose to comply with all the laws of the Chickasaw Nation and we would respectfully submit this our petition to Hon. B. F. Overton, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation

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to the National Legislature and the Chickasaw people, that they would enact a law by which we may be allowed to remain in that section of the Chickasaw Nation bounded as follows: On the west by the Kiowa & Comanche reservation, thence up the west boundary line to the Washita river, thence east down Washita river to the mouth of Hell Roaring Creek, thence south to Rush Creek, east to crossing of Old Cobb & Arbuckle Road, thence south to the mouth of Hickory Creek, on the payment of such tax to the Chickasaw Nation as they may require.

This petition is signed by representative stock-men, owners of nearly or quite 100,000 head of cattle, valued at one and a half million dollars. They represent the views of nearly as many more stock-raisers in that Nation, who are there without any present warrant of law, and have been certified to the United States government as intruders, and their removal asked by Gov. Overton in accordance with treaty and the "Laws regulating trade and intercourse with Indians." To the above petition they affix a draft of a law which if passed by the Chickasaw Legislature they promise to respect and obey.

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FORM OF LAW

Be it enacted, By the Chickasaw Legislature that citizens of the United States may be permitted to hold and graze cattle within the limits of the Chickasaw Nation within said boundaries as follows: On the west by the Kiowa & Comanche reservation, thence up the west boundary line to Washita river, thence east down Washita river to mouth of Hell Roaring Creek, thence south to Rush Creek, east to crossing of Old Cobb & Arbuckle road, thence north to mouth of Hickory Creek, upon the payment of a tax as follows. -- Not to be exhorbitant.

Be it enacted, That said tax shall be paid to the National Treasurer of the Chickasaw Nation on or before the 1st. day of August of each year after the passage of the law and that a just and true account of all cattle so held shall be furnished to the Treasurer or National authorities on or before August 1st of each year.

Be it enacted, That it shall be the duty of the said Treasurer or the National Agent to report the names of all persons or parties holding cattle under this law and to certify to the Governor of the

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Chickasaw Nation the names of all persons refusing or neglecting to so report to him their respective stock or to pay the tax on the same.

Be it enacted, That said tax shall be paid into the National Treasury for the credit of the School fund to be expended in the same manner as other school monies.

This petition has been forwarded to Gov. Overton, and will be presented to the Chickasaw people and to their legislature at its next session in September.

That portion of the Chickasaw Nation within the described boundaries as stated by the cattle owners, is entirely unoccupied except by the herds of these United States citizens and their herders. Not a single Chickasaw or other Indian

OCCUPIES OR CULTIVATES

a foot of land within those boundaries, and not a hoof of cattle ever presses that virgin soil or crops a tuft of grass from those fertile plains. Since the creation they have lain untilled and unused, and since owned by the Chickasaws not even a wild Indian has drawn sustenance for a day, except as

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trespassers upon them. It is estimated that not less than

FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND

head of cattle can be kept upon them from the grasses alone that otherwise would be consumed annually by fire, or rot upon the ground, a dead waste. From these 500,000 cattle a tax of 25 cents per head will yield a revenue to the Chickasaws of

\$125,000 FOR SCHOOL PURPOSES.

The number at present grazing there, if permitted to remain and a tax collected on the basis of the Cherokee law on cattle grazing west of 96° (formerly under similar circumstances), would add the enormous sum of \$65,000 annually to the school fund. The Cherokees have wisely adopted a law in compliance with the message of their Honorable Chief, D. W. Bushyhead, to their National Council in November, 1880, (published heretofore in the JOURNAL.) We reproduce that portion relating to this subject. Says Chief Bushyhead:

LANDS WEST OF 96° AND BENEFITS THEREFROM

The Cherokee lands west of 96° of which we

have the right of occupancy and jurisdiction, under the treaty of 1866, except so far as they may be occupied and settled by friendly Indians, under operation of said treaty, may, by prudent management, be made a source of large revenue from the grazing of cattle thereon by non-residents. For years they have occupied the land for such purpose, undisturbed and free from tax. The tax imposed by Art. 1st, Chap. 12th of the Revised Code, for the grazing of cattle, is applicable only to the organized Cherokee Nation, where it is practicable through the Sheriff to collect such tax. The tax for grazing upon the domain west of 96°, being left to the discretion of the Treasurer, was temporarily put at what was considered a reasonable amount, and the policy was adopted to insist upon its payment or the removal of all non-resident grazers from the country. The result has been a considerable income (\$7,500) to date, from those who have heretofore held the range and evaded paying any sum whatever for the privilege. A large income may be expected to be derived from this source in the near future, should the business be wisely managed.

A committee of stockmen grazing cattle west

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of the Arkansas River, it is expected, will visit your Council with a view of agreeing upon some satisfactory plan, including the amount of tax which they should pay in consideration of the protection thereby afforded them as stock grazers in that section of our domain. Our right to levy such a tax has been recognized by the United States, and they are willing to comply with our laws.

For the benefit of our Chickasaw friends we publish the Cherokee law, enacted by the last Council:

(BY AUTHORITY)

AN ACT,

Regulating the tax on stock (grazing) in the Cherokee Nation west of 96°.

Be it Enacted by the National Council: That for the purpose of facilitating the collection of revenue in that portion of the Territory belonging to the Cherokee Nation, situated West of the Arkansas River, the following schedule of rates of taxation, is adopted, and authorized to be levied and collected by the Treasurer of the C. N. to-wit:

For each and every head that is two years, or older of Horses, Mares, Geldings, Jacks, Mules and horned Cattle, for the term of twelve months

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forty (40) cents per head.

For the same, six (6) months, twenty-five (25) cents per head.

For the same, three (3) months, fifteen (15) cents per head.

For each and every head of Horses, Mares, Geldings, Jacks, Mules and horned Cattle of the age of one year, and less than two years old, for the term of twelve (12) months, twenty-five (25) cents per head.

For the same, six (6) months, fifteen (15) cents per head.

For the same, three (3) months, ten (10) cents per head.

For each, and every head of Sheep for twelve (12) months, fifteen (15) cents per head.

For the same, for six (6) months, ten (10) cents per head.

For the same, for three (3) months six (6) cents per head.

For all Cattle, Horses, Mares, Geldings and Mules, held temporarily for a less term of time than three (3) months, ten (10) cents for each and every head, shall be collected.

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Be it further Enacted: That for all revenue collected West of the meridian, the Treasurer and his assistants shall be allowed 20 per cent. of all taxes collected.

(Tahlequah, C. N.)

Approved December 1st 1881.

D. W. BUSHYHEAD,
Principal Chief,
C. N.

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THE INDIAN CHAMPION.

Atoka, Indian Territory
May 10, 1884
Vol. 1, No. 1884
R. M. Roberts, Editor

GOV. WOLF'S MESSAGE.

TO THE LEGISLATURE OF THE CHICKASAW NATION
IN SPECIAL SESSION
AT TISHOMING.

Executive Department
Chickasaw Nation.

Honored Senators and Representatives of the Chickasaw
Legislature assembled.

In pursuance of petitions from the several
counties of the Nation I have deemed it necessary to
convene your honorable body in extra session, to take
under consideration such measures as will better
protect the interest of this people. For your infor-
mation and guidance in your deliberations I would
suggest that inasmuch as certain persons in some of
the counties have erected wice fences in excess of
what is allowed by law, thereby depriving many
citizens of range for their stock, and which is a
source of annoyance to the traveling public, that you

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enact such measures as will cause said fences to be reduced to the limits of the law. I would further suggest that in view of the bill now pending the Congress of the United States providing for the adoption of the freedmen (residing in the Chickasaw Nation) as citizens of said Nation, which if passed by Congress would result in great injury to the Chickasaws as a people, that you take such action in the premises as in your wisdom seem best for the interest of the people. I would also suggest that as the compensation allowed to deputies in assisting the sheriffs and constables of the different counties in the discharge of their duties is so small that it is impossible many times for them to secure the services of good and efficient deputies, that you provide means for the increase of the pay of deputies. I would recommend that inasmuch as my predecessor, Hon. B. F. Overton, offered a reward of \$600 for the apprehension of the parties who murdered David Sealy, Constable of Pontotoc Co., and said service was performed by Mr. Frank Pearce: that you appropriate that amount in favor of Mr. Pearce. I would further recommend that while you are in session if any measure should present itself to your minds whereby the interests and happiness

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of the Chickasaws may be better protected and
advanced, that your honorable body will take such
action as may be necessary to afford all the protection
required.

JONAS WOLF,

Governor Chickasaw Nation.

Tishomingo City, I. T., May 8, '84.

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INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Indian Territory

January 19, 1888

Vol. 6, No. 19

John L. Adair, Editor

OBITUARY ON CYRUS HARRIS

Ex-Governor Cyrus Harris, of the Chickasaw
Nation, died on the 6th inst.

PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, I. T.,
Saturday, March 10, 1888
Vol. 1, No. 17
Ed. P. INGLE, Editor

INTERVIEW WITH W. M. GUY

The Gate City Guide, of last week contained the following as sentiments of our Governor.

"I am going to Washington to prevent if possible, any further legislation affecting the Indian Territory as a whole, and especially the Chickasaw Nation. There is more than enough already. We have between 6,000 and 7,000 people, nearly all of whom are engaged in agriculture. There are farms ranging in size from one to thousands of acres, all in a high state of cultivation under modern methods. Peace and plenty reign, and we are self-sustaining in the fullest sense of the term. I see the commercial bodies of Kansas City have sent out circular letters to various influential business men, inviting them to a conference there, the aim of which is to liquidate the Indian title to the Territorial domain, and throw the country open to white settlers. This would be an injustice to us and open flood-gates which would

swamp our people. And what good could come from it to anyone except to land sharks and adventurers? We are rapidly developing the resources and tilling the soil to the best advantages. Throwing it open to white settlers, even of the honest and industrious class, would only benefit Missouri and Kansas City especially, while thousands of Indians now engaged in honest pursuits would be set adrift. Kansas City is for herself alone, and thus she turns her eyes toward our domain. I have letters and petitions to several congressmen from persons who know me and a number of my people, and upon them I hope to obtain a hearing before the national legislature. In case of success I believe myself able to impart information that will check any movement looking to a disturbance of our present situation and condition."

Gov. Guy's charge is located north of Gainsville and Denison, Texas, with the Comanches on the west and the Choctaws on the east. All of these tribes, he says, are peacefully tilling the soil, and if allowed to continue in the pursuit will make valuable citizens. There are no bickerings or strife among the tribes or their neighbors. -- Memphis Appeal.

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INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Indian Territory
November 15, 1888
Vol. 7, No. 10
John L. Adair, Editor

REPORTED ASSASSINATION OF W. M. GUY

Chickasaw Troubles.--The reported assassination of Governor Guy in the Chickasaw nation is disputed, but the latest information is to the effect that the attempt so aroused his friends that over 300 of them, heavily armed, gathered at Tishomingo Monday to protect him. Bird, with 200 armed men is also in camp near the capital, and unless the United States interfere it was thought a battle would occur Tuesday night. It is said Guy's forces would number 700, the non-citizens having espoused his case against the Byrd party.

THE CHEROKEE ADVOCATE

Tahlequah, Cherokee Nation, I. T.,
Wednesday, January 3, 1894
Vol. 18, No. 18
GEO. O. BUTLER, Editor

MEMORIAL OF C. J. HARRIS

To the President and Congress
of the United States on Statehood
with Oklahoma Territory.

WHEREAS, At conventions held at El Reno, at
Purcell, and November 29th, at Kingfisher, Okla. Terr;
it appears that resolutions were adopted by a major-
ity of those present, addressed to the congress of
the United States, urging the passage of an act to
provide for the admission of Oklahoma and the Indian
Territory as one state: and

WHEREAS, It has been given out by such con-
ventions and published in the leading newspapers of
the United States that such meetings, included dele-
gates or representatives from the Cherokee Nation,
and from the other civilized Indian Nations of the
Indian Territory, which reports and publications
are misleading and unqualifiedly false: Therefore,

Be it resolved by the National Council of
the Cherokee Nation, That the citizens of the Cherokee Nation, as a people, unanimously protest against the injustice and flagrant violation of the solemn obligations of Treaty stipulations contemplated and urged by such conventions, and earnestly declare ourselves as unalterably opposed to any act which shall include this Nation within the boundaries or jurisdiction of Oklahoma as a territory or state; and the Cherokee people unite with the true and loyal citizens of the Creek, Choctaw, Chickasaw and Seminole Nations in their own race and nation in the recent transactions in the opening of that territory, with their daily records of pauperism, fraud and crime, but whose dishonesty and greed seek also to pervert and destroy the autonomy of the five civilized Indian Nations, which existed before the foundations of the United States, as a nation, were laid, whose people compare favorably in education and morality with those of neighboring states, and might be regarded as models where viewed in comparison with the heterogenous elements attempting their union with Oklahoma as a single state; and

Be it further resolved, That the Cherokee Nat-

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ion direct the attention of the President and the congress of the United States, as well as the honest people of that cultured and powerful nation, to the established policy of the Executive Department of the government and to the treaties, acts of congress and laws extending over the past century, as affecting the present powers of congress and the rights of the Cherokee Nation.

In 1825, when the Cherokee Nation was a free, happy and civilized people, living in their own country east of the Mississippi river, under their own laws, and with a well defined and organized government of their own, with homes, farms, factories, schools and churches, the President of the United recommended to congress their removal to a western territory where these people could have more ample scope for their development and progress in the establishment of a permanent home and nation.

In the year 1829, President Jackson, in his message to congress, in furtherance of the suggestions of his predecessor in office, said: "As a means of effecting this end I suggest for your consideration the propriety of setting apart an ample district west of the Mississippi and without the limits of any state

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or territory, to be guaranteed to the Indian tribes as long as they shall occupy it, each tribe having a distinct control over the portion designed for its use. There they may be secured in governments of their own choice, subject to no other control from the United States than such as may be necessary to preserve peace on the frontier and between the several tribes."

Pursuant to the treaty of 1828, with the Western Cherokees and in furtherance of the Presidential recommendations, the act of congress of 1832, was passed setting apart the territory west of the Mississippi, including that now occupied by the Cherokee Nation. The preamble of this treaty speaks of "the anxious desire of the government of the United States to secure to the Cherokee Nation of Indians a permanent home that shall never in all future time be embarrassed by having extended around it the lines, or placed over it the jurisdiction of a state or territory, nor be pressed upon by the extension in any way of any of the limits of any existing territory or state."

The treaty of New Echota, in 1835, reaffirms the provisions of the treaty of 1833, and the fourth Article contains the following provisions:

"The United States hereby covenant and agree

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that the lands ceded to the Cherokee Nation in the foregoing Article shall in no future time, without their consent, be included within the territorial limits or jurisdiction of any state or territory, but they shall secure to the Cherokee Nation the right by their National Council to make and carry into effect all such laws as they may deem necessary for the government and protection of the persons and property within their own country, belonging to their own people or such persons as have connected themselves with them."

By the first Article of the treaty of 1846, it is proclaimed that the lands now occupied by the Cherokee Nation "shall be secured to the whole Cherokee people for their common use and benefit." Again under the treaty of 1866, "The United States guarantees to the people of the Cherokee Nation the quiet and peaceable possession of their country. They shall also be protected against interruptions, or intrusions from all unauthorized citizens of the United States who may attempt to settle on their lands, or reside in their country" and by the thirty-first Article, "All the provisions of the treaties heretofore ratified and in force and not inconsistent with the provisions of the treaty, are hereby reaffirmed and declared to be in full force."

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Similar laws, declarations and treaties have been made from time to time on the part of the government of the United States applicable to each and all of the five civilized Indian Nations. By these the permanency of their inheritance, the common ownership of their lands, the freedom of the people, and the perpetuity of these Indian Nations and governments are solemnly guaranteed, the people of the Cherokee Nation are a unit, and speak with one voice, demanding of the United States the continuance and enforcement of these guarantees, and they stand upon their rights under the sacred and lasting provisions of the fundamental laws of the Nation, and no delegate or representative of the Cherokee Nation has ever proposed any other course, or acceded to any other doctrine: and

Be it further resolved, That the attention of the honest people of the United States is directed to the evidences of the civilization and the capacity, of the Cherokee people for self-government. The fundamental law of the Nation is a written constitution adopted by the people September 6, 1839, which stands by the side of the treaties with the United States. The Executive Department of the Nation is in charge of a Principal Chief, and Executive Council of three,

a National Treasurer, Auditor, and other officers; the Judiciary Department comprise a Supreme Court, three Circuit Courts, and nine District Courts, with clerks and other proper administrative officers. The Legislative Department consists of a National Council composed of a Senate of eighteen members, and a Lower House of forty members, elected by the votes of the citizens of the Nation, and holding office for two years. The laws of the Nation are codified and printed in the English language as well as in the Cherokee tongue and alphabet. The Cherokee Nation has an institution provided at public expense, as a home for the aged and infirm, an Asylum for the insane and feeble minded, an institution for the care, maintenance and education of the orphan children. There are churches representing the different christian denominations in every city, village and neighborhood; and above all the Cherokee Nation has a free educational system that will bear comparison with that of any State in the Union. It has one hundred district schools and also three Seminaries or colleges in which the languages and higher branches are taught, and a liberal education is given the youth of the Nation of both sexes. And attention is especially called to the fact that the

record of crime and illiteracy is lower in the Cherokee Nation than in many of the States in the Union; and that there are some States which contain tracts of land as large as the area of the Cherokee Nation in which there is not a single public school.

And be it further resolved, That the Cherokee people in common with those of the other civilized Indian nations, have never either directly or indirectly asked or suggested their union with Oklahoma for any purpose. Nor have they as yet felt the necessity or desirability of the organization of the five nations into an Indian state, and until such necessity or desire shall appear the Cherokee people do, and of right can, rely upon the plain guarantees contained in their solemn treaties, and upon the good faith of the United States, for the protection of their liberties, their homes and the government of their fathers.

Be it further resolved, That the Principal Chief be instructed to furnish the President of the United States with a copy of these resolutions, as well as the Commissioner on Indian Affairs, and a copy to the Delegation to be appointed to represent the Cherokee Nation at Washington, D. C., also a copy to each of the Governors, or Chiefs of the Creek, Semi-

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nole, Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

Be it further resolved, That the principal request of Governors, or Chiefs of the Nations aforesaid, of said Indian Territory, is a line of national action in defense of the interest of the Nations, and to protest in common against the annexation of the Indian Territory, of the Territory of Oklahoma for any purpose whatever.

Passed the Senate December 5th, 1893:

C. W. WILLEY,
Clerk of Senate.

RICHARD M. WOLFE,
President of Senate.

Concurred in by the Council December 6th, 1893:

J. H. DICK,
Clerk of Council.

BIRD JONES,
Speaker of Council.

Approved December 7th, 1893:

C. J. HARRIS,
PRINCIPAL CHIEF.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, Feb. 1, 1894
Vol. 8 ----- No. 40
B. S. Smiser,) Editors
Norma E. Smiser,)

GOVERNOR WOLF'S MESSAGE

To the Chickasaw Legislature.

Tishomingo City, I. T.

January 24th, 1894.

To the Senate and House, of representatives, of the
Chickasaw Nation:

Our Heavenly Father has watched over the
people of the Chickasaw Nation and has spared the mem-
bers of your Honorable bodies to meet once more at the
Capitol to look after the welfare of the Chickasaw
people, and I am happy to meet you all.

There is a great question being agitated
throughout the United States upon which depends the
very existence of the Five Civilized Tribes. The
policy advocated almost universally by the press in
the Territory as well as abroad is detrimental to our
existence and calculated to do our Nations grievous
harm. This question is allotment and statehood and
it should be strenuously opposed by each of the Five

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Tribes, to the end that we may retain our tribal forms of government and the holding of our lands in common as it is today. I now recommend to your Honorable body that you pass a law providing for the election of two delegates to attend to all the business pertaining to the welfare of the Chickasaw people at Washington.

I further recommend that your Honorable body investigate a law that was passed by the Legislature at its last session, to provide for the education of certain Chickasaw children, by which law an appropriation was made which was considered to be sufficient for their erudition and education. From the complaints that have since been made to me it appears that the amount appropriated has proven entirely insufficient and the matter is submitted to you for your consideration.

I further call the attention of your Honorable body to the pressing necessity of a new Capitol building at Tishomingo City. In this connection you have to consider our present indebtedness and decide whether to increase it for the purpose mentioned.

It is for the consideration of these three questions that I have convened the Legislature in extra session.

JONAS WOLF,

Governor Chickasaw Nation.

MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.
June 28, 1894
Vol. 7, No. 19
Simpson, Manager

CALL ISSUED BY GOV. McCLURE

Ardmore, Ind. Ter.

June 23

From parties just in from Tishomingo it is learned that the called session of the Chickasaw legislature which met there Monday on call of Acting Governor McClure, dissolved without accomplishing anything. Those foreign to McClure's ideas claimed the call to be illegal, and refused to act or recognize his authority. McClure has issued a second call for special session of the legislature to meet at Tishomingo on July 9, to take action on propositions submitted by the Dawes commission in regard to the allotment of their lands.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, September 12, 1895
Vol. 10 No. 20
B. S. Smiser)
Norma E. Smiser) Editors

MESSAGE OF GOV. MOSELEY

Ardmore, I. T.,

Sept. 7.--

Gov. Palmer S. Mosley to-day delivered his message to the Chickasaw legislature now in session. The message was delivered in the Chickasaw tongue and interpreted into the English by an interpreter. Touching on education he says:

"The Chickasaws spend large sums of money annually for the education of Chickasaw children at schools and colleges in the states. I would recommend that a law for the education and maintenance of children of the Chickasaw Nation at non-resident schools be abolished throughout the Indian Territory. Touching on the Dawes commission I desire to call your attention to the presence in our country of the commission known as the Dawes commission appointed by the President to treat with the five tribes with reference to allotment. I feel that it is due the United States and its representatives on the committee that this nation take some action with reference to the matter that they are sent here by the United States government to en-

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quire and treat with us on. I would recommend that a committee be appointed to represent the Chickasaw nation and meet the Dawes commission and learn from them what the United States desires to do and their terms, etc., so that they may be submitted to our people or their representatives for their approval or rejection. I feel that the United States, as well as its committee, is entitled at least this much consideration from our people, and trust that you will give the matter early consideration." He asks that an appropriation be made to enable him to enforce the law against encroachment upon the public domain by destroying wire fences around large tracts. In conclusion he says our standing as a nation can only be judged by the character of laws we enact and method of enforcing them. You will enact such laws as will best promote the interests of our people.-- DALLAS NEWS.

In line with Gov. Mosley's recommendation in reference to the Chickasaw schools, we clip the following from the annual report of Hon. C. D. Carter, superintendent of public instruction of the Chickasaw Nation:

"We have come now to a department of our school system which may properly be called an orphan. The law pertaining to same as it now stands is an absurdity. Any child who is desirous, can attend some school outside of our nation, the nation paying for same at the rate of \$15.00 per month per pupil, and yet no official of the nation has any supervision over the schools so attended, the scholars themselves, or the course of education they shall receive, at the same time, our own schools, only partly filled, and yet under the same expenses as though filled with scholars to their utmost capacity. The

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system is also liable to abuse. Instances have been recited where pupils have only attended such schools three months and the faculty received pay for entire term, making statement that the pupils had attended the school for ten months. I have in my possession a communication which was received from a principal of one of these schools which begins thus:

"Allow me to make you an offer, and let it be in strictest confidence." He then continues, that he thinks it perfectly legitimate to allow me eight per cent of all funds thrown in his hands in addition to binding himself to turn all warrants to me at a discount of 40 per cent. Nothing but useless expense and injury to students can come from attending such schools. In one of our own academies there has been during the past year for a period of nearly six months, thirty vacancies, a loss to the nation in that one academy of \$2,800. This amount would have been saved had there been no such a law on our statute books. With additional vacancies for fifteen young ladies at one of our female institutions, with the facilities of our male academies for advanced scholars, the instruction furnished in our neighborhood schools to our primary scholars we have no need at present, for any other school' instruction for our people, with the exception of a special state scholar appropriation, for young ladies who have completed the course at Bloomfield Seminary. I can not refrain in justice to confidence which has been extended to me in entrusting the schools of the nation to my supervision, in justice to the people of the nation

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who must pay expense, and in justice to our own National schools, from protesting against this unjust, useless and expensive law longer remaining upon our statute books, and do earnestly request that the same may be brought to the attention of the honorable legislature with the request that the same be repealed."

Continuing in his report Superintendent Carter makes the financial review of the schools as follows:

"The approximated annual expenditures for the past scholastic year ending June 30th, 1895, are as follows:

	Av. Enrollment.	Amt.
Special state scholars	12	\$3,600
Academies, including trustees' salaries	218	34,290
Neighborhood schools including teachers and trustees' salaries	324	16,000
General state schools, 53 certificates at \$150	53	7,950
Chickasaw Orphan Home	61	8,500
Superintendents' salaries		750
Expense visiting special state scholars		250
Total	668	\$71,340

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, Jan. 28, 1897
Vol. 11, No. 40
B. S. Smiser, Editor
Norma E. Smiser, M

ACT APPROVED BY HARRIS, R. M.

An act creating a commission to visit Washington City, D; C., to protest against the ratification by congress of the agreement made and entered into between the Dawes commission, on the part of the United States, and the Choctaws at Muscogee on the 19th day of December, 1896.

Whereas, there was an agreement made and entered into at Muscogee, Indian Territory, on the 18th day of December, 1896, by and between the Dawes Commission on the part of the United States and commissioners duly elected on the part of the Choctaw Nation of Indians, and the Chickasaw government is included in said articles of agreement, although they had no representatives there to take care of their interests, the agreement was duly signed, witnessed and forwarded to the president of the United States and,

Whereas it is a well-known fact that the Chickasaws have a government of their own which they have

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managed and controlled for many years, independent of the Choctaws and have always been respected as an independent government, not only by the Choctaws, but also by the government of the United States in making treaties and otherwise, and the action taken by the Choctaws in such an agreement does the Chickasaws a great injustice, as they are supposed to be able to take care of themselves, both mentally and financially, and should they desire to negotiate with the Dawes commission for the cessation of their government, they have the right to do so, but dislike the authority usurped by the Choctaws in signing the agreement thereby destroying their tribal autonomy without their consent, as they were equally interested with the Choctaws in the lands and minerals and should have the right to say what disposition should be made of their prorata share of the country as well as the Choctaws, therefore

Sec. 1. Be it enacted by the legislature of the Chickasaw nation, that there be appointed by the governor of the Chickasaw nation six competent persons, (Commissioners Guy and Brown to be added, not increasing their salary) to be commissioned by the governor whose duty it shall be to visit Washington, D. C., without delay and enter a protest against the ratification by

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congress of the agreement made and entered into by and between the Dawes commission and the Choctaws, at Muscogee on the 18th day of December, 1896, and if possible prevent the same so far as it refers to the Chickasaw nation.

Sec. 2. Be it further enacted that the governor accompany said commission, and is hereby declared to be a member thereof, and ex-officio chairman of the same, and the tenure of office bill is hereby suspended during the time the services of the commission will be needed.

Sec. 3. Be it further enacted that the commissioners so appointed shall have full and efficient power to negotiate with the Dawes commission or any other commission on the part of the government of the United States, for the present manner of holding land in common, to the holding in severalty by the Chickasaw people all monies due them in a reasonable time and place the Chickasaw people in peaceable possession of their prorata share of the land and remove all intruders therefrom.

Sec. 4. Be it further enacted that all the lands so allotted to the citizens of the Chickasaw nation shall be inalienable and the townsites leased for a fair rental per annum, all ground rentals shall be paid by the lessee into the United States Sub-Treasury at St.

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Louis, Mo., subject to the disposal of the legislature of the Chickasaw nation

Sec. 5. Be it further enacted that the revenues derived from the minerals, oil coal and natural gas etc., shall be used for the education of the Chickasaw children and should it be more than necessary for that purpose the overplus shall be paid into the sub-treasury at St. Louis, Mo., subject to the disposal of the Chickasaw legislature.

Sec. 6. Be it further enacted that there shall be two competent persons, citizens of the Chickasaw nation to act in connection with the commissioners on the part of the United States government in grading and classifying the land to be allotted to the Chickasaw people and the pay of said assistant commissioners shall not exceed two thousand dollars each per annum and their actual expenses while on duty.

Sec. 7. Be it further enacted that the agreement made and entered into by the Chickasaw commissioners and the commission on the part of the United States shall not be of any validity until it is ratified by the legislature of the Chickasaw nation and then submitted to the Chickasaw people for their approval or rejection.

Sec. 8. Be it further enacted that the six

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commissioners so appointed shall each receive as compensation for his services the sum of fifteen hundred dollars, and the governor one thousand dollars, to defray his expense in going to and returning from Washington, D. C., and the auditor of the public accounts is hereby directed to issue his warrant on the treasurer in favor of the commissioners and the governor for the amount due each one, and the treasurer shall pay the same out of any money in the treasury not otherwise appropriated.

Sec. 9. Be it further enacted that in case of death, resignation or otherwise, that there should be a vacancy in said commission, the governor shall appoint some competent person to fill such vacancy and his salaries and duties shall be the same while in actual service. And this act is to take effect from and after its passage.

Recommended by committee on governor's message.

Approved January 15th, 1897.

R. M. HARRIS,
Governor C. N.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
Thursday, July 29, 1897.
Vol. XII. No. 14
S. Smiser,)
Norma E. Smiser,) Editors

MESSAGE OF R. M. HARRIS

Ardmore, I. T.,
July 23.

Gentlemen:

In compliance with the provisions of an act of your legislature of Jan. 18, 1897, I have called you together in extra session so that you can either approve or reject the contracts made and entered into by and between the superintendent of public instruction and the board of trustees of the Chickasaw nation on July 2, 1897. Owing to the financial condition of the treasury of the Chickasaw nation at the present time. I would recommend that you make some change in the present school laws, especially those relating to the academies. Under the present law contractors are paid for full time, whether they

board and teach the full number of pupils they contract for or not; and there is no way by which the nation can be reimbursed for such negligence on the part of the school board who have such matters under their charge. For this the Chickasaw people pay out annually many thousand dollars and no benefit whatever is derived. This unnecessary expenditure should be stopped. In a great number of instances the parents of children selected to attend the schools at the academies are not able financially to furnish their children with necessary clothing that they would wish them to have, consequently many children are kept away from school. Yet the nation pays for the board and tuition of the same where they never attended school. Such cases should be remedied without further delay.

I recommend that Collins institute and Wapanucka academy be changed and operated under the same system as the Chickasaw orphans' home. This system was established in the first instance merely as an experiment and it has proven to be the most successful and advantageous system we now have. I suggest that you in your wisdom formulate some plan which will be both advantageous to the Chickasaw

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people and return to them value received for the money annually expended by them for educational purposes with the hope of being benefited by the same. In compliance with the law of the Chickasaw nation approved March 1, 1897, entitled "An act creating a commission to negotiate with the Dawes commission," and the Choctaws, being mutually interested with the Chickasaws, also had a commission appointed for the same purpose, I addressed a letter to his excellency, Green McCurtain, principal chief of the Choctaw nation, whose answer to the same is herewith submitted to ascertain if possible at what time and place it would suit him and his commission to meet and confer with the Chickasaw commission.

We met according to agreement at Atoka, Choctaw nation, after which I, with the Chickasaw commission, duly elected and qualified, met with the Choctaw commission and the Dawes commission at the same place and on the 23d day of April, 1897, succeeded in entering into an agreement with the Choctaw and Dawes commissions, which agreement is herewith submitted to your honorable body for your consideration as provided for by the act of the legis-

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lature of the Chickasaw nation creating said commission.

In the event that anything occurs to my mind that should need your attention I will make it known to you by special message. In conclusion I would respectfully ask of you that you have as speedy a session as will be possible as well as profitable in order to incur as little expense as possible.

R. M. HARRIS,
Governor
Chickasaw Nation.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, September 15, 1898

Vol. 13 No. 21

B. S. Smiser)
Norma E. Smiser) Editors

THE CHICKASAW LEGISLATURE

Tishomingo, I. T.

Sept. 6.

The Chickasaw legislature met today and completed its organization, and in joint session counted the votes, which showed the Hon. D. H. Johnson elected governor and the Hon. D. T. Ward attorney general. Hon. R. M. Harris, the outgoing governor, in his farewell address, stated the conditions of the tribal government in a brief manner, expressing his esteem and regard for his fellow citizens and promising his support to the new administration as follows:

(Continued)

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THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.,
Friday, February 10, 1899
Vol. 12 No. 11
W. H. Walker, Editor

MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

Executive Department,
Chickasaw Nation,
Tishomingo, I. T.

To the Honorable Members of the
House and Senate of the
Chickasaw Legislature Assembled:

Gentlemen:

I have again called your honorable bodies
together in extraordinary session for the purposes which
I shall submit in as brief a manner as possible, consist-
ent with ample explanations.

You no doubt fully appreciate the fact of our
unsettled and restricted condition with the United States,
and can only act for and in behalf of ourselves as we
receive information from that government relative to our
matters.

An important question to which I desire to call your attention is to the most equitable disposition of the money now due us, known as the "arrears of interest on Chickasaw moneys," an appropriation in section 29 of the act of congress approved June 28, 1898, for the benefit of the Chickasaw Nation, which has been placed to the credit of the nation on the books of the treasury department at Washington, under the following titles of appropriations:

Interest on the Chickasaw	
incompetent fund	\$240,754.99
Interest on the Chickasaw	
national fund.....	317,765.55
Total	\$ 558,520.54

After ten per cent for attorney's fees has been deducted, there still remains to the credit of the nation \$502,668.50.

In 1834 the United States entered into a treaty with the Chickasaws, the effect of which was to add to the trust fund of the Chickasaw Nation the proceeds of the sales of lands of the incompetents and the orphans, hence it appears that it would be competent for our legislature to authorize the distribution of the same, as to the right to properly disburse said money is with

the legislature.

In a communication dated the 12th inst., through the Hon. J. George Wright, United States Indian inspector, with the Interior department in regard to the disposal of the "arrears of interest," I have received information to the effect that the department would not feel warranted in disbursing said money without legislative authority.

Therefore, I recommend that you authorize by legislative action that so much of said "arrears of interest" as may be necessary be placed to the credit of our national treasurer to pay our outstanding indebtedness and current expenses, and balance to be a per capita payment to the Chickasaw citizens by a bonded officer of the United States, as the law requires in such payments.

I recommend, urge and insist that necessary action be taken to perfect the appropriation for the Chickasaw Orphan Home, which I believe, passed the house at our last session.

And, to be brief, I recommend that all other unfinished business of the extra session be considered and disposed of as you may deem best.

In order to facilitate your work, you will find me ever willing to consult with you on any matters per-

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taining to our interest.

Trusting your present session may be as speedy
and harmonious as was your last, I am very respectfully
your obedient servant,

D. H. JOHNSTON.

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THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.
Friday, March 31, 1899
Vol. 12 No. 18
W. H. Walker, Editor

EDITORIAL ON R. M. HARRIS

Ex-Gov. R. M. Harris of the Chickasaw nation was in the city today, having returned from South McAlester, where he has been attending a session of the Dawes commission.

"What has the commission done toward settling appealed cases, governor?" a Herald reporter asked him.

"They did nothing. All that was done was to take testimony in cases and file the stenographic reports. Chairman Bixby was in Washington, and did not reach South McAlester during the session of the commission, and the body, composed of A. B. McKennon and Col. T. B. Needls would take no action on the cases while the chairman was absent. The commission adjourned its sitting in South McAlester last night and returned to Muscogee, where they will remain until they start out to enroll the Choctaw citizens.

Evidence was heard in a great number of appealed Chickasaw citizenship cases, but none of them have been decided, and I was informed by the commission that they would not be decided till there was a full meeting of the commission to go over the evidence and settle the cases according to the evidence that has been secured and filed. There are a great many claimants who are anxious as to what the outcome will be, and will await decisions."

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka Indian Territory
Thursday, April 27, 1899.
Vol. 14. No. 1.
B. S. Smiser,)
Norma E. Smiser,) Editors.

EDITORIAL ON D. H. JOHNSTON

Tishomingo, I. T.

April 20.

The bill which was passed by the Chickasaw legislature recently appropriating the sum of \$2-00,000 has been returned approved by the president of the United States, and very soon Gov. D. H. Johnston's cherished policy, paying the national indebtedness during his administration, will be realized. The law making the appropriation provides for a commission to sit at Tishomingo, I. T., the national capital, for the purpose of investigating all Chickasaw warrants, approving and "O King" the same before making payment. This commission will convene on Monday, May 2. Gov. Johnston stated to-day that he would appoint the following members: Cub Ream of Ardmore, as clerk, and

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James Colbert of Colbert, I. T., and James Perry of Center, I. T., as two of the commissioners. The third man is not definitely determined upon.

The following notice to the holders of Chickasaw scrip has been given to the public:

Notice to holders of Chickasaw warrants --
Notice is hereby given to all parties holding Chickasaw warrants that a commission will convene at Tishomingo, I. T., on Monday, May 2, 1899, for the purpose of investigating and "O K'ing" all Chickasaw warrants that the same be paid under the provisions of the act of the legislature of the Chickasaw nation providing for same.

D. H. JOHNSTON,
Governor Chick. N.

It is believed that all the work will be completed and the debts paid in sixty or ninety days.

The new "Johnston permit law" is working better than any bill of former years. It is estimated that it will put \$150,000 into the Chickasaw treasury annually.

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THE INDIAN CITIZEN.

Atoka, Indian Territory
Thursday, September 13, 1900
Vol. 15, No. 21
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

CHICKASAW LEGISLATURE.

GOVERNOR JOHNSTON'S MESSAGE AN ABLE AND
LENGTHY DOCUMENT.

The following are the officers of the House
and Senate elected at Tishomingo by the legislature:
Speaker of the House-- Lewis Colbert.
Temporary President of the Senate-- Nelson
Chigley.

Temporary Clerk of the House-- Tom Greenwood.
Clerk of the Senate-- Charles Hurst.
Interpreter for the House-- Albert McDonald.
Interpreter for the Senate-- George Colbert.
Sergeant for the House-- Olen Tyruki.
Secretary of Senate-- Martin Chigley.
Sergeant for the Senate-- Richard Deering.
The following is Governor's Johnston's annual
message to the legislature:

Executive Department,
Chickasaw Nation,
Tishomingo, I. T., September 4, 1900.
To the Honorable members of the Senate and House of
Representatives of the Chickasaw Nation, in Legis-
lature Assembled:

In obedience to the law and custom, I, as
Chief Executive of Chickasaw Nation, herewith communi-
cate to you, upon this occasion of your assembling
in regular session, my annual message.

In discharging this duty, I not only obey the

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law, but have pleasure in laying before you specific information of the exigencies which have arisen during the past year, requiring the exercise of my best judgment and discretion, as your Chief Executive; and of now considering with you as legislators selected by the suffrages of our people, the many grave questions that confront us.

I indulge the ... by the exercise of wisdom, conservatism, and patriotic devotion ... welfare of our people, we shall not only arrive at a just ... solution of the questions that may arise in the regular ... legislation; but that we may, by grateful acknowledgement of the consideration and protection heretofore accorded us by our guardian, the government of the United States, and a firm reliance upon the solemn and plainly written obligations of our treaty, so recently made as to be still fresh in the minds of all whose duty it is to obey and execute its provisions, impel a continuation of that consideration and protection always due from the strong and powerful to helpless dependents and which we, as the wards of that government, may rightfully claim and expect.

The assembling of the present session of the Legislature, marks the closing of my first and the

beginning of my second term as Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, and I may, with propriety, here express the human sentiment of gratitude for the endorsement of my public services with which our people have recently honored me. My ambition has been to serve them faithfully and well; and actuated by the same impulse, and relying with confidence upon their cooperation and that of their representatives here assembled, and trusting that we may always have that Divine guidance never withheld from a worthy cause or deserving people. I fondly hope that the next two years may witness the successful termination of the plans and policies now under way for the relief of our people from past and threatened wrongs so that when our lands shall have been allotted and our moneys and other property distributed, our people may be convinced of the justness of the guardianship of the United States government, and be thereby enabled, when tribal dissolution shall come, to assume the dignity and responsibilities of American citizenship, with sentiments of voluntary loyalty and allegiance.

I shall proceed to take up in their order the various subjects which I deem proper to herein refer to, and shall consider them first, by giving

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and just; and the law itself, if confined to the scope of its original purpose, would have resulted in no particular injury to the Choctaws and Chickasaws.

This law was immediately seized upon by unscrupulous lawyers and claim agents and sent out to the world. It was raised and held almost as a beacon. Hordes of white adventurers who had never lived in the Indian Territory or claimed Indian citizenship, responded by rushing in from the borders of the surrounding states. They were spurred on by their cupidity and inspired by the hope of acquiring, without regard to means, allotments of the rich land of the Choctaws and Chickasaws. Applications for citizenship were filed with the Dawes commission by the thousands, and thus the laudable purposes of the law were prostituted to selfish and heartless ends, and the land of our people, conveyed to them as a heritage by the Great Father, when the nation and century were young, were thus wickedly jeopardized.

The Dawes commission was composed of five members, four of whom were trained lawyers, and whose special duty was to investigate claims and the laws that governed. After careful consideration and assiduous labor extending over several months, this

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special tribunal erected by the government for this special work, rejected practically all of these applicants. Practically all appealed to the United States court and practically all were admitted.

The judges of the court had just been appointed from the states, were overworked and unfamiliar, in a degree, with conditions in the Indian Territory, and the governing questions of law, which were new and applicable only to such conditions. The dockets of the court were already overcrowded with regular business, and these citizenship appeals threw thereon several hundred new cases.

Instead of simply reviewing the judgments of the Dawes commission in an appellate capacity, as was certainly contemplated by the law, upon demand of applicants and citizenship attorneys, these cases were tried anew and without regard to, or benefit of, the action of the Dawes commission.

In the very nature of things the judges could not give to these cases, or the laws of the tribes by which they were to be determined, any degree of that mature consideration which the vastness of the interests involved, merited. For conclusive evidence of this it is only necessary to refer to the conflict-

ing and inconsistent decisions of the judges of the Central and Southern District of the Indian Territory by whom these cases were tried and judgments rendered. While the rights of Choctaw and Chickasaw citizenship and the laws upon several of the most important questions, are actly opposite. The conflicts of opinion affect, either favorably, the status of several hundred persons, and develop a paradoxical condition never before equalled, perhaps in the history of jurisprudence in this or any other country. The presumable province of appellate tribunals is to harmonize conflicting opinions, yet, here are two courts vested only with appellate jurisdiction under the law, with identical laws, questions and interests before them, that have rendered final judgments as far at variance as the poles, and which involve property interests valued at miblions of dollars.

These cases were placed upon the equity side of the docket and referred to masters in chancery. The judges could only hurriedly read the reports of the masters, and it was upon their findings that the judgments were rendered. The tender protecting care, which it is the duty of the government to extend over its helpless wards, and which was evidenced by the

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you full information as to what has been done by me and the other officers and agencies of our government acting under and with me, since your last session, and then, generally acquaint you with the present status of such matter; and thereafter I shall recommend such legislative action as, in my judgment, may be needful and wise.

CITIZENSHIP.

The ONE question, in my judgment, in which the Chickasaws (and also the Choctaws, as our landed interests are joint) are most vitally interested is that of citizenship.

The Chickasaw Citizenship Commission and the Nation's attorneys heretofore appointed are guarding our interests in the preparation of citizenship rolls by the Dawes Commission, and will so proceed in the regular discharge of such duties until the completion of the work before them. I desire, at this time to lay before you for your special consideration full information as to that class of citizenship claimants known as "Court people," to the end that you may, by appropriate legislative action, forward the plans and policies now under way for the protection of our Nation and people therefrom.

As is generally known, approximately four thousand persons now have what purport to be judgments of the United States court admitting them to Choctaw and Chickasaw citizenship. They are clamoring to be enrolled upon these judgments, and to be given allotments of the lands of the Choctaw and Chickasaws, aggregating in value perhaps twenty million dollars.

The Nations contend that these persons are neither legally nor morally entitled to citizenship nor to share in the division of our property. Our attorneys are contesting their claims upon every possible ground, and availing themselves of every means known to the law and legal procedure to that end; and in the meantime it behooves the Chickasaw people, and you as their representatives to lose no opportunity in informing Congress and the Department of this great wrong so, that they may, in the light of this information, be enabled to look with favor upon the measures that shall be suggested for our relief.

I suggest this procedure advisedly. The great government of the United States cannot afford to proceed otherwise than justly and rightfully. If these persons are entitled to Choctaw and Chickasaw citizenship and the judgments upon which they rely are valid,

they will be enrolled and receive allotments of land. If, on the other hand it becomes convinced that these persons are NOT SO entitled, and that a great wrong has been done our people, a means of relief WILL be provided. Firm in this belief that justice and right will prevail, and that this great wrong will not be allowed to stand as a blot upon the pages of American history; and that, in order to secure this relief, it only remains to convince those charged with the duty of administering our affairs,, of the true moral and legal aspect of these citizenship proceedings, it becomes our duty to proceed with the work before us with a frankness of expression and earnestness of purpose commensurate with the interests involved.

The world, in my opinion, does not furnish a parallel to the methods employed and the impositions practiced by applicants and citizenship attorneys in procuring these judgments. The grossest and most flagrant frauds and the most wicked perjury were practiced. In many cases the testimony upon which such judgments were rendered was unblushingly bought and paid for.

I make these statements after having fully considered the meaning weight of such language. The

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moral aspect of these proceedings is now well known and conceded by all except those directly interested and implicated. I think I may safely state that not only an overwhelming majority of white people who reside within the limits of our Nation, but the officers of the United States government, both judicial and departmental, from the lowest to the highest, with scarcely a single exception, are convinced that these proceedings stand as a monumental wrong, and would join in our petition for relief. During the last year our attorneys have unearthed and brought to light many of the most shocking instances of fraud and perjury, upon which judgments have been rendered admitting hundreds of persons to Choctaw and Chickasaw citizenship. These persons now clamoring, unabashed and without shame or remorse of conscience and with greater show of insistence than our own people, for allotments of Choctaw-Chickasaw lands.

The records of the court itself stand as a towering monument to the character of these practices and call for relief in terms stronger than we can possibly employ. The judge of the United States court for the Southern District of the Indian Territory, upon having his attention called to certain judgments,

by the attorneys for the Nations, peremptorily struck out nearly two hundred names from an aggregate of something over six hundred. This action was secured in cases where the fraud was so palpable as to preclude any defense from those implicated.

It is not my purpose to criticise the courts or the judges thereof, and it will not avail those interested, or attorneys implicated with them, to attempt to break the force of these statements by alleging that our contention as to the moral aspect of these proceedings is an attack upon the federal judiciary of the Indian Territory. Such proceedings are as great a fraud upon the court as upon the Choctaw and Chickasaw people, and it is my firm belief that the court would gladly correct all the frauds and wrongs that have been done, if within its power. They are, furthermore, as much a fraud upon the government of the United States as upon the court and our people; and since Congress and the Department have the power to correct, and since it is within our power to lay our appeal, and the facts in support thereof, before them in such a manner as that no one with honest instincts and impulses of fairness can question its merit or justness, we may confidently hope that right-

ful and adequate relief is near at hand.

To those familiar with conditions here as they have developed the reason for this condition is apparent. When the law of June 10, 1896, was passed, vesting the Dawes commission with citizenship jurisdiction, and providing for an appeal therefrom to the United States court, no one could foresee the magnitude of its effect. Congress, at the time, had in view the allotment of all tribal lands, and was proceeding step by step to that end. A revision of our tribal rolls was, from the standpoint of the government, a preliminary step essential to a fair and just allotment. It was claimed that there were a few Indians who, for political reasons, were denied enrollment by the tribal authorities, and to correct this the Dawes commission, previously organized and sent out for this special work, was vested with citizenship jurisdiction. It was suggested further that the judgments of the Dawes commission should be subjected to review by some appellate tribunal, and thus a provision for appeal to the court was added to the law.

The purpose that actuated the representatives of the Interior Department who advised this legislation, and of Congress acting upon such advice, was laudable

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judgments of the Dawes commission, specially representing the government in this particular work was not, and under these conditions could not be, present in the court. The cases were decided upon cold rules of law and legal procedure, without reference to whether the Indians were represented by counsel or protected by testimony.

(TO BE CONTINUED)

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory
Thursday, September 20, 1900
Vol. 15 No. 22
Norma E. Smiser, Editor and Manager

MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

(Concluded from last week)

Our people, a helpless and a trusting tribe of Indians, were forced by their guardian, the United States government, into its own court. Opposed to them were white adventurers, greedy and alert, who rushed in upon us with the avowed purposes of doing that which has been accomplished; and guided and advised by attorneys and claim agents, equally interested, and moved by the same impulses. Our people were unskilled in such procedure, and not knowing just what to do or where to turn, and wondering just why their guardian, the government of the United States, had forcibly thrust them into the midst of this maelstrom of plot and intrigue, and never realizing the meaning

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or magnitude of it all, and trusting all the while that their guardian to whom only they could look for protection would stem the tide that threatened to overwhelm them, and lead them back to a place of safety, our people could scarcely more than stand in helpless confusion, and join in the amazement the whole country expressed, when the course of pillage and plunder had been run, and it was found that the public domain of the Choctaws and Chickasaws was covered and claimed by an alien race asserting rights of citizenship, and tribal property valued at approximately twenty millions of dollars, jeopardized.

The boast of the government and its representatives is that whatever it does shall not only be legal, but RIGHT. It is now generally conceded that these judgments are WRONG. Will the government respond to our appeal by saying that to grant such relief would delay the work of allotment, or that such judgments have become final under the rules of the court where rendered, and that by reason of the delay that might result, they ought not, and by reason of their finality, under the rules of the court, they cannot be disturbed, and must stand? It will not, in my opinion, as guardian, thus respond to the appeal

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of its helpless wards.

These "Court people" do not look like Indians. They do not act like Indians, and have none of the features or attributes of Indians. They are white people from the hillsides of the surrounding states, and would be so declared by any intelligent jury of citizens from any state in the Union. When the law of 1896 was passed they speculated as to the possibilities of acquiring allotments of land. They heeded the beacon. They determined to take the chances, adopted the means here described and these judgments resulted.

Aside from these moral considerations, it is contended by the Nations that these judgments are void and cannot be legally enforced. The lands of the Choctaws and Chickasaws are held in common by fee simple title. These applicants sued only one Nation and took judgment against only one Nation. They now seek thereby to acquire allotments of land belonging jointly to the two Nations. This contention has been raised by our attorneys during the past year, and lodged with the Dawes Commission, the Interior Department, the committee of Congress and elsewhere, and will be pressed at all times and upon all occasions with an earnestness and firmness of purpose

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commensurate with the interests involved; and in the event this legal contention prevails it will appear to have been an instrument in the hands of justice to right the wrongs already done the Choctaws and Chickasaws, and to prevent those that now threaten.

I have thus given you detailed information of these citizenship proceedings in order that you may adequately appreciate the exigencies that confront us, and be enabled to act in the light thereof. I have suggested both the moral and legal considerations upon which we may rely for relief, and the question now recurs as to what is proper to be done to this end by the present session of the legislature.

I recommend that you petition congress by a memorial of your body carefully drawn and specifically setting forth these past and threatened wrongs to the Choctaws and Chickasaws in citizenship matters, and earnestly request that such relief be granted at the coming session as will, in its judgment, be just and proper in the premises.

UNLAWFUL POSSESSIONS OF LANDS.

Akin to the foregoing is another wrong now assuming distressing proportions: that of the unlaw-

ful and forcible possession of our lands. It is not only held that there is now no authority anywhere vested to admit any person to citizenship, and that the Dawes Commission has only jurisdiction to enroll those heretofore enrolled and recognized by the tribal authorities, or lawfully admitted under the act of June 10, 1896, but the recent Indian appropriation bill, approved May, 31 1900, provides that the Dawes Commission shall not even receive, consider or make any record of the application of any persons not within these classes.

(The only exception is in favor of "Mississippi Choctaws," who have been duly "identified" by the Dawes Commission as such.)

Notwithstanding this ruling of the Department and the law of Congress, thousands of persons have, within the last year appeared before the Dawes Commission for a hearing. If they applied for enrollment, they were told by the Commission that it had no authority to receive, consider or make any record of their applications; and if they applied for "identification" as Mississippi Choctaws, identification as such was in every case refused by specific judgment.

These appearances were made upon the advice

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and at the instance of citizenship attorneys of the class above mentioned, who have flocked about the Commission at every appointment. They have advised such persons that after making an appearance before the Commission, they have such an application for citizenship lodged as will authorize them to settle upon and take possession of Choctaw-Chickasaw lands; and that they can hold the same indefinitely, as the government will not attempt to remove so many persons, and that the Indians are powerless to protect themselves. When it is stated that since June 1, 1900, as shown by records of the Dawes Commission, exceeding 4,500 of such persons have made an appearance, and that in almost every instance they have taken possession of our lands, the areas thus withheld from our own people, and the magnitude which this wrong is assuming, may be readily seen.

Inasmuch as the Atoka Agreement guarantees: "That the United States shall put each allottee in possession of his allotment and remove all the persons therefrom objectionable to the allottee," you should by appropriate memorial, acquaint the government with these facts to the end that it may, by timely action, avoid the embarrassments that must follow, and

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request that a means be provided whereby our people may derive the protection thus guaranteed by the treaty.

ALLOTMENT.

It is well understood by all, that allotment of our lands is provided by the Atoka agreement, and the manner of doing so is prescribed.

Such allotment can be made only when rolls of citizenship and the appraisement of lands, are completed, since each member is to have a--

" * * fair

and equal share thereof, considering the character and fertility of the soil, and the location and value of the lands."

Each member has also--

These provisions could not be observed and rights of each citizen cared for under any partial allotment, particularly if the rules of the Secretary of the Interior are obeyed, allowing each to select only one hundred and sixty acres, all other land to be open to other citizens for selection of such number of acres. Under this regime, a citizen might have improved lands in value not exceeding amount of his full allotment, and after selecting one hundred and sixty acres, the remainder might be taken by some

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other citizen, and when allotment should be completed he might be given lands far from his homestead, one hundred and sixty acres, which, by reason thereof might be of very little value to him.

Furthermore, any partial allotment would be double inconvenience to our people and lead to confusion and dissatisfaction. One allotment only was contemplated and one alone is practicable.

No citizen could be given his share in value until the number of citizens, as also the value of all property, is fixed.

The necessity for completing the rolls and thus setting the right of each person thereon to allotment will be apparent, when he considers the harm that might befall, upon allotment to persons not entitled thereto-- and there are many claiming such rights, which we are contesting.

I recommend that you present this view to the department if concurred in by you, to the end that we may have only such full and complete allotment as contemplated by the Atoka Agreement.

TRIBAL TAXES.

The collection of our revenues, known as "tribal taxes," is a necessary incident to the con-

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tinuation of our governments, as guaranteed by the Atoka Agreement.

Within the past year our officers have begun to vigorously press those collections. Many individuals throughout the nation have not only refused payment but organizations of merchants and cattlemen have been effected, attorneys employed, a fund raised and other steps taken to defeat payment. In my opinion, these persons have no hope of defeating the law, but hope to thus render collections so vexatious and expensive, as that our officers will become discouraged and cease efforts to this end.

The courts and the law officers of the Interior Department have uniformly held, both upon recent cases and in affirmance of previous expressions, that the laws of the tribes imposing these taxes are valid, that the laws of the United States regulating trade and intercourse with Indian tribes are in force here, and that if non-citizens refuse to comply with our laws they are subject to removal from our country, as intruders.

Many persons have been by me reported for such refusal to comply with our laws, and it now only remains for the Interior Department to visit

upon them the penalty prescribed by the law.

I therefore recommend that you memorialize the Secretary of the Interior to take prompt and vigorous action in the premises.

SCHOOLS.

The Chickasaws have ever manifested a deep interest in the education of their children, and to that end it was provided in the Atoka Agreement that coal and asphaltum should be reserved from allotment and leased under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior.

" * * * and the royalties therefrom paid into the treasury of the United States, and shall be drawn therefrom under such rules and regulations as be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior."

" * * * for the education of the children of Indian blood of the members of said tribes."

Although the Atoka agreement was ratified more than two years ago, and the share of the Chickasaws in this royalty fund has accumulated to an amount exceeding \$60,000, no rules and regulations for drawing this money from the treasury of the United States have been prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior, as contemplated by the Agreement,

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and our people have derived no benefit therefrom.

I recommend that you request the Secretary of the Interior, by suitable memorial, to prescribe rules and regulations whereby the Chickasaws may draw this money from the treasury of the United States, for educational purposes, as guaranteed by the Atoka Agreement.

CHICKASAW FREEDMEN.

The Chickasaws contend that the Chickasaw freedmen are not entitled to citizenship nor allotment of land.

The Atoka Agreement was amended by Congress by the insertion of a provision that the Chickasaw freedmen should be placed in possession of forty acres of land each--

" * * * to be selected, held and used by them until their rights under said treaty (the treaty of 1866) shall be determined in such manner as shall hereafter be provided by Congress."

With this guarantee the Chickasaws ratified the treaty. It is of vital importance that this question be determined at the earliest possible time, and certainly before allotment.

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I therefore recommend that you call this guarantee to the attention of Congress, by proper memorial, and request that provision be made for the institution of a suit in the Court of Claims, with right of appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States, for the determination of the question as to what rights, if any, the Chickasaw freedmen are entitled.

PER CAPITA PAYMENT.

It now appears that the so called "Incompetent" fund of \$216,148,122, or the greater part of it, will, in the near future, be paid out equally per capita to all the Chickasaw people, and I am pleased to be able to so inform you.

The recent Indian appropriation bill, approved May 31, 1900, gives the so-called "Incompetents," or their heirs, six months from that time in which to establish their claims, after which time per capita payment is to be made.

The Indian Agent has issued a notice relative to the establishment of such claims, and it appears that each claim must be filed and proven separately, and without any regard to the payment or roll of payment of 1889; and that no affidavits or ex parte

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proof will be received, but each claim must be established by legal proof taken either orally before the Indian Agent, or in the form of depositions upon notice to the Nation.

By the Atoka Agreement \$558,520.54 was appropriated as arrears of interest upon certain funds of the Chickasaws improperly paid out by the government many years ago. There yet remains of this amount, the "Incompetent" fund of \$216,148,122, above mentioned, and also \$56,520,364, placed to the credit of the Nation.

I recommend that the act of congress directing the distribution of the "Incompetent" fund be adopted in the form of an act of our legislature, so that there may be no question as to the legality of such distribution, and that the sum of \$56,520,364 be distributed per capita to our people, at the same time and in like manner.

REPORTS.

The Nation's attorneys, and the various national officers and commissions, will, as provided by law, render their reports later in the session, and the same will be laid before you for your infor-

mation, together with such recommendation as they may offer in regard to the work specially entrusted to them.

VIOLETIONS OF ATOKA AGREEMENT.

The townsite provisions of the recent Indian appropriation bill, approved May 31, 1900, and the act authorizing the taking of timber and stone from our lands, under contract with the Secretary of the Interior, approved June 6, 1900, are, in my opinion, not only inviolation of the Atoka Agreement, but seek to so effect the title and interest of the Choctaws and Chickasaws in their lands, held by fee simple title, as to be void. If a townsite can be carved out of our public domain, and timber and stone taken therefrom, by an act of congress, it would seem that our lands may be taken, in like manner, and our title extinguished and vested elsewhere. While regretting the necessity that impels us to such action, I feel that we should avail ourselves of means at hand to prevent these violations of our landed interests.

I therefore recommend at this time that this view of such acts be called to the attention of Congress and the Department.

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As your session progresses, in the event other matters arise that, in my opinion, are worthy of your consideration, I shall communicate same to you by special message, together with my recommendations as to what action you should take relative thereto.

CONCLUSION.

In conclusion I wish to congratulate our people upon the peace and quiet that has prevailed among them under the trying conditions herein referred to: As a nation and race our future is a sealed book. We have been forced to prepare for a relinquishment of the customs and traditions of our fathers, and we can only hope that the new state into which we are to enter, and the new conditions that must follow will render more happiness and prosperity. We are a peaceful and peace-loving people and whatever we achieve must be as the fruits of peace.

Our guardian, the government of the United States, points us to American citizenship as our ultimate destiny, and to the inestimable benefits and privileges of that state. The highest attribute of citizenship is a sacred observance of the rights of others, and a cheerful and strict obedience to the law, the safeguard of all. Let us act, in all things,

in the spirit of intelligent conservatism that must not only command respectful consideration from those charged with the duty of administering our affairs, but will convince Congress and the Department that we, ever regardful of the rights of others, contend only that we have that protection guaranteed by solemn treaty obligations, and that will show to the country and the world that the Chickasaws are an intelligent, progressive and Christian people, and in every way worthy of that degree of consideration in all matters touching their interests, that should, in equity and justice, be accorded them by their guardian, the great government of the United States.

With sentiments of respect, I have the honor to be your obedient servant.

D. H. JOHNSTON,

Governor Chickasaw Nation.

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THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Aug. 1, 1901

Vol. 3, No. 37

Hines and Jobe, Editor

EDITORIAL ON P. S. MOSELEY

Tishomingo, I. T., July 29

The Chickasaw Nation Normal closed its session here Friday evening, closing a very profitable and well-attended session with the examinations of those who attended, and applicants for teacher's certificates to teach school in the Chickasaw Nation. All examined passed and took first and second grade certificates, after a rigid examination. More than half the teachers examined secured first grade certificates. There were eight graduates of Bloomfield seminary applicants for certificates, and each one of them secured first grade certificates, which speaks very highly for the curriculum and thoroughness of Bloomfield Seminary.

Prof. Calvin Ballard, United States supervisor of Choctaw schools, was present, and highly

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approved the examinations of the applicants, and was much gratified at the excellent showing made, and at the high grades attained by the applicants, and the general excellence promised in those who are to teach in the Chickasaw Nation during the next school term.

The success of the normal was very gratifying to all interested in school work in the Chickasaw country, and to Prof. E. E. Hinshaw, who conducted the normal, is due a great deal of credit for the success of the term, which was due to his untiring zeal, as well as that of the members of the faculty. The teachers are all enthusiastic in their praise of the faculty.

P. S. Moseley, superintendent of public instruction in the Chickasaw Nation, appointed Professor Hinshaw to conduct the normal next year.

There will be examinations of applicants for certificates to teach in the Chickasaw Nation, conducted in the capitol building at Tishomingo on August 23 and 24, and this will be the last examination that teachers can avail themselves of, and it will be necessary for all teachers expecting to teach, and not now holding certificates to be present

at that time and take the examinations.

THE SOUTH MCALISTER CAPITOL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Aug. 1, 1901

Vol. 8, No. 37

Hines and Jobe, Editors

EDITORIAL ON P. S. MOSLEY

Special Correspondence.

Tishomingo, I. T. July 24.

The Chickasaw Normal, under the management of Prof. E. B. Winshaw, has increased in numbers and interest from the first week. This is the fourth week and we have seldom witnessed more earnest work than that done by this body of teachers. Almost every teacher in the Chickasaw Nation has been enrolled during this Normal and are taking active part in its work. Quite a number are in attendance who have not taught; especially is this true of the graduates of Bloomfield Seminary.

All the Academies have furnished their share of teachers and influence to make this, our first Normal, a success.

Among those in attendance are Supt. A. B.

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Hinshaw and faculty, of Bloomfield Seminary;
Supt. I. T. Underwood and faculty, of Sterrett
Institute; Supt. White and faculty, of Harley In-
stitute; Miss Cora Fuller, principal Orphans Home;
Prof. Jones, principal Collins Institute, and many
others.

The instructors, E. B. Hinshaw, P. B. H.
Shearer and I. T. Underwood, are "up-to-date"
educators and have given us a first class normal.
The examination for teachers certificates will be
held Thursday and Friday of this week, closing the
Normal. These teachers are well prepared for this
examination and we bespeak for them a successful
years work.

The Chickasaw Nation has just room to feel
proud of her teachers and educational advantages.

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THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITOL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.

Aug. 1, 1901

Vol. 8, No. 37

Hines and Jobe, Editors

EDITORIAL ON P. S. MOSELEY

Sulphur, I. T. July 26

"What do you think of the future of the Chickasaw and Choctaw country and the probability of early allotment? was asked of a prominent official of the Indian country.

"Well, it is generally understood that our country is pretty well under way to allotment and to final settlement of all the affairs of the Indian government, preparatory to turning it over to the United States government, but I do not take such a hopeful view of the situation. There is a great deal yet in the way of final settlement of this country, and the distribution of lands by allotment, etc. I can see many breakers ahead of a settlement of the difficulties in the Territory, and especially is this true if the government undertakes to carry

out the Atoka Agreement to the letter, for that means infinite trouble before there can be a settlement of tribal affairs.

"In the first place the Chickasaw and Choctaw rolls are not completed and closed, and until this is done, there can be no possible steps taken toward allotment, and it looks like it will be a long time before they are closed. There are a great many men of wealth in the two nations who will oppose the closing of the rolls just as long as possible, and stand in the way of allotment as long as there is a foot of ground for them to stand on. These men own thousands of acres of fenced lands that is, they hold thousands of acres of lands that are under their fences and their control, and from which they derive a revenue from leases, which they can not do once the lands are segregated and allotted. I do not blame these men for holding these lands, and deriving all the profits out of them that they can, but at the same time it is in a measure working a hardship on the poorer classes of Indians, who have no such resources, and no such means of making money at the present time. It is from this element that there will always come opposition to any date being

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set for the closing of the rolls, and it is my firm belief that it will be a long time before a day is set for closing the rolls and getting everything ready for allotment of Indian lands.

"There is another thing that is standing in the way of an amicable settlement of land titles in the Chickasaw and Choctaw country. Many of the Indians have signified their intention of claiming certain tracts and parcels of lands as their allotments, and have sold their interest in such lands, giving a quit claim deed to the property, and then have moved off of that tract of land, and have settled elsewhere, where they claim a right to take their allotment. Of course, they will not be permitted to take two allotments, and in most cases the bonds for title are not good, and a quit claim deed is worthless. This is going to cause a great deal of legal wrangling and lawsuits after the Indians get their titles to lands, and although a certain portion of the lands to be allotted to the Indians are held in the treaty to be inalienable, at the same time there will be some recourse on those who make fraudulent sales of allotment claims and then move off and do not accept allotment on lands they have sold to the white men.

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These frauds will not stand in the courts, and in my opinion it is going to cause endless litigation -- or at least years of land litigation that will have a tendency to upset titles. There are some big moneyed syndicates buying lands, and they are able to take their cases in court and carry them to the highest courts in the land, and it is my opinion that there is trouble ahead for the Indian who makes a fraudulent sale of land title. -- Denison Herald.

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THE SOUTH MCALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.

Thursday, August 1, 1901

Vol. 8 No. 37

W. G. D. Hinds,)
B. F. Jobe,) Proprietors

EDITORIAL ON D. H. JOHNSTON

Governor Johnston, of the Chickasaw Nation, and Senator Burton, of Kansas, have been in consultation here in regard to supplementary treaty between the Chickasaws and the Dawes commission, relative to closing the Chickasaw rolls to get ready for allotments of lands in the Chickasaw Nation. Last summer such supplementary treaty was made, and it provided that the rolls should close on September 1, 1901. This supplementary agreement was sent to the Secretary of the Interior, who did not approve it, and it went to Congress with his disapproval, and Congress defeated it. This left the Chickasaws without any date on which their rolls should be closed, and, of course, there can be no beginning of Chickasaw allotment until the rolls are closed. The Dawes Commission having finished surveying and platting, and the appraising of all lands in the nation, and being practically ready for allotment, the Indians want to get their title to their allotments, and Governor Johnston is anxious to get the rolls closed and get ready for allotment.

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The conference between Senator Burton, of Kansas, and Governor Johnston will result in Senator Burton championing the supplementary treaty that is to be made soon. The new treaty, a Herald reporter learns from reliable sources, will be made with the Dawes Commission on the lines of the old treaty, and it will probably provide for closing the rolls on January 1, 1902. This is the date that Governor Johnston favors, and would be as early a date as could be met, and get the action of Congress on it, so that it could be put in force.

Before the rolls can be closed, the "court citizens" claims will have to be finally settled by the courts. These are claimants to citizenship, who were refused enrollment on the Chickasaw citizenship rolls by the Dawes Commission, upon objections filed by the Chickasaw commissioners with the Dawes Commission, and who afterward took their claims to the United States courts in the Territory and were adjudged by the courts entitled to citizenship. This decision has been appealed from, and is pending.

It seems very probable now that the matter of closing the rolls will be settled by a supplementary treaty between the Chickasaws and the Dawes Commission, and that Senator Burton will undertake to get its approval by Congress and the Senate.

No treaty will be undertaken, it is understood, until after the Chickasaw national election, which will be held on the second Wednesday in August, at which time Chickasaw Senators and Represent-

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atives will be elected. The Chickasaw Legislature will be convened in regular session on the first Monday in September, and after the session the matter of a supplementary treaty will be taken up.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, Sept. 19, 1901

Vol. 16 No. 22

B. S. Smiser)
Norma E. Smiser) Proprietors

Norma E. Smiser, Editor and Manager

MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

The opening of the present session of our legislature marks the closing of my third year of service as governor of the Chickasaw Nation, and I greet you as the representative of the Chickasaw people in legislature assembled to lay before you in obedience to our laws and customs, information in regard to what has been done during the past year and to submit to you, in the light of the knowledge and experience I have gained recommendations as to what legislative action should be taken in order that the rights and interests of our people may be best served and protected.

I have not only a knowledge of the individual members who compose the present legislature and of their patriotism and capacity for the performance of the labors for which they have been chosen, but an abiding

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faith in the wisdom of the Chickasaw people, and of their ability to select by the exercise of the right of suffrage vouchsafed us by the fathers, for the performance of the public service, men whose every act will be characterized by a firm and patriotic devotion to the welfare of our people.

In this, my annual message, I will refer to general matters of public concern by furnishing you such information as I have, or have been able to acquire, together with my recommendations as to what action, if any, you should take at this time, and as your session progresses I shall submit from time to time in the form of special messages such matters as are worthy and may come to my attention requiring legislative action.

As heretofore stated by me in all my public utterances and communications, the one question in which the Chickasaws, as well as the Choctaws, are most vitally concerned is that of citizenship. If claimants are wrongfully admitted, shares of our tribal property, valued at approximately \$5,000 are taken away. Besides this there are considerations of natural pride and respect involved, as, if designing and unworthy persons are forced upon our tribal rolls, the purity and integrity of our citizenship, which has remained spotless throughout the

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ages is polluted and destroyed.

In my last annual message I referred in detail to the present condition of Chickasaw and Choctaw citizenship as regards the claims of that class of persons known as "court Claimants," informed you of measures that had been inaugurated for our relief therefrom and suggested other steps, which, in my opinion, should be taken to that end.

I am pleased to be able to inform you that very substantial progress along these lines has been made during the past year by the attorneys representing the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations, and we hope that in the near future the citizenship claims of the "court claimants" will be finally defeated and the property which they claim, valued at many millions of dollars, saved by our people.

The experience of both the Chickasaws and Choctaws and the United States government has demonstrated that, in drafting the Atoka Agreement, many things necessary to a speedy and satisfactory settlement of our affairs were unforeseen and unprovided for, and that an agreement supplementary to the Atoka Agreement, having for its object the amendment of the original treaty, in both essential and administrative matters was absolutely necessary. To this end such a supplementary treaty was negotiated between commissions representing the Chickasaw and Choctaw

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Nations and the Dawes commission, representing the United States government, and signed on February 7 of the present year. It was immediately transmitted to Congress, but owing to the shortness of the session was not acted upon and did not, therefore, become effective.

This treaty contains one provision in particular which is most grateful and satisfactory to our people, that relating to citizenship. If ratified, this provision would effect the defeat of the fraudulent citizenship claims that class of persons known as "court claimants." Since the alleged decrees upon which these claimant's reply were rendered by the United States court, and the Chickasaws and Choctaws have made every effort within the limits of human power to secure a readjustment of them and the negotiations of this treaty is the first substantial negotiation by the government of the United States that such decrees are wrong and that the Chickasaws and Choctaws should have the relief they demand.

I therefore recommend that you memorialize the congress of the United States to ratify the pending treaty in the early days of the forthcoming session, and that you suggest further in such memorial that in the event of its ratification by congress it will be immediately ratified by a vote of the Chickasaw and Choctaw people, in

which event the differences which now embarrass both the government of the United States and the representatives of the tribes in the administration of the Atoka agreement provided that all coal and asphaltum shall be reserved from allotment and leased under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior for a term of thirty years, and the royalties therefrom paid into the treasury of the United States, and * * * * drawn therefrom under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior.

It further provides, however, as follows:

"That whenever the members of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes shall be required to pay taxes for the support of the schools, then the fund arising from such royalties shall be disposed of for the equal benefit of the members * * * in such manner as the tribe may direct."

The Atoka agreement provides that the tribal government shall continue for a period of eight years from March 4, 1898 or, at all events; until March, 1906. Considering the changes in our affairs which are now in progress and certain of consummation in a few years, provisions will be made for taxing all the people of the Indian Territory, Indians and non citizens alike, for the support of a general school system, in which event the clause of the

Atoka agreement last above quoted will become effective and the coal and asphaltum again become subject to disposition by the tribes for the equal benefit of the members of the tribes.

Now that our tribal governments are organized and we have an opportunity to consider the matter for ourselves, both as members and officials of the tribes, it would seem to be the part of wisdom to devise such a plan as will best protect the interests of our people in the future, and, furthermore, take such steps as will put this plan in operation.

I therefore recommend that you make a provision for considering this situation with the Choctaws with a view of agreeing upon some satisfactory plan for the final disposition of the coal and asphaltum deposits in the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations.

You are aware that, from the time the atoka Agreement became effective until recently a controversy has existed as to the power of the Secretary of the Interior as regards the royalty funds arising from the mining of coal and asphaltum.

The only provision in the Atoka agreement defining the powers of the Secretary of the Interior in that connection is that which provides that the royalties arising

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from the mining of coal and asphaltum shall be paid into the treasury of the United States and drawn therefrom under such rules and regulations as shall be prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Under this provision it was contended that the Secretary, in addition to disbursing the money, had absolute power to take charge of and control our schools. This attempted assumption of power I resisted, and, while we were able to retain control of our schools, our share in the royalty fund was withheld.

I am now pleased to be able to inform you that the controversy has been settled by an agreement which I entered into with the Honorable Secretary of the Interior at Washington on April 11 of the present year, under the terms of which the Chickasaws retained control of their schools under tribal laws, and their share in the royalty fund will be paid out upon school warrants. One provision of this agreement is that a board is created, one member of which is designated by the Secretary of the Interior, whose duty is to examine all persons desiring to teach in the schools of the Chickasaw Nation, and issue certificates of their qualifications. Such board has been appointed and organized, and examinations for the present year has been held. It is, and should be,

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especially gratifying to our people that all persons heretofore educated in the Chickasaw schools applied to this board for certificates of their qualification to teach stood highly creditable examinations and received such certificates.

By an act of congress approved May 31, 1900, individuals claiming an interest in the "incompetent fund" were given six months, or until Nov. 31, 1900, in which to file their claims and proof, such act providing that such claims as were established should be paid, and the balance of the fund, if any remained, or the whole of it, if no claims were established, be paid out per capita to all the Chickasaw people.

Two hundred and forty-four such claims, supported by affidavits were filed with the United States Indian agent.

While I have always been willing that all claimants who were able to establish their identity of heirship by legal proof be paid, yet it has been my contention that, owing to the long lapse of time, the peculiar conditions that have existed in the Chickasaw Nation, the inability of claimants to furnish legal proof of their status, and the frauds and irregularities that have been practiced in the past in connection with the "incompetent

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fund," that to make the attempt at this time would be to put a premium upon fraud and perjury and result in proceedings that would be highly discreditable to the Chickasaw Nation, I therefore directed the attorneys for the nation to carefully examine the claims filed and resist such of them as did not appear to be established by legal proof. This they have done, and the whole matter has been submitted to the United States Indian agent, and by him to the Secretary of the Interior, and it is expected that decisions will be rendered at an early date.

If any such claims are established they will be paid, and the balance of the fund paid out per capita.

Of the original "arrears of interest" appropriated by the Atoka agreement there yet remains in the treasury of the United States, and not claimed by the "incompetent," the sum of \$5,598,906. I recommend that you appropriate this fund, by proper act, for per capita distribution, and provided that it be paid out at the time of the per capita distribution of the "incompetent fund."

By the treaty of July 15, 1794, the Chickasaws were granted a permanent annuity of \$3000 per annum.

It being the present desire of the government of the United States, as expressed in the Atoka agreement and elsewhere, to capitalize all annuities, and finally

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pay out per capita to the Chickasaws all funds which belonged to them, this annuity was, by the act of March 3, 1901, capitalized and extinguished, and the principal sum of \$60,000 placed to the credit of the Chickasaw Nation upon the books of the United States treasury in lieu thereof.

It would be of vast benefit to our people to have this fund paid into the treasury of the Chickasaw Nation for national purposes, and I therefore recommend that you take proper legislative action to make this money available for the purpose stated.

When the treaty supplementary to the Atoka agreement above referred to was drafted and signed, on February 7 of the present year, and forwarded for ratification by congress, it became necessary to dispatch to Washington a duly accredited representative of the Chickasaw Nation. For this purpose I chose Hon. Edward B. Johnson, a member by blood of the Chickasaw Nation. Of his ability to ably and faithfully perform that service I need not refer, as he is well known to you. Suffice it to say that he repaired to Washington and appeared before the Interior Department and the Congress of the United States in urging the ratification of this treaty, and represented the Chickasaw people to that end in a most satisfactory manner. I therefore recommend that

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you make provision for adequately compensating him for the performance of this service.

The attorneys for the Chickasaw Nation, Messrs. Mansfield, McMurray and Cornish, of South McAlester, I. T., have been diligently engaged during the past year in representing the nation in the various matters affecting its interests that have arisen before the Dawes Commission, the United States court, the Interior Department and elsewhere, in citizenship and all other matters; and I am gratified to be able to inform you that they have succeeded in a way not only creditable to them, but highly satisfactory to the nation.

A detailed report of their work will be made at a later date, and by me to be transmitted to you for your information.

In the hope and belief that your deliberation will be characterized by wisdom, conservatism and patriotic devotion to the welfare of our nation and people, and that the questions which may arise for solution at your hands will receive that consideration which their importance and exigencies of the hour demands, and invoking divine guidance and protection on all of us, both in the discharge of public service and in the walks of private life, and with sentiment of highest regard and

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respect, I have the honor to be, your obedient servant.

DOUGLAS H. JOHNSON,

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SOUTH McALESTER NEWS

South McAlester, I. T.
Thursday, Oct. 31, 1901
Vol. 11, No. 21
Henry P. Robbins, Editor

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

To the honorable members,
of the Senate and House of Representatives
of the Chickasaw Nation,
in legislature assembled:

Having served the Chickasaw nation as its
chief executive for nearly two terms I deem it my
duty to my successor and the nation to call attention
to the inadequacy of the salary of governor, as now
fixed by our laws, and to suggest to the legislature
why, in my opinion, the same should be increased.
Inasmuch as under our constitution and laws, I am
ineligible for election to the office of governor
for another term, I can urge action to this end,
without subjecting myself to criticism for recommending
legislation to my personal advantage.

When the salary of governor was fixed at
\$1,500 per annum many years ago, the duties were

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nominal and the responsibilities were inconsiderable. Our tribal taxes were paid without contest. The number of non-citizens residing among us were only a small proportion now here and no resistance of the power and authority of our tribal government was made. Our relations with the United States government were meager and no clashes of authority, such as now occur, were possible. No United States Courts were established in our country, and neither our personal property or political rights were menaced by them as now. Allotment was only a rumor, and our people pursued the way of peace and prosperity, undisturbed and unharassed by the exigencies that now confront us. Now it is all changed. The tide of the white man's civilization has swept over us. Resistance to our tribal government is found on every hand. The tens of thousands of non-citizens who have come among us, impelled by the natural desire to profit by our resources and natural advantages, defy both our authority and that of the United States government. Our tribal taxes are collected only upon threat of expulsion from the limits of our country, under the intercourse law. United States courts have been established within

our midst, and upon every hand they are appealed to cripple our government and abridge our personal property and political rights; and it is only by the exercise of vigilance and foresight that our rights are maintained. The forthcoming allotment of our lands and disposition of townsites will render it necessary for the governor to execute many thousands of deeds, besides the other services necessary to compel an observance of the Atoka Agreement in the district of our tribal property.

Under these conditions it is necessary that the governor of the Chickasaw Nation devote his entire time to the duties of the office, thus neglecting his private affairs; and in the light of my experience as your Chief Executive for two terms, and out of consideration for my successor, I unhesitatingly state that the salary of \$1,500.00 per annum is inadequate.

I therefore recommend that the present Legislature amend existing law, to become effective at the end of my term in office so as to provide that the salary of governor be not less than \$4,000.00 per annum. To this end I have prepared and herewith

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submit the draft of such bill.

Respectfully

D. H. JOHNSTON,

Governor, Chick. Nat.

SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South, McAlester, Ind. Ter.
Dec. 12, 1901
Vol. 9, No. 4
Hines & Jobe, Editors

EDITORIAL ON CHICKASAW LEGISLATURE

A special session of the Chickasaw legislature met today, having been called for the purpose of considering a number of very important tribal questions.

One of the very important issues affecting the schools will likely be remedied. In the Chickasaw Nation there are two classifications of schools: contract and neighborhood.

Under the present law warrants for contract schools are issued as soon as service is rendered. Not so with neighborhood schools. When the warrant is issued they must wait for an appropriation from the legislature to receive payment, and as these appropriations are usually for one to two years later than the issuance of the warrants, the result is that the certificates are peddled around and depreciate in value. Under the school agreement with the

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government the interests of the Chickasaw Nation in the coal and asphaltum royalty fund is now available for educational purposes and will soon be paid out. Some legislation will be made to put the two school systems on equality.

Another important question that will be brought before the legislature will be the increase in the annuity. Under the congressional act of March 1901, the permanent annuity of \$3000 guaranteed the Chickasaw Nation under the act of 1794 was capitalized, and in lieu thereof \$60,000 was passed to the credit of the Nation in the U. S. treasury. It will likely be the purpose of the legislature to ask that the fund be available now, and to be used in a like manner as has the \$3000 annuity for the past 100 years or more.

STILWELL STANDARD

Stilwell, Ind. Ter.

July 4, 1902

Vol. 2 No. 39

Augustus E. Ivey, Editor

EDITORIAL ON E. L. BYRD

Ex-Gov. Byrd, of the Chickasaw nation, one of the best men among the Chickasaws, is a candidate for Governor of his people and Ex-Gov. Guy is a candidate for the Senate. The Chickasaws could elect no better men. The editor of The Standard knows these men, as one Indian knows another, and knows them to be true blue in every particular -- and that no outside rings, or inside machines can handle them against the interests of their people.

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THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.
Thursday, September 4, 1902
Vol. 9 No. 42
U. S. Russell, Editor

EDITORIAL ON P. S. MOSELY

Tishomingo, I. T.

Sept. 1.

Everything is quiet here today. There has been no disturbance of any kind. B. H. Colbert, with twelve deputy marshal, J. Blair Shoenfelt, with twenty members of the Indian police, and Mr. Dickey of the secret service are here to preserve order. Last night five deputy marshals and ten members of the Indian police slept at the capitol building and allowed no one to enter. Today the building is closely guarded and none but officers and members of the legislature are allowed to enter the building.

The legislature went into session with every member, except one, present.

J. Wesley Parker of Sulphur was elected

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president of the senate and Joe Guest of Panola county, speaker of the house.

The election in Pontotoc county was declared illegal and the delegation from that county shut out.

In the contest from Pickens county, Wesley Hayes, the Byrd candidate to the upper house, was put out and Charles Hare, the Mosely candidate, seated in his stead.

The legislature did not adjourn for dinner but continued in session.

About 1 o'clock Hon. R. L. Boyd, district judge of Tishomingo county, was called to administer the oath of office to Mosely as everything was in readiness to confirm his election.

It is rumored that the Byrd faction will take an appeal to the secretary of the interior. The rumor, however, is not given much credence.

At 2;30 this afternoon the legislature declared Palmer S. Mosely elected governor by a majority of 44 votes. He immediately took the oath of office and the legislature adjourned until 9 o'clock tomorrow morning.

Governor Mosely and ex-Governor Johnston then dined at the home of Dr. Thomas:

CHICKASAW ENTERPRISE

Pauls Valley, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.
Thursday, September 4, 1902
Vol. 16, No. 52
Ollie S. Wilson, Editor

SPECIAL ELECTION CALLED BY D. H. JOHNSTON

A special to the Dallas News from Denison, Texas, says:

A telephone message from Emet, the home of Governor Johnston of the Chickasaw Nation, brings the news that a special election has been called in Pontotoc county for Tuesday, September 9.

Last Monday Judge Colbert of Pontotoc county held that there had been no election in that county at the recent election. His reasons for so holding were: 1. That the tabulated list of the results had not been signed by the judges of the election, as provided for in the Chickasaw laws. 2. That the ballots and lists were in such shape as to make an accurate return of the votes cast at this election.

This decision affects the three senators, five representatives, the county judge, county clerk,

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sheriff and constable. Under the Chickasaw law where vacancies occur in the offices of senators and representatives the governor must call a special election to fill such vacancies. The other offices of the county under the law are appointive by the governor, and these offices will be filled by Governor Johnston at an early date.

The reason for the calling of this election at such an early date is that the legislature convenes on Monday, September 1, and Pontotoc county will be without representation until after this election is held. In justice to the people of this county in view of the weighty matters to be considered, Governor Johnston felt that a call should be made at as early a date as possible and still give the voters ample notice.

The decision of Judge Colbert does not affect the vote of governor or attorney general in Pontotoc county for the reason that under the Chickasaw law the legislature passes upon all questions relative to the election of governor and attorney general.

THE MANNSVILLE NEWS

Mannsville, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, August 12, 1904
Vol. 1 No. 7
Dr. O. Wood, Editor

EDITORIAL ON ELECTION OF D. H. JOHNSTON

The Chickasaw's have settled the question of who will be their Chief in the closing days of their tribal government. The contest was one of interest, and the loosing party made a hard and faithful fight for supremacy. The Johnston ticket was elected straight. Johnston's majority over McLish in the several counties are:

- Pickens county, 61.
- Panolia county, 57.
- Tishomingo county, 103.
- Pontatoc county, 61.

There was not a single one elected on the McLish ticket. The election is a land slide for Johnston. This report was by wire to the NEWS and considered correct, 8.50 o'clock, Thursday.

CHICKASAW CAPITAL

Tishomingo (Capital of the
Chickasaw Nation), I. T.,
Thursday, Sept. 8, 1904
Vol. 4, No. 15
R. H. Simpson, Editor

LAST MESSAGE OF P. S. MOSLEY

The Chickasaw legislature met Monday. The senate was organized by the election of M. V. Cheadle as president; Oscar D. White, secretary; George Colbert, interpreter, and Roger Humes, sergeant at arms.

The house was organized by the election of C. H. Brown as speaker, J. F. Williams as secretary and Simon Keel as sergeant at arms.

After organization the two houses adjourned till 7 o'clock in the evening, at which hour the two houses convened in joint session and canvassed the vote for governor and attorney general, and D. H. Johnston was declared duly elected to the office of governor and Willie Kemp as attorney general. A committee composed of J. W. Connelly from the senate and W. D. Keirseay from the house were appointed to escort Gov. Johnston into the hall, and on his

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appearance he was sworn in by Judge Robert L. Boyd.

After the inauguration of the governor Holmes Willis was requested to address the council, which he did in an eloquent and forcible speech.

Both houses of the legislature met Tuesday morning.

The following message from Gov. Mosely was read:

To the Honorable Members of the
Senate and House of Representatives
of the Chickasaw Nation in Legis-
lature Assembled:

In compliance with the duty imposed upon me by the constitution and laws of the Chickasaw Nation, I have the honor to communicate to you my annual message upon the occasion of your convening in annual session and my retirement as governor of the Chickasaw Nation.

My people have twice honored me by election to the highest office within their gift, and whatever has been accomplished for them in my administration is due, not only to my efforts and those

associated with me, but to the unanimity of patriotic sentiment by which my administration has been sustained.

I deem it fortunate that I have had the privilege of carrying forward to a successful culmination the plans and policies inaugurated in the administration preceding mine, looking to the protection of our people, and at the close of my administration and throughout the closing years of my life the privilege which has been accorded me in performing my part of this great work is an experience of which any man may well feel proud, and which will be prized by me as a legacy to bequeath to my children and to the generations that will follow.

Much has been done and much remains to be done before our tribal affairs are closed in a way satisfactory to our people and the government of the United States and creditable to all, and for the consummation of this I shall stand as earnestly in the future, as a citizen, as I have in the past as an officer.

CITIZENSHIP

In citizenship matters we have, in a large

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measure, achieved that for which the last three administrations, including mine, have stood, looking to the protection of our Nation and people. Practically all of the "court claimant" cases have been tried. More than 1500 have been rejected, and all other cases will be decided in the near future. All Mississippi Choctaw cases pending before the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes and the department of the interior have been given the closest scrutiny, and ample defense made on behalf of the nations. It now appears that, as a result of the efforts which have been made, we are justified in indulging the hope and belief that the nations will be saved from the schemes of these conscienceless adventurers who have attempted to defraud us of a vast portion of our estate, and that those only who are justly entitled will be permitted to share in the distribution of our tribal property.

SCHOOLS

Realizing that a sacred obligation rests upon the Nation for the maintenance of its schools, the legislature passed a resolution at its last session requesting congress to set apart and appropriate a sufficient amount of our invested funds for the pay-

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ment of all outstanding school warrants. As yet no action to that end has been taken, and I deem it of the highest importance that this matter be again called to the attention of congress, and that action be urged by suitable resolution.

NEW BORN CHILDREN

My administration and that of my successor stand pledged to secure, if possible, the enrollment of all children born to citizens by blood of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations after Sept. 25, 1902, and up to the expiration of our tribal governments. A resolution requesting congress to provide therefor was passed at the last session of our legislature. While such resolution was duly transmitted, no action has been taken, and I feel that everything possible to the accomplishment of this laudable end should be done; and I therefore have to recommend that the subject be again called to the attention of congress by suitable memorial.

INTERMARRIED CITIZENS

It is, and should be, a matter of congratulation that there no longer exists any possibility for a discrimination to be made in the political

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and property rights of our citizens. At the last regular session of our legislature an act was passed and approved forever settling and setting at rest the rights of intermarried citizens, and providing that they should enjoy all the rights, political, property and otherwise, of all other citizens of the Nation. This has been a subject which has caused much embarrassment and confusion in the past, and it is fortunate that those responsible for harrasing a large class of our worthy citizens in the past are deprived of any power to do so now, or at any time, and that in the future management and control of tribal affairs, in the closing years of our national government, all citizens may participate equally and without distinction.

GUARDIANSHIP

The passage by congress of a recent act, providing that the United States courts shall have jurisdiction over our people in the matter of appointment of guardians and administrators, has given birth to numberless schemes for the further entanglement of the personal and property affairs of our people. There are those who contend that fathers, notwithstanding the fact that they are the natural

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guardian of their children, are required to apply to the United States court for appointment as guardians in order to have the custody of their children and the management of their property. Those who give voice to this view do so for a purpose, and that purpose is not one which bodes well for our people or their property. The father is the natural guardian of his child, and there is no law in force in our country which requires his appointment as guardian of his child by the United States court or any other court, in order that he may have the custody of his child and the usual and ordinary management of his estate. The importance of this matter to our people cannot be over estimated. Since my term of office is expiring I do not deem it proper to enter into detail with reference to what should be done, but I cannot refrain from sounding a note of warning in order that our people may be on guard against the emissaries of companies or individuals who would involve them and their affairs in the courts, and I do so now, and respectfully refer the subject to my successor in office, hoping it may have careful consideration and vigorous action at his hands.

ATTORNEYS

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For the past five years Messrs. Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish have represented the Chickasaw Nation in all matters that have arisen requiring legal service or counsel. What they have accomplished and their untiring devotion to the interests of our Nation and people is known wherever the affairs of the Chickasaws are known, and I deem it but just to them to state that their services on behalf of the Nation in all matters with which they have been connected have received my unqualified endorsement and approval and that of my administration.

CONCLUSION

In retiring from the office of chief executive of the Chickasaw Nation, I am impelled to say that I deem it an honor to have succeeded the administration of Hon. Douglas H. Johnston, and to be succeeded by him. His patriotic devotion to the interests of our people, and his ability to grasp and solve the problems that confront us in these trying times, has been demonstrated at home and abroad, and I express the belief that there lives not in the Chickasaw Nation a citizen having a correct understanding of conditions and the welfare of

his people at heart who entertains any degree of fear that he will not act wisely in all exigencies that may arise. Conscious that you, to whom this message is addressed, fully realize the responsibilities that rest upon you as the legislative representatives selected by the suffrages of our people and that you will at all times be guided by that patriotic devotion to duty which should guide all public servants, and with sentiments of highest personal esteem I have the honor to be very respectfully,

PALMER S. MOSELY,
Governor Chickasaw Nation.

After reading the message the legislature adjourned over till Wednesday.

Wednesday a joint session was held and Abner Atkins elected jailor and J. S. Maytubby draftsman.

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THE MADILL NEWS

Madill, I. T.,
Friday, September 16, 1904
Vol. 10 No. 10
Clyde P. Kendall, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF D. H. JOHNSTON

Tishomingo.

In his message to the Chickasaw legislature in session here, the newly elected governor of the nation, Douglas H. Johnston, makes a vigorous protest against the interior department in the appointment of guardians for Indian minors. He says that nothing else could harass the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations in the allotment of lands and distribution of tribal properties so much as the appointment of guardians.

Governor Johnston maintains that the parent is the natural guardian of the child and is fully competent to handle the minor's estate. He says the Indians should no longer be treated as wards of the government and thinks that if the interior department should force the appointment of guardians for Indian children it would be the greatest injustice that could be done the Indians.

The governor urges the speedy payment of the tribal funds of

the nation per capita favors the additional enrollment of new born children up to the time of the dissolution of the tribal government, March 4, 1906, recommends that a sufficient portion of the invested and trust funds in the hands of the federal government be set apart for the payment of the outstanding school warrants, and concludes his message by urging the appointment of a delegation to Washington to represent the nation in all matters that may arise before the department and congress, affecting the rights and interests of the Chickasaws.

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THE TAHLEQUAH ARROW

Tahlequah, Indian Territory
Saturday, September 17, 1904
18th year, No. 2
Waddie Hudson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

In his message to the Chickasaw legislature in session at Tishomingo, the newly-elected governor of the nation, Douglas H. Johnston, made a vigorous protest against the interference of the interior department in the appointment of guardians for Indian minors. He says that nothing else could harass the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations in the allotment of lands and distribution of tribal properties so much as the appointment of guardians.

Governor Johnston maintains that the parent is the natural guardian of the child and is fully competent to handle the minor's estate. He says the Indians should no longer be treated as wards of the government, and thinks that if the interior department should force the appointment of guardians for Indian children it would be the greatest injustice that could be done the Indians.

The governor urges the speedy payment of the tribal funds of the nation per capita, favors the additional enrollment of new born children up to the time of dissolution of the tribal government, March 4, 1906, recommends that a sufficient portion of the invested and trust funds in the hands of the federal government be set apart

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for the payment of the outstanding school warrants, and concludes his message by urging the appointment of a delegation to Washington to represent the nation in all matters that may arise before the department and congress affecting the rights and interests of the Chickasaw people.

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THE HEADLIGHT JOURNAL

Haileyville, Indian Territory
September 22, (sic) 1904.
Volume 3 No. 25
W. J. Witt, Proprietor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

Ardmore.

Governor Johnston of the Chickasaw nation has sent his annual message to the Chickasaw legislature, in which he reviews the affairs of the tribe and makes strong recommendations to the tribal body regarding matters affecting the Chickasaw people. The appointment of guardians for minor children is a feature of his message.

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HOLDENVILLE TIMES

Holdenville, Ind. Ter.

October 7, 1904

Vol. 9 No. 25

Ben. F. White, Editor

EDITORIAL ON D. H. JOHNSTON

Governor Johnston of the Chickasaw nation has appointed Charles Colbert of Tishomingo auditor of public accounts and Poe Colbert of Lindsay national secretary. Both appointments have been confirmed.

WYNNEWOOD NEW ERA

Wynnewood, Ind. Ter.,
Thursday, February 16, 1905
Vol. 3 No. 31
Hilary S. Shackelford, Editor

EDITORIAL ON SULPHUR'S OLDEST HOUSE

CYRUS HARRIS

The oldest house in Sulphur, known as the "Froman ranch," is about to be obliterated. Part of the building has been torn down and the balance will be removed as soon as the weather permits.

Some talk was indulged in with regard to leaving the house there as a relic, but, although the purchaser, Roy C. Oakes, offered to donate it, it was understood that the government would probably not be favorably inclined, and the matter was dropped.

The house has lately amounted to nothing more than a mere shack and the rail fence which once adorned it has been removed, piecemeal, so that there would be considerable work connected with the cleaning up of the premises before it could be rendered sufficiently "artistic" to warrant its continued existence.

The house, or cabin, was built about thirty years ago by Noah Lael, an inter-married Choctaw, son-in-law of ex-Governor Harris who was the first Chief executive of the Chickasaw nation. Lael had just married and brought his bride to this new home, where he established the only cow ranch in this vicinity, the nearest ones being at old Mill Creek and Pauls Valley. Lumber at this time was very high and scarce, and Lael constructed the house out of poles, which were plentiful.

He lived here about six or seven years, when he sold to Perry Froman. Froman resided here only a short time when he removed to Wynnewood. He sold his interest in the lands to the Sulphur townsite company, of which Col. Sneed of Pauls Valley was * *

It was in this year that the White Sulphur Inn, now the Park hotel, was built. There were only two or three houses near by when the hotel was constructed. The following year C. S. Leeper * *
At this time a man named King was living in the "Froman" house and since then it has been occupied by various parties, until this winter it became vacant and was sold to the government.

THE PURCELL TRIBUNE

Purcell, Ind. Ter.
Friday, February 24, 1905
Vol. 3 No. 28
W. J. Calnan

EDITORIAL ON BEN H. COLBERT

Guthrie, Okla.,
February 20.

President Roosevelt has designated an enviable honor for Ben. H. Colbert of Tishomingo, I. T., in giving him the position of honor in the "rough rider" escort that will accompany Mr. Roosevelt in the inaugural parade at Washington March 4. The two are fast friends. They became so during the Cuban campaign. Colbert took part in every engagement, including the charge up San Juanhill, and afterward acted as private secretary to Col. Roosevelt during the regiments stay on Cuban soil and afterwards at Montauk Point where Colbert, with the other rough riders, was mustered out. His bravery and promptness in action at all times made him especially esteemed by the rough rider colonel.

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Colbert has been honored previously by President Roosevelt, who several years ago made the young rough rider captain, a United States marshal for the southern district in Indian Territory, one of the most hazardous positions of this kind in the entire country. Charges were filed against Mr. Colbert, but he was exonerated by the government's agent, Mr. Brosius.

Ben. H. Colbert has an ancestry that would make glad the heart of many another American. His grandfather commanded the Chickasaw Indian regiment under Gen. Jackson at New Orleans against the British, and his father before him was a continental soldier in the war of the revolution. For centuries the blood of the Colbert family has coursed through the veins of the noblest families of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indian tribes. The chieftains of these tribes led their warriors against the English and French in the early colonial days and later during the general Indian wars that followed the American revolution. The father of Ben Colbert was a one-fourth Chickasaw and his mother was a half-breed Choctaw. On his mother's side he is descended from English ancestors, too, and on his father's from old Scotch and French stock of the brand that made up the early voyageurs

and pioneers, such as gave inspiration to Fenimore Cooper for his "Leather Stocking" tales.

Colbert is a satisfactory result of the Indian schools in the various nations, that comprise the Indian Territory. He was educated in the Chickasaw and Choctaw school, with finishing touches in Texas colleges, and learned the world as a messenger boy at \$10 per month, and later as clerk, agents chief clerk and agent in the service of the "Katy" railroad in the South. A few additional years as switchman, brakeman and yardmaster put him in condition for the rough rider service he was destined to have in Cuba. A part of his railroad career was spent with the International Mexican, in Old Mexico.

When the call was made and the proclamation issued for the organization of the 1st United States volunteer cavalry, or rough riders, Colbert enlisted in the Indian Territory-Oklahoma regiment on May 22, 1898, accompanied the regiment to Cuba, and was in every engagement during the Spanish-American war, including the charge of San Juan. Following this famous charge Colbert, during the remainder of the time in Cuba, was private secretary to Col. Roosevelt. He was mustered out on September 15, 1898, at Montauk

Point, and returned to the service of the Katy railroad in Indian Territory.

Colbert's record in the Cuban war and his family standing in the Chickasaw-Choctaw tribes had brought him prominence, and he was not long to remain in the railroad employ. He was agent for the company at Smithville, Tex., when he was summoned home by Gov. D. H. Johnston of the Chickasaw Nation to become private secretary to the governor. Later he was made a member of Gov. Johnston's cabinet, then special national agent for the Chickasaws, and still later was honored by being made a member of the commission which formulated the supplementary treaty with the government for the Chickasaws and Choctaws. About a year after his Cuban service Colbert was united in marriage, with Miss Agnes Fisher of Tishomingo, a young lady of unusual beauty and grace.

President Roosevelt appointed Colbert United States marshal on December 13, 1901, and he has filled the position with credit to himself his race and his "colonel" the President. Yet Colbert is still young, for he will not be 32 years old until nineteen days after he has filled the position of honor in the Roosevelt inaugural parade.

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THE NOWATA ADVERTISER

Nowata, Ind. Ter.,
Sept. 8, 1905
Vol. 11 No. 24
Frank B. Long, Editor

STATEMENT OF JUDGE M. V. CHEADLE

Judge M. V. Cheadle, president of the Chickasaw senate, who is regarded as one of the ablest of his people, when asked regarding the business coming before the National Senate which convened Monday, replied:

"We are to petition congress to give us a settlement. There are several other matters that will be passed upon by this, our last council, which are of vital importance to our people. Our tribal funds are still held by the government and we feel that congress should grant us prompt relief. Our tribal relations will soon be at an end and congress will be asked to provide some form of protection for our tribal funds, and make provisions for suitable persons to manage the business until a full and complete settlement can be made with us.

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"I would not express a preference as to the kind of statehood we want. Personally, I see good features in both single and double statehood, but I will not say just now what I want in that line. I will say, however, the question is causing our people to think along political lines, and it will do no harm to meet in convention and discuss ways and means of statehold."

THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.
Thursday, September 14, 1905
Vol. 12 No. 40
U. S. Russell, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

Tishomingo,
Sept. 8.

Gov. D. H. Jonston's annual meesage to the Chickasaw legislature was read yesterday. It is likely the last message that will ever be read to a tribal legislature. The document is a strong one, liberal in views and of great interest to both Choctaw and Chickasaw nations, as their holdings are in common.

After explaining his position on the deed muddle and recalling the fraudulent citizenship victories scored, the governor says in part:

REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS

I am firmly convinced that the time has arrived when the best interests of our people demand that the restrictions of adult members of our

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tribe as to the sale of their surplus lands, be wholly removed.

Under present conditions our people are entangled in the meshes of intricate and complicated laws which many of them do not and cannot understand and thus readily become the prey of speculators and grafters. They can sell only certain portions of their surplus lands at certain times, after the issuance of patents! and the more ignorant of them are now surrounded by designing persons, who inveigle them with leases and contracts of sale which may not be valid and binding. The uncertainty of the binding force of these transaction makes the continued cheerful acquiescence of the Indian an important element in the mind of the speculator and he therefore establishes and maintains close relations with the Indian he is dealing with. The time and money thus necessary to be expended is charged up to the Indian to be taken into consideration in the final settlement. The result will inevitably be that, when the day of settlement arrives, the Indian will realize nothing of substantial value and his land will be gone.

Furthermore under this system the rewards of ultimately owning the lands which can be sold

from time to time will be enjoyed only in the most instances, by those having the inclination to maintain their influence, by questionable methods, over the more ignorant and susceptible of our people throughout the years preceeding the arrival of the time when title can be given.

Again, aside from the conditions above set out, in the sale of the lands in the small and disconnected tracts permitted by existing law, the real value of the land cannot be commanded. The largest tract of land that can be sold by an allottee, under the law as it now stands, is one-fourth of the surplus lands, one year after the issuance of patent, or forty acres. If this land could be sold in acreage large enough for farms, the highest possible land values could be commanded at the hands of actual settlers, who would flood our country with money for homes and with laudable ambitions to do their part toward the development of the country, if permitted to acquire lands suitable for their purposes.

By thus disposing of their surplus lands at fair prices and receiving the money therefor in substantial amounts our people would be enabled to improve their homesteads and thus the highest pur-

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poses of the government would be attained. The surplus lands of our people would pass for a fair value, not into the hands of the speculators or grafters, but to those who would develop them and thus add to the wealth of the future state and what is of importance to us, our people would be relieved from the clutches of those who seek to secure what they have by pandering to their vices and weaknesses, and made independent and self-supporting.

The act of congress recently passed providing for the removal of restrictions of adult citizens of the Five Civilized Tribes has been of no benefit to our people. It has, rather, been the means of increasing the power of those who would plunder them. Under the pretext of assisting them in having the restrictions removed, rendering services and paying expenses in connection therewith, the speculators and grafters have been enabled to further entangle more ignorant of our people and to thus force them into further unconscionable contracts designed to ultimately acquire their surplus lands for practically nothing.

If present conditions continue the alienable lands of our people will pass from them in dribblets and they will have nothing when it is gone. If their

restrictions, as to their surplus lands, are wholly removed, their lands will pass into open market and be bought and paid for by actual settlers and our people will be freed from the power of the grafter and speculator.

I earnestly recommend that you embody these views in a suitable memorial addressed to the congress of the United States, urging that the restrictions upon the sale of surplus lands of our adult citizens, be wholly removed.

SALE OF COAL AND ASPHALT LANDS

The problem of most importance that confronts the Chickasaws and Choctaws at this time, is the advantageous sale of the coal and asphalt lands, reserved under the Atoka Agreement and segregated and set apart under the Supplemental Agreement.

In the Supplemental agreement it was provided that these lands should be sold at public auction. We had a voice in framing these provisions and were confident that their execution would result satisfactorily, in every way. The experience of the world, as applied to such matters, has shown the plan of sale at public auction to be the best.

This plan made applicable by the Atoka Agree-

ment, to the sale of our vacant town lots resulted in the sale of the town lots at satisfactory prices. We acted, in the light of this experience in providing in the Supplementary agreement that the coal lands should be likewise sold at public auction.

We are not permitted, however, to witness the execution of the provisions of law the framing of which we had a voice. Acting entirely upon his own initiative and without conference with the Chickasaws and Choctaws and over our most bitter protest the secretary of the interior impressed congress that the Supplementary agreement, in so far as it provided for the sale of our coal and asphalt lands at public auction should be sold upon sealed bids under his direction. The auction plan system has proven a success as applied to our town lots, and there is every reason to believe that it would have proven successful in the sale of our coal lands and asphalt lands. The plan forced upon us and congress by the secretary of the interior has proven a dismal failure. We are vitally interested in the accomplishment of two ends, namely, the sale of our coal and asphalt lands for a price representing their sale before the final dissolution of our tribal government. If these ends are to be

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attained while our people can have a voice, through their government and regularly constituted authorities, it is imperative that prompt and effective steps be taken at once. Just what shall be done is a matter of consideration and determination by you. At a later date in your session, I shall communicate, by special message upon the subject, setting forth such special information as I have been able to gather, together with my recommendations as to what legislative action should be taken.

ALLOTMENT OF SURPLUS LAND

The Supplemental agreement provides that all surplus lands, after allotment shall be sold and proceeds distributed per capita, as the other funds of the tribes. When we consider what has transpired or rather what has failed to transpire relative to the sale of our coal and asphalt lands, it must be admitted that the outlook for the sale of our surplus lands, within the lives of the present generation, considering the delays that have occurred in the settlement of our affairs, it is certain that with all the Departmental haste possible, our surplus lands would not be sold for several years after the tribal dissolution.

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The superior consideration is to bring these lands, or their fair value, in money, into the hands of our people at the earliest possible time.

According to my view there are two feasible plans, either of which would be satisfactory to our people. The first is to dispose of these lands, in bulk to the government of the United States, at a fair value and divide the proceeds per capita, as the other moneys of the tribe, and the second is, failing in that, to have them allotted.

I therefore have to recommend that you pass a suitable memorial, calling this matter and the desire of our people relative thereto, to the attention of congress and urging that an appropriation act be passed.

THE NOWATA ADVERTISER

Nowata, Ind. Terr.,
Sept. 17, 1905
Vol. 11 No. 28
Frank B. Long, Editor

EDITORIAL ON D. H. JOHNSTON

Muskogee.

The long controversy between the department of the interior at Washington and Governor Johnston of the Chickasaw nation over the signing of the Indian allotments was brought to a close here, when the governor notified Commissioner Bixby that he had decided to sign the deeds.

THE CHELSEA REPORTER

Chelsea, Cher. Nation, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, Nov. 30, 1906
Vol. 12 No. 25
B. H. Hester & I. D. Divine, Editors

ABOUT ALFALFA BILL

W. M. Murray, better known as "Alfalpa Bill" who has been selected as chairman of the Oklahoma constitutional convention, is a self made man. When a boy he chopped wood for a living and went to school in the winter time and was a devil in a printing office in the summer time, and under the walnut trees in Texas he studied law. While acting in the capacity of devil he saved his earnings and graduated at a Baptist college and was admitted to the bar at Ft. Worth, Tex. He then put out a shingle at Corsicana, Tex., and enjoyed a lucrative practice. At one time he was a candidate before the primaries for state senator, including Limestone and Navarro counties, and was defeated by three votes. He then moved to Tishomingo, I. T., and entered into the practice of law. He married a niece of Governor Johnston, of the Choctaw Nation, and by this acquired

a large amount of land. He quit the practice of law after his marriage and became a full fledged alfalfa farmer. During the Sequoyah constitutional boom he was one of its brilliant orators.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma
January 3, 1908
Vol. 5, No. 10
Q. D. Gibbs, Editor

TISHOMINGO DAUGHTERS ENTERTAIN

Tuesday evening at 8:30, when the opera house curtain was raised, never before, nor perhaps will it ever again present a more beautiful scene to a more appreciative audience. The Tishomingo Daughters, in evening attire, seated in a double semi-circle, with Mesdames J. T. Looney and Wm. Lucas at the piano, playing a duet. As the soft tones of the piano melted away, Mrs. Alex Rennie stepped to the center of the stage and, in a manner that would cause some of our most talented masculine orators to look to their laurels, delivered the Address of Welcome. Mrs. W. F. de Cordova then read an original poem, "To Our Brothers," that brought down the house, for it was a combination of great literary merit with mirth-provoking.

The male quartette, Messrs. E. R. Brundage, R. C. Fleming, M. A. Looney and Harry Workman, was a very pleasing number; in fact they sang so well

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that they were forced to respond to an encore.

Mrs. Wm. Lucas read a paper on Expansion that bore evidences of careful research, and a facile pen and proved conclusively that when it comes to expansion of ideas and depth of thought that there are such things as "mere men."

The next number, a violin solo, "Ligende Whineawski," by Miss Jessie Rennie, the talented daughter of Wm. Rennie. Camilla Urso, in her youth, was not more masterful nor graceful and certainly not near so beautiful. Miss Rennie responded to an encore.

Then came that rare and radiant Chickasaw maiden, Miss Juanita Johnston, daughter of Gov. D. H. Johnston, who is at home for the holidays from Hollins Institute, Va., and recited "A Coney Island Dilemma." So happy was her rendition that the audience insisted upon another selection.

Then came Mrs. E. R. Brundage who possesses a rich and highly cultivated contralto voice of great depth and greater melody and sang that beautiful song "Paddy." As an encore she sang "Absent." Two more beautiful songs, more melodious sung, the writer has never heard, and he has heard Emma Abbot sing "Down Upon the Swanee River" and "My Old Kentucky Home."

Mrs. D. C. Teter read the "Club Prophecy."

She was a prophetess of "good and evil." She prophesied dire calamity for some members of the club and primrose paths for others. In rhetorical figures, it ranged from the sublime to the ridiculous, and proved the writer to have a keen sense of both the pathetic and ludicrous.

The last, and one of the most enjoyable numbers on the program was a trio by Mesdames G. W. Dudley, B. R. Brundage and Miss Sue Hutchens. They sang "Stars, The Sky Adorning." If you can imagine "The Diva," Emma Abbott and Clara Louise Kellogg blending their voices in unison, then you can in a measure fathom the harmonious madness that from their voices flowed, and you would be listening now as those who listened then.

As an encore, the audience received only smiles of acknowledgement, and in return, gave a sigh of disappointment. Mrs. J. T. Looney, president of the club, then announced that the program had been concluded but if the audience, their guests, would be at ease for a few minutes, further entertainment of a different nature would be served. The curtain fell.

While the guests were being entertained in conversation, the stage was being rapidly transformed into an elaborately decorated dining room, with four

tables and covers for sixteen.

When sixteen guests had been seated and while Mr. M. A. Looney played soft and low upon the piano, the curtain rose again. When these sixteen retired, the curtain fell again and so on until a delightful threecourse menu had been served to all guests, about seventy-five in number.

Each guest was presented with a pink or white carnation, as a souvenir of the occasion.

Too much praise cannot be bestowed upon Mrs. Arthur Nesbit, who was the charming hostess for the Tishomingo Daughters, nor can congratulations be showered too heavily upon all the Daughters by those who were their fortunate guests. Just as the old year was bidding the world good by, the guests were bidding their hostess good night and expressing their gratitude for an evening of intellectual profit and social pleasure.

And as the writer wended his way homeward he thought of the "Village School Master;" of how the people wondered how "one small head could carry what he knew;" and the writer wondered, and wonders still, how so much talent, musical, Vocal and literary, was ever found in any organization the size of the Tishomingo Daughters.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma

August 28, 1908

Vol. 5, No. 43

G. D. Gibbs, Editor

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHICKASAW TREATY RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

Sulphur, Oklahoma.

Aug. 10th, 1908.

2 o'clock p. m.

Pursuant to adjournment the Indian Citizens Association was called to order by Chairman W. T. Ward, and after electing Ben H. Colbert, temporary Secretary, proceeded to business as follows:
Motion prevailed that the chairman appoint a committee on Resolutions. Thereupon the chair appointed on said committee.

Ed. B. Johnson, G. W. Young, Richard McLish, Ben Dickerson and W. D. Keirse.

Motion prevailed that no one absent themselves from the meeting until after a final disposition of all business before the convention at 7:30 p. m.

Motion prevailed that the convention adjourn till 8:30 p. m.

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At 8:30 p. m. the meeting was again called to order by the chair.

The Report of the Resolutions Committee having come upon the third reading the same was adopted as reported. Which said report is as follows:

Whereas, pursuant to a call issued by D. H. Johnston, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, on the 23 day of July, 1908 to the Chickasaw and Choctaw citizens of the Chickasaw Nation to meet at Tishomingo on July 28th, 1908, on which said date a permanent organization was effected. Whereupon meeting adjourned to meet at Sulphur on the 10th, day of August 1908.

Whereupon the committee on resolutions recommend that this convention organize into a permanent organization, the name of which shall be The Chickasaw Treaty Rights Association, the object of which is to assist in a speedy and just settlement of all our affairs under existing treaty provisions.

We further recommend that an executive Committee of fifteen members be appointed who shall be on the approved Chickasaw or Choctaw citizenship rolls, and who shall be members of this Association. The duties of said committee shall be to meet immediately after the adjournment of this convention and perfect an organization by electing a chairman, a secretary and

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a treasurer, and defining their respective duties, and in case of death or inability to serve a majority of said committee shall have the right to elect another member to fill the vacancy; to have the right to appoint sub committees to solicit funds, bond its officers, and contract with and employ counsel. And we further recommend the following named citizens who will constitute said Executive Committee: Gov. D. H. Johnston, Emet; Holmes Willis, Kingston; Richard McLish, Bromide; T. P. Howell, Davis; G. W. Young, Berwyn; E. B. Johnson, Norman; Walter Colbert, Ardmore; J. C. Washington, Marietta; R. L. Murray, Colbert; C. E. Camell, Winco; W. T. Ward, Tishomingo; Henry Grenslade, Paucaunla; William L. Bird, Ada; J. E. Colbert, Lindsay; W. D. Kiersey, Kiersey.

We further recommend; that any citizen, to become a member of The Chickasaw Treaty Rights Association, shall pay a fee of ten dollars (\$10) to the treasurer of said executive committee who shall execute his receipt therefore which receipts shall be evidence of his membership in the association.

E. B. Johnson, Chairman of Resolutions committee.

L. D. Dickerson, Secretary.

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Whereupon the convention adjourned sine die in order that the Executive Committee might proceed to its organization.

BEN H. COLBERT,
Secretary.

W. T. WARD,
Chairman.

Whereupon the Executive Committee met and proceeded to perfect its permanent organization by electing Gov. D. H. Johnston Chairman, and W. T. Ward secretary, and Hon. Holmes Willis, Treasurer. Motion prevailed that the Executive Committee meet in the City of Ardmore at 9 o'clock a. m. on the 28th day of August, 1908. Motion prevailed that Ran Dickerson, W. T. Ward and B. H. Colbert constitute a committee for the purpose of assisting the Dallas News Correspondent in the work of correctly getting up the proceedings of the Convention for publication.

Motion prevailed that the Secretary have printed (2000) two thousand copies of the entire proceeding of the convention. Also to have necessary receipt books made and procured the necessary minute books for the record of all meetings.

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The Committee heartily concurred in having all Chickasaw or Choctaw citizens, so desiring, present before the Committee on the 28th, as above indicated, that all suggestions might be properly considered.

Whereupon the committee adjourned to meet as heretofore indicated.

Gov. D. H. JOHNSTON.
Chairman of committee.

W. T. WARD, Secretary.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma
September 4, 1908
Vol. 5, No 44
Q. D. Gibbs, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF MISS JUANITA JOHNSTON

Miss Juanita Johnston, the accomplished daughter of Gov. and Mrs. Johnston entertained a large number of her friends who love the Terpsicorian art at the executive mansion in Emet Thursday night of last week. Tishomingo almost moved over. Every available conveyance in the city was pressed into service. The ride over was pleasant and thoroughly enjoyed by the participants. The home and lawn was brilliantly lighted and as each guest arrived they were welcomed with a pleasant smile and a clasp of the hand from the hostess and her honored guest. The spacious parlors and dining room were thrown together and a flood of light fell over the handsomely gowned hostess and guests. The music was all that could be desired and merriment reigned supreme. The midnight hour was given over to enjoying a delicious ice course, strolling over the spacious lawn or seeking cozy corners where falling leaves and fragrant

breezes never tell. Mrs. Johnston, the highly refined and lovable mother of the hostess, left nothing undone that would insure the success of the evening. Not until 2 a. m. did the guests take their departure all declaring they had a glorious time. No accident happened on the return trip to mar the occasion. Each lady took lunch for two to be enjoyed on the long ride home and many campfires cast weird shadows over the participants as they halted to enjoy the dainties prepared by the fair ones.

The morning star, the refreshing breeze, the aroma of buds and flowers followed in our wake until we arrived at home just in time for a good cup of coffee and to take up the duties of the day. Miss Juanita sure cheated old Morpheus that time.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Okla.,
Friday, Sept., 25, 1908
Vol. 5, No. 47
Q. D. GIBBS, Editor

PROCEEDINGS OF THE CHICKASAW TREATY RIGHTS ASSOCIATION

On Sept. 18th 10 o'clock a. m., the Executive Committee of the Chickasaw Treaty Rights Association was called to order by chairman D. H. Johnston. The roll was called and the following members present: D. H. Johnston, Richard McLish, T. P. Howell, Walter Colbert, R. L. Murray, W. T. Ward, Henry Grinslade, J. E. Colbert and W. D. Keirse. After discussion of various matters, motion prevailed that the committee adjourn till 1:30 p. m. to meet in the opera house for the purpose of holding an open session.

At 1:30 p. m., the Committee met as indicated in open session and went into conference with the Choctaw Representatives, Messrs Wright, Anderson, Moore and Fannin. At this conference no definite agreement was reached further than a general understanding that the Choctaws and Chickasaws would make the fight on tax matters along mutual lines so far as might be practi-

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cable.

Thereupon the Committee went into executive session and transacted the following business:

Motion prevailed that the places on the Executive Committee held by Wm. L. Byrd and J. C. Washington be declared vacant and that J. F. Myers of Pauls Valley be elected to fill the place of Wm. L. Byrd, and Tom Grant of Davis to be elected to fill the vacancy of J. C. Washington.

Motion prevailed that Charley Colbert of Bee be appointed collector of Bryan county vice A. N. Leecraft resigned.

Motion prevailed that the Secretary write each County Collector and give them all information as to rules and regulations established by the Executive Committee, and request each to answer immediately as to whether they expect render service under appointment.

Motion prevailed that the Secretary be authorized, in case W. F. Bourland, collector for Jefferson county, cannot serve, to appoint Grove E. Chase of Chagris in his stead. Motion also prevailed that D. H. Johnston, Richard McLish, Walter Colbert and T. P. Howell constitute a committee to report to the Execu-

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Committee at its next meeting a list of Attorneys available for the prosecution of the tax proposition, and from which reported list of Attorneys, the Executive Committee is to select counsel.

Motion prevailed that each member of the Executive Committee present pay in ten dollars (\$10) each, which said amount is to be forwarded to Holmes Willis Treasurer, and from which amount the Treasurer is authorized and directed to pay to the Secretary of this Association the sum of fifty-three dollars and ninety cents (\$53.90) the same having been approved in itemized statement, a copy of which statement shall accompany this order to pay.

Motion prevailed that the Committee adjourn to meet again at this place on October 15th 1908, at 9 o'clock a. m.

D. H. JOHNSTON

Chairman Executive Com.

Attest:

W. T. WARD Sec'y.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston Co. Okla.

Friday, December 18, 1908

Vol. 8, No. 7

Q. D. Gibbs, Editor & Prop.

SPECIAL MESSAGE OF D. H. JOHNSTON

To the Honorable members of
the Senate and House of Representatives
of the Chickasaw Nation, in
extraordinary session assembled:

I deem it unnecessary to enter into details
of the purpose for which you have been called
further than to state that, since you are aware of
your vast interests subject to Congressional Legis-
lature and the urgent necessity of our having the
interest of the Nation properly guarded, it is not
only important, but very necessary, that you be
represented by a strong delegation before Congress
and the Departments.

It is my information, also, that great
pressure is being brought to bear to induce Congress
to re-open the citizenship rolls.

I, therefore, recommend that you select and

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make an appropriation for a delegation to represent the Chickasaw Nation at Washington at the present session of Congress, and that you take up and act on such other matters as in your judgment may be necessary.

With the limited time you have in which to hold your sessions, I would suggest that you expedite matters as much as possible.

Respectfully submitted,

D. H. Johnston,

Governor Chickasaw Nation.

THE KONAWA CHIEF-LEADER AND KONAWA TIMES

Knowa, Seminole Co. Okla.
Friday Noon, Aug. 13, 1909
Vol. 4, No. 35
Fredrick E. Tucker, Editor

STATEMENT OF D. H. JOHNSTON

"The dismissal of the Indian suits by Judge Campbell means more for the east side of Oklahoma than any thing that has happened there since statehood," said Hon. D. H. Johnston, former governor of the Chickasaw nation, who was an Oklahoma City visitor Saturday.

"No person who has not been a resident of one of the five civilized tribes can appreciate what this means to our people. It involved over two Million acres of land, and the suits were filed by the United States government, on the claim that titles to land made prior to the removal of restrictions and prior to the abandonment of tribal relations were not good. During the pendency of these suits, and they numbered thirty thousand, there remained a cloud upon the title of the lands. Many Indians who were affected

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refused to improve their places and thousands of men who had purchased or who had options on the land thus involved, permitted it to lie idle, which retarded the growth of the country and greatly discouraged investment

"There is no question in my mind that many of our tribesmen received only a paltry sum for his allotment, but I do not believe they were paid a price so very much too low when the transactions were made. Of course development of the country and the advent of statehood has increased the value of these lands, but the buyer as well as the seller took a chance with his eyes wide open.

"Anyway, I am glad the matter is settled, and the dismissal of the suits will have a tendency to show that our people were not so ignorant as the government supposed, and that they knew what they were doing when they disposed of their lands."

Gov. Johnston is one of the big men of the five civilized tribes, is highly respected as a citizen of sound judgment, and has been a firm advocate for the rights of the Indian regardless of his tribal relations. He returned to his home Saturday afternoon.

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CHICKASAW CAPITAL

Tishomingo, Oklahoma
Jan. 13, 1910
Vol. 9, No. 34
H. C. Simpson, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF D. H. JOHNSTON

Gov. D. H. Johnston left Sunday for Washington, D. C., where he will remain for some time in trying to secure favorable legislation looking to winding up the tribal affairs of the Chickasaw and Choctaw Nations.

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CHICKASAW CAPITAL

Tishomingo, Oklahoma
March 17, 1910
Vol. 9, No. 43
Simpson, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF D. H. JOHNSTON

Mr. H. L. Person is in receipt of a letter from Gov. D. H. Johnston, in which he says he cannot tell when he will be able to leave Washington. The governor is of opinion that the Cresger bill will be amended in many particulars before it becomes a law. Webster Ballenger is still trying to get congress to place some 12,000 or 15,000 negroes on the blooded rolls.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma
Thursday, Oct. 24, 1912
Vol. 3, No. 23
Robertson & Geers, Editors

EDITORIAL ON D. H. JOHNSTON

Gov. Douglas H. Johnston of Emet was in the city last night and left for his home today. The governor of the Chickasaws had been to Pauls Valley on 'routine' business as he expressed it. He said that he believed Wilson would be elected this fall and he expects Charley Carter's majority to be greater than it was two years ago. In fact, the governor is of the opinion that the November elections will demonstrate that this is democratic year in nearly all the states of the union. Johnston county, he says, has plenty of feed, has a good cotton crop but a shortage of porkers prevail in his section of the state as it does in many other countries. -- Ardmoreite.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Okla.,

Thursday, Dec. 5, 1912

Vol. 3, No. 29

ROBERTSON & GIBBS, Editors

CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW MEETING HELD

The mass meeting of Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians called by Governor Johnston of the Chickasaws to be held in Ardmore November 30, resulted in a meeting of the Treaty Rights association.

This association was organized in 1908 and Gov. Johnston has served as its chairman until today Nov. 30.

Following the reading of the message of the chairman by Secretary W. T. Ward, Governor Johnston voluntarily relinquished the chair and Dr. T. P. Howell of Davis was elected chairman and W. T. Ward of Tishomingo was re-elected secretary. The old executive committee was retained except that Sam Maytubby of Caddo was elected to fill the vacancy on this committee caused by the death of Will Kersey.

Dr Howell on assuming the chairmanship made a brief speech in which he showed his loyalty to the Indians in their efforts to obtain their rights

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at the hands of the federal government.

The first work done was to appoint a committee of seven members to draft resolutions. On this committee the chair appointed J. Hamp Willis, Ed. B. Johnson, T. L. Griggs, Sam Maytubby, Walter Colbert, Richard McLish and E. H. McDuffee.

While the committee was formulating its report, J. F. McMurray, attorney for the Treaty Rights association addressed the assemblage. Mr. McMurray stated that for the past ten weeks he had been in the settlements mingling with the Indians. He was telling them of their interest in the leased district, in the coal lands and other properties and was gathering from them their opinions of what kind of settlement they should have at the hands of the federal government. He dealt with the Indian tax case and recounted the victory which the Treaty rights association had won in that court decision. In surveying the faces of the intelligent assemblage of Indians gathered in the court house Mr. McMurray stated that if they stayed together and worked together that there would be no such thing as failure. In answer to a query, the speaker stated he believed the freedmen would win their case but that he had refused to represent them

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in the courts. 'But we are recounting what has been done, the thing which interests us most is what are we going to do.?' He said that if others had the property the Indians have and were not allowed to use it or were likely to never obtain it there would be a greater activity and he urged each member of the association to become acquainted with the treaties and to write members of congress and to induce their friends to get busy in the same work.

Mr. McMurray's speech dealt principally with the leased district claim. The lands involved in this district are those lying between the 98th and 100th Meridian west longitude and between the Red and Canadian rivers in southwestern Oklahoma and including five and a half millions of acres. His contention is that this great section of country was leased from the Chickasaws and Choctaws for a specific purpose and when that use to which the land was purchased

* * * that the title reverted to the Indians.

He states that the government sold these lands to settlers and placed the money in their own treasury; that these moneys belong to the Indians there is no question. Congress he says, is ready to admit that

the Indians have been relieved the use of their money and are willing to pay, asking what amount the Indians are willing to settle for.

The attorney stated that the leased district was worth more than the coal lands of the two tribes of Indians. He contends that the government should return to the Indians the amount of money received for the lands together with the value of the school lands which were not disposed of for money and with four per cent interest on the principal sum. This will aggregate from seventeen to twenty millions of dollars. Mr. McMurray says the great government of the United States is honest, that a great quickening of the conscience of the people has taken place within the last five years and he has no doubt about a fair settlement of all tribal matters. He says the tax decision means that all treaties will be adhered to and this means many millions of dollars to the Indians.

As soon as the leased district is settled he will ask for pay for the ten millions of acres that were taken from the Indians in Mississippi without giving any returns. The speaker was frequently interrupted with questions which he answered with ease. He had a map of the leased district and went into

details in describing the treaties of 1820, 1830 and those of later years. There was much interest manifested in the address of the attorney and it is safe to say that the Indians will be more alert than they have formerly been.

Promptly at 10:30 Saturday morning Governor Johnston of the Chickasaws called the mass meeting of Chickasaw and Choctaw Indians to order. He stated that many prominent tribesmen had not arrived yet and he would like to see the business session postponed until the afternoon. Mr. Maytubby of Caddo moved that a committee on resolutions be appointed that they might be at work during the recess. The governor stated that the meeting was not in formal session and did not put the motion. A number of those present stated that in their opinion adjournment should be taken until the arrival of a full delegation as the work to be done was of vast importance to the Indians and without any formalities the governor announced that the meeting would be convened in the assembly room of the county court house at 1:30 in the afternoon.

The ladies of the Christian church served dinner to the Indian delegates. The citizens of Ardmore bought the dinner and gave the visitors free

tickets.

The dinner was a splendid one and the delegates were well pleased with the cordial manner in which they were treated.

The Chickasaws and Choctaws who met here to take part in the mass meeting called by Governor Johnston were very anxious to have Congressman Carter with them but the congressman had made a date of much importance in Washington Monday and he left Friday night to be in the capital when Congress convenes. A committee consisting of prominent Indian visited Mr. Carter at his office Friday night. An informal meeting was held and Mr. Carter stated to the gentlemen that what this country needs is the enforcement of the laws which congress has already passed more than it needs new legislation. The congressman stated that the federal appropriation for Indian Territory had grown much less each year and as the federal appropriation grew less more funds were taken from the tribal treasury. This money is taken in a manner that an expert accountant could not determine whether it was taken from the Choctaw or Chickasaw funds. This taking of funds from the tribal treasury is what Mr. Carter is interested in checking. He also stated

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that he had been handicapped somewhat by letters coming in from Indians who did not understand the question and whose letters were dictated or inspired by federal officials in Indian Territory. Mr. Carter also stated that the coal and mineral lands should be sold when the demand for this property will justify the sale. That the conservationists in congress are rather strong and they fight to hold the mineral lands or to offer them at such fabulous prices that no buyers will take them.

Without taking adjournment for the evening meal the Indian Treaty Rights association prolonged their session until late at night. The resolutions committee gave much care to their report. The resolutions were addressed to the congress of the United States, and expressed confidence in Governor Johnston of the Chickasaws, Gov. Locke of the Choctaws, Congressman Charley Carter and Scott Ferris of Oklahoma and John Stephen of Texas and the United States senators from Oklahoma. The resolutions ask for the turning over of the property to those who are capable of managing their affairs and for the sale of all property belonging to the Indians in common and for the distribution of the proceeds. The undivided property consists

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of the coal and other mineral lands, the timber lands and the various claims held against the government. Especial confidence was expressed in the ability of J. F. McMurray, attorney for the association, and congress and the departments are petitioned to recognize him as the attorney for the Indians. Governor Johnston was eulogized as the inspiration and guiding hand of the Indians and he is requested to spend the winter in Washington as a delegate of the tribes and congress is requested to pay him out of tribal funds and to give him \$5,000 as remuneration for his past service and expenses he has incurred in serving his people. Congress was asked to make immediate sale of the coal and asphalt lands. Frank Bourland was commended for his work for the tribes as a delegate to Washington and congress is asked to pay him \$2,500 for his services from January 1 to July 1, 1910. Resolutions were also adopted expressing thanks to the people of Ardmore for their generous entertainment and to the Daily Ardmoreite for its faithful work in reporting the proceedings and for its uniform courtesy.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL -DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Okla.,

Thursday, Dec. 12, 1912

Vol. 3, No. 30

ROBERTSON & GEERS, EDITORS

TISHOMINGO'S DAUGHTERS MEETING

At the meeting with Mrs. Dudley a goodly number was present. In the business hour a civic committee was appointed to confer with the town council in regard to the unsanitary conditions of our town. Prizes, worth the having, will be awarded the two boys who gather the first and second greatest number of tin cans. The debate "should we eat to live or should we live to eat" was very exciting. The judge decided in favor of the negative, the affirmative thereby losing a big box of sweets.

Miss Januita Johnston in a very pleasing manner rendered a pianologue. Lastly Miss Muskedoll gave a chafing dish demonstration highly complemented by the palpilae which when at home are found on the edges of the organ of taste.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston Co. Okla.

Thursday, March 20, 1913

Vol. 11, No. 18

Robertson & Geers, Editors

NEWS ITEM OF D. H. JOHNSTON & "BILL" MURRAY

Sol Lewis has just returned from Washington where he has been ever since the inaugural of President Wilson. Mr. Lewis says that already the congressmen are taking notice of Mr. Murray and that he has served notice on "old members" that he a new member demanded recognition in the way of being placed on the committees.

While there Sol says that Bill called on Wm. J. Bryan and Albert Burleson, members of Wilsons cabinet, and in each instance Mr. Murray was accorded a hearty welcome, being recieved by Bryan the latter exclaimed: "Hello, Bill, how are you?" Mr. Lewis says that several were present when Murray called but that Bryan "took right to him."

Mr. Murray and Gov. D. H. Johnston have secured rooms in the southwest portion of the city

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and are rooming together. Mr. Lewis is authority for the statement that Bill is dressed in a fine broadcloth suit of tailor made clothes and presents a statesmanlike appearance both in and out of congress.

Mr. Murray has an engagement with President Wilson today.

JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma
Thursday, April 20, 1916

Vol. 12, No. 34

Robertson & Geers, Editor and Prop.

NEWS ITEM OF D. H. JOHNSTON

Hendrix, Okla.

April 15.

Aged Chickasaw Indians here are signing a petition asking the president, the commissioner of Indian affairs and members of congress to pay to each member of the Chickasaw Indian tribe the sum of \$3,000 now in the hands of the government, but which belongs to the individual members of the tribe.

The petition recites that many of the Chickasaw Indians are becoming old and that they are becoming too feeble to work for a living.

A bill authorizing the payment of the money to the Chickasaws has passed the lower house of congress has been amended and passed in the senate and is now in the hands of a conference committee composed of members of

the two houses.

The full text of the Indians' petition follows:

"To the president of the United States, the secretary of the interior, commissioner of Indian affairs, congress, especially members from our own state, and more especially those of Indian blood and affiliations.

"The undersigned, members of the Chickasaw tribe of Indians, who have reached the age of sixty years, request and urge that the proportion of the money belonging to the Chickasaws, now held in the United States treasury and in Oklahoma banks, and approximating the sum of three thousand dollars for each individual Chickasaw, according to the statement recently made by the commissioner of Indian affairs before the Indian committee of the house of representatives. Washington, D. C., be immediately and without delay given to us and our several names debited with such sum on the financial books of the Chickasaws.

"We feel and sadly realize that time is passing swiftly and that our day shall soon be spent and done and we plead for this money now, while we are living, that its benefits may accrue to us in person. We beg that it be not withheld until time has done his worst

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with us and we are no more. Give us our money now, we entreat. What good can it do us when we have folded our tepees for the last time, and gone through the sunset nevermore to return.

"We earnestly beg that this petition be not cast aside without notice or attention, and we pray that speedy action may be taken, and that this money, so sorely needed by many of us, now not able to labor, may be granted to us in time to render more comfortable our last days."

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JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma

June 21, 1923

Vol. 19, No. 44

J. C. Hopkins, Editor

OPPOSITION TO TRIBAL SCHOOLS

Education of the Indians is part of the school problem of Oklahoma, hence there should be widespread interest in discussion among the Chickasaws of a proposal to convert all tribal funds and common property to the perpetuation of tribal schools. A long statement from Douglas H. Johnston, governor of the Chickasaws, indicates that the plan is unlikely to be adopted, although it will be discussed at a meeting of Choctaws and Chickasaws to be held June 7.

Although the movement began with the full-blooded Chickasaws, it has met with considerable opposition, and reasons for postponing it or defeating it are set forth in the governor's statement. The actual funds of the Chickasaws are at a low ebb, and it is found impossible to sell remaining common property, including coal and asphalt lands to good advantage at this time.

These tribal schools have been supported by annual appropriations from the tribal funds, a practice

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that has obtained since 1906. It seems to be advantageous to the Indians to continue that method of maintenance, under the circumstances, although there is a feeling among the Chickasaws that they pay more in proportion than the Choctaws.

All of this controversy, it may be added, only indirectly concerns those Indians attending public schools of the state, for which the public school funds receive ten cents per day per pupil, a tuition entirely too low. That money comes from congressional appropriations, and takes nothing from the tribal funds. For the state at large, it would be better if all Indian children were in tribal schools so long as so much Indian property is tax exempt, and the policy of congress so niggardly. That is, of course, merely the financial aspect of the case. Actually it is important that the Indians have good schools, whatever the source of support. And it is reasonable to assume that their development as citizens is strengthened by scholastic association with white pupils. -- Oklahoman.

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JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma

March 20, 1924

Vol. 20, No. 31

R. M. McCool,) Editors
Joe S. Ratliff,)

TISHOMINGO'S DAUGHTERS

Tishomingo's Daughters celebrated Arbor Day very appropriately on the Murray School campus.

A short program was rendered, after which four trees were planted and dedicated. First tree was named for Hon. William H. Murray, who was instrumental in getting the school located at Tishomingo and for whom it was named. Mr. Murray also secured an appropriation for the dormitories for the Chickasaws.

Another tree was dedicated to Governor Johnston, who has always had an interest of the school at heart and has given help in many instances. A third tree was named for Mr. John A. Whitehurst, president of the State Board of Agriculture. Mr. Whitehurst has always befriended Murray School in every way possible. The fourth and last tree was named for Mr. McCool President of the School, in recognition of his fifteen years of service.

At the same time a tree was planted by the school and dedicated to Governor M. E. Trapp.

Name plates will be placed on these trees, thus commemorating these men in the minds of the pupils and friends of the school.

JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma

August 4, 1927

Vol. 23, No. 46

R. M. McCool, Editor

EDITORIAL ON D. H. JOHNSTON

Douglas H. Johnston, of Emet, governor of the Chickasaws, was born at Skulleyville, near Fort Smith Ark., nearly 60 years ago. He grew to manhood at *Indianola* Indianoma, 20 miles north of the present town of McAlester.

In 1898 Johnston was elected chief executive of the nation and held office for two successive terms. He was succeeded by Governor Mosely, but again was elected chief in 1904, the last election held by the Chickasaws as a nation, and has held the office by national edict since.

Much of Governor Johnston's time now is spent in Washington where he maintains an office and is present at every session of congress, looking after the interests of his people.

JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Johnston County, Oklahoma

Vol. 24, No. 8

November 10, 1927

R. M. McCool, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF R. M. HARRIS

Last Wednesday Gov. R. M. Harris suffered a stroke of paralysis, at the home of his daughter, Mrs. Safford Ledgerwood, in the east part of town, and has been dangerously ill since that time.

Mr. Harris has been in failing health for some time and it is feared that he will not recover.

JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Ind. Ter.
Nov. 14, 1929
Vol. 25, No. 48
Thelma Alexander, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF D. H. JOHNSTON

At the convention held here Monday by the Chickasaw tribe an overwhelming vote of confidence and trust was given the veteran Governor of the Chickasaw tribe. The meeting was the outcome of an agitation being started by several members of the tribe, who expressed their disapproval of Johnston's actions in the matters pertaining to tribal affairs.

At a meeting in Durant several weeks ago, in which the Choctaws and Chickasaws both took part, a meeting was called by that gathering for the Chickasaws to meet at Tishomingo on November 11. The meeting place was later changed by Frank Stewart, of Chickasha, who called the meeting for Ardmore.

Governor Johnston had ratified the meeting for Tishomingo and refused to have the meeting place changed, and the meeting to be held at Ardmore failed.

Early in the morning of the 11th, Indians from all parts of the state began gathering at the Murray school campus, and by 10:30, the opening time, some two thousand Indians were in attendance.

The meeting was called to order by Wm. H. Murray, who stated the object of the meeting. An organization was perfected and Ben Carter, of Ardmore was elected chairman of the meeting, and Mrs. Jessie Moore, of Oklahoma City, was elected secretary and Ben McDonald and Nelson Wolfe were elected interpreters. The Chair appointed a resolution committee composed of Neil Johnson, of Norman; Walter Colbert, of Ardmore; Arthur N. Lecraft, of Colbert; Joe Colbert, Forbes Cravatt, and J. F. McKeel, of Ada; Robert Imotachey, Mrs. W. T. Ward, Mrs. ^{Dettie} Bettie Pickens and Dr. Howell.

The governor's message to the Chickasaw tribe was read in toto by Melvin Cornish in the English language and later interpreted by McDonald and Wolfe into the Chickasaw language. This took some three hours time and the convention then adjourned for dinner.

Pashofa had been prepared by full-blood Indian women in the grove east of the school buildings, and

some two thousand people enjoyed the feast. The novelty of eating pashofa drew many there, as many of the younger Indians had never tasted the dish. Needless to say that everyone enjoyed the meal. After the dinner hour the convention assembled in the auditorium, and the resolutions committee after some delay reported four resolutions for the consideration of the convention.

The first resolution made the organization permanent, being named: "The Chickasaw Protective Association." The second was the report of the committee on the governor's message. The majority report which was signed by eight of the ten members, praised the governor, and approved his acts as leader of the tribe.

The minority report which was signed by Neil Johnson and Walter Colbert, was after one hour's debate, rejected. It was gratifying to the aged governor, to have this expression of confidence and good will of his people expressed as it was in a convention which was called to censure him.

Johnston has been governor of the tribe for thirty years, and it can be said of him that during that time no word of scandal, or suspicion of dishonesty has ever been

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even thought of. The only dissention in evidence was a matter of business policy, and not personal. The resolution follows:

"The Chickasaws," said the resolution, "gave the Choctaw tribe \$300,000 in the year 1855 for separate government, and we stand for continuation of such a course. On many occasions we have been made secure only because of our separate control of affairs. United we stand for the rights of each other. In the selection of those to represent us we shall remain self-governing."

The resolution deplored the "efforts of a few Chickasaw citizens who attempt settlement of our tribal affairs independent of the United States government, for the reason that such a course is in violation of the laws and treaties..."

"The Chickasaw people are, as a tribe," it adds, "law abiding and always faithful to all treaties they have ever ratified with the government."

"We further deplore such action," it concludes, "because such a course will prove in the end more expensive to the tribe in payment of unnecessary attorney fees and for the reason that the leadership of our government is safer. We trust in the integrity

of the United States in the sense of fair dealing and in the American people to make just and equitable settlement with us for all our properties. We do not trust any digression of any member of the tribe whose course is calculated for personal self-gain.

Another resolution was adopted calling upon congress for an act authorizing the disposal of all tribal affairs, and asking for immediate steps for the settlement of all suits now pending for the tribe.

The Association will meet in Tishomingo subject to the call of the president of the organization.

JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Feb. 9, 1933

Vol. 28, No. 30

Sanford Hardy, Editor

CAPITAL OF CHICKASAW NATION

Students of Oklahoma history class would be interested to know that Tishomingo is one of the towns that abounds in historical settings. Only a few people really know the true meaning of the word "Tishomingo." Many would guess that the word is derived from the Chickasaw language.

The Chickasaw ruler was formerly called "King" or "Miko." His favorite chief officer had attached to his name the title "Tisku Miko" which means little King or Chief. The last of the Chickasaw Kings died two years after the tribe arrived here from Mississippi. After the death of the "King," his chief officer was chosen as the new ruler and called "Chief Tishomingo." The Indians honored him by naming the Chickasaw capitol for him.

Indians tell many stories of Pennington Creek, but all Indians say if a stranger once drinks

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of the sparkling Pennington water, he will be sure to return, no matter how far away he may go.

The most historical part of Tishomingo is the Court House which was the Capitol of the Chickasaw Nation. The building is made of native grey granite.

After the adoption of the Curtis Bill in 1898, there was quite a revolution in the affairs of Tishomingo. Members of the Dawes Commission were sent here to solve the most intricate problems ever under taken in the history of the Indian Territory. The bitterness came by rejecting some applicants for allotments.

There are many Indians now living in Tishomingo who were prominent officials during the time of the tribal government.

There are several interesting historical sites near Tishomingo that are relics of tribal days. Among them are Rock Academy, a school for girls; Harley Institute, a school for boys; the grave of Mr. Harley, who was founder of that school, and old Fort Washita.

JOHNSTON COUNTY CAPITAL-DEMOCRAT

Tishomingo, Oklahoma

Sept. 21, 1933

Vol. 31, No. 9

W. C. Geeks, Editor

BLOOMFIELD SEMINARY

(by David Fulsom)

In connection with educational work of the Indian Territory, Professor Elihu B. Hinshaw well deserves mention, having done much to elevate the intellectual interests of this portion of the Territory.

He was born at Sheridan, Indiana, and is a son of Jacob Hinshaw, whose birth occurred in the Keystone State, and who was of old Pennsylvania Quaker ancestry. He removed to Indiana in the early days of its development and there became an extensive land owner, owning valuable property and becoming a wealthy and influential citizen. He married Miss Elizabeth Barker, who was also a native of Pennsylvania and belonged to one of the Quaker families of that state.

Professor Hinshaw, of this review, completed

his education in Hiwassa College, in Tennessee, where he was graduated in 1884, with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. Since that time the degree of Master of Arts has been conferred upon him by his alma mater, which is one of the oldest as one of the most well known and excellent educational institutions in the south.

After his graduation Professor Hinshaw entered upon the works of instructing others and had charge of a high school in east Tennessee for two years, after which he became a member of the faculty of Savoy College, in Savoy, Texas. His good work there became known in 1887. He was solicited to accept the position of principal of Bloomfield Seminary in Panola county, in the Chickasaw Nation. He accepted the offer and has since been at the head of the school in the position of superintendent.

Bloomfield Seminary is an educational institution maintained by the Chickasaw government for the free higher education of the children of Chickasaw citizens. It was established before the civil war and its present location in Panola county,

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and has been in existence for years. It was originally established by missionaries from the New England states and was first conducted as a mission school, but later was placed under charge of the Chickasaw government by which it has since been maintained under the contract system.

The school at first had thirty pupils, both boys and girls, later, however, the number of admissions was increased to forty-five. An act by the Chickasaw legislature, approved October 9, 1876, B. F. Overton, governor at the Seminary, made it exclusively for girls which it has since remained. A few years later the number of pupils which could be entered was increased to sixty and a new building was erected for the accomodation of that number. In 1896 the school property was destroyed by fire, but the buildings were at once replaced by large and more commodious structures. The enrollment number was again increased to eighty-five. By an act of the Chickasaw Legislature, approved October 24, 1896, R. M. Harris, as governor, and Professor Hinshaw, finding it very difficult to keep the limit down to that number.

There are three departments to the Seminary. The music the Arts and the literary, and each is in charge of competent instructors. The work done in the literary course is of especially high order, embracing latin, Greek, and mathematics. The last course extending through geometry. Careful and practical work is required in all departments and the students who have graduated from Bloomfield Seminary with the degree of Master of Literature will compare favorably in equipment with those of any other institution of a similar character.

There is about Bloomfield, an air of culture and refinement and an atmosphere of learning that never fails to have a strong influence for good over the lives of students. The school is one which the Chickasaws have every reason to be proud for its work has been of greatest value.

Professor Hinshaw is a very enthusiastic teacher and an untiring worker, laboring for the upbuilding of the Seminary. His efforts being crowned with the greatest success, and his heart is in the work and he seems tireless in his efforts. He has adopted the branches of study that are not only

beneficial but attractive, and continuing on the alert to promote the usefulness of the school, which has indeed been a very important factor in advancing culture and intellectuality in the community in which it is located.

Professor Hinshaw was united in marriage to Miss Mary Hunnicutt, a native of Tennessee, and who was educated in Victoria College, of that state. Both the professor and his wife are constant members of the Society of friends and their earnest Christian lives have been an exemplification of its teaching, an example which has ably supplemented the precepts of the Professor in his work among the students of the Seminary. A gentleman of scholarly attainments and broad general culture, he is a charming conversationalist and an agreeable companion and friend, who wins high regards wherever he is known, and one whom the Chickasaw people love.