

# Indian Chieftain.

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## PURSUING THE WISEST COURSE.

Some people who are not well posted in regard to Indian matters in this country are wondering why the Creeks failed to ratify the agreement with the Dawes commission; and why the Cherokee council does not pass a bill providing for a commission to treat with the Dawes commission. There are many reasons and some of them are of sufficient force to warrant the very course these Indians have pursued.

In the first place the Creek treaty was not fair to the common Creek Indian, but had the earmarks of a scheme to boom the towns and to place Indian land upon the market at the ridiculously low price of \$1.25 an acre. The Creeks were not allowed according to the provisions of that treaty to allot their lands among their people, but were only allowed 160 acres each, or about one third of what should have been their prorate shares. Among the reasons why the Creeks are not willing to enter into an agreement, is that they do not believe the United States government would carry out the provisions of such agreement when entered into. When the Cherokee commission was negotiating for the sale of the strip, the Creeks were promised as a part consideration for the lands that the intruders should be removed from their country; also that the money due them from the United States should be promptly paid after a careful accounting by a representative of the Cherokee nation and an agent appointed by the government. \$4,300,000 was found due the Creeks. The strip has been occupied by white settlers for more than five years, and no one single intruder has been removed; and not a dollar of the money due the Creeks has been paid. The Creeks performed their part of the transaction to the letter and the government showed bad faith from the beginning.

It is strange that these Indians should hesitate to make other agreements with representatives of the United States? The Curtis bill with all its inconsistencies and wrong to the Indians is not to be dreaded any more than an agreement more favorable with no power on their part to enforce its fulfillment. The title to the land is the only tangible thing the Creeks and Cherokees have left and it should be guarded with scrupulous care, and if need be, go into the courts of the country to defend it. The chief and those who are loudest in their demands for an agreement are unsafe leaders and should not be followed.

Let the Creeks and Cherokees stand aloof and leave themselves in the hands of the government, armed with their treaties and with the patent to their lands, and consent to no allotment that does not give them all their land, divided equally among their people.

**DON'T SELL THE LAND.**  
The citizens of the five tribes in this territory who are soon to receive in fee simple title to the land due them from the common holdings should have the lesson of the importance of keeping their land, deeply impressed upon them. The present generation will see land so scarce and so high in price that comparatively few people will own their own homes. Productive land will be so high in price as to be practically out of the reach of the masses. When the land of this nation is allotted and title made to the individual, every Indian should resolve to keep the greater portion and not sell it at any price that could legitimately be offered.

In the years to come no one will stand higher than the man who owns the land. There will be a thousand inducements to sell. Money will be plentiful to offer at low rates of interest with land for security. The value of land does not depend altogether upon the cultivation; it will depend upon the millions to be supported by it. The family that dwells upon their own soil can put up with fewer of the luxuries of life and still be better off than those who do not own the earth upon which they domicile.

As the population of the country increases the value of the land climbs higher. The change is almost imperceptible, but it is sure and safe and the advance is going on. In the vicissitudes of business life, and the rapid changes of time and circumstances, the man who owns a considerable piece of land is the only individual who can stand any kind of adversity

and be saved from absolute disaster. If there is one thing above another that the writer would impress upon the Cherokees who are soon to own their own land it is to keep it at all hazards. Let every Cherokee family select and secure land enough for a comfortable home and for generations to come they will be sure of a competence. The great surging landless, homeless, discontented masses that sweep back and forth over this country, aimless and hopeless, are a type of what our own people will be if they are foolish enough to give up their land.

Muskogee is in sackcloth and ashes. The Creek treaty has failed of ratification by a popular vote of the citizens of the Creek nation. After nearly three weeks of squabbling the official count of the vote was announced Saturday and the agreement was defeated by more than 150 majority. Never in the history of the five tribes was there such an effort made to overthrow the will of an Indian nation by outside influence and pressure. There is no sort of question but what the treaty as it stood was little short of a stupendous wrong upon the Indians by those who desired to build towns and own land in their country. The agreement allowed the Creeks only a comparatively small portion of their land and threw the remainder upon the market at \$1.25 an acre.

The Creeks should now demand an equal division of all their land among all their citizens. A proposition of that kind would doubtless be ratified. The opening of a land office in the Cherokee nation and allowing Cherokee citizens to file claims upon 80 acres for each member of a family will be the longest step toward a final dissolution of tribal relations of any yet taken. The Indians will not be slow to avail themselves of everything in the way of an advantage that presents itself. Those who have the most strenuously opposed any sort of a change will, as a general thing, be the first ones to present themselves at the land office to file upon the land they will have selected as their allotment.

An endeavor is going to be made this council to secure a contract for the collection of the four million and upwards due the Cherokees under the Wylie accounting. If successful, a determined and stubborn fight will be made at the coming session of congress. Men of national prominence have been interested and if they can "make it" at all, they expect to be able to do so during the life of the present congress, which terminates March 4, next. Their success will be warmly hoped for by every citizen of the nation.

Tom Crooks, well remembered as United States commissioner here, appointed by Judge Stuart, and who suddenly got tired of the office and resigned, has just been elected a justice of the peace at Denison. It was Judge Crooks who suggested to a jury in his court here once when they could not agree, to toss up a silver dollar "heads or tails" as to how the case should be decided, which was done. Crooks is a great man.

The information now is that we have only 4,419,548 acres of land. From this amount deduct for townships, railroad grants, cemeteries, schools, churches, and the amount segregated for the Delaware, and counting our population at 35,000 and you will see that we will perhaps have less than 120 acres per head. We will never get more, but annually the pro rata share of each grows less, and the only check is division.—Sentinel.

There is a decided tendency among leading Cherokees to, as the saying is, "stand pat" upon the government proposition to open a land office in the Cherokee nation and allow citizens to file on 80 acres of land. Should the Cherokees refuse flatly to file on lands, the next step to be taken by the government is difficult to opine. The enterprising press correspondent at South McAlester yesterday announced the appointments made by the Methodist conference at Norman, Okla., just twenty-two days ago. W. R. Draper has evidently left his winter quarters in Wichita for the more genial clime of the Choctaw nation.

One of the most remarkable incidents of the recent cold snap was the freezing to death of a book agent at Omaha, Monday night. He was found dead on the street, but it is not stated whether or not he had stopped talking when found. This ought to be a warning to all book agents to cease operation till next summer.

The Muskogee Times tried to be funny yesterday by saying that "Spiechie" had gone out to Okmulgee to read some of the editorials to the fullbloods to show "em where they were 'at." If the holiday season was not here a joke like that would be taken seriously.

George Whiteturkey was arrested last week by Deputy Marshals Trail and Shipley for killing a man by the name of Kurl at Hogshooter creek during the progress of a picnic August 25, 1898. Whiteturkey was taken before Commissioner Yancy at Nowata and committed to jail without bail.

The press of Wagoner and Muskogee are alarmed lest the Cherokees and Creeks are going to get hurt by the operation of the Curtis law. These patriots sustain about the same relation to the Indian as the wolf to the lamb. The Cherokees and Creeks are able to decide when and how their country shall be allotted.

It is hard to head off the Missourians who come to Oklahoma. Tom Jarboe struck Norman about a year ago with a southern accent and a desire to be shown. The election landed him right in the middle of the county printing. He says its just like eating oysters out of the can.

The Wagoner Record states that Inspector J. George Wright, when it was found that the Creek treaty was defeated, made a talk to the Indians that "dumfounded" them. That must have been a great "gabfest," if old Spiechie was "dumfounded" after winning that great victory.

William Speer, a farmer, while intoxicated climbed a ladder to the walls of the Missouri state prison and watched the convicts at work inside. A guard's command to halt startled him and he jumped to the prison yard. He is in the hospital, suffering from a fractured rib.

The Curtis bill is very much akin to a bob tailed flush played with sufficient nerve to win. It has accomplished all that it was intended to with four of the five civilized tribes and the fifth will probably swing into line.—Denison Herald.

The Indians are between the devil and the deep blue, ever restless, throbbing, briny waves of the ocean. On one hand they receive one sort of advice, and on the other an entirely different variety. Truly it is, Lo, the poor Indian.—Denison Herald.

C. V. Rogers, a prominent Cherokee citizen of Claremore, is in town. He is just from Tahlequah and says that the Cherokees in his opinion will not do anything towards authorizing a treaty.—Muskogee Times.

The hearing of Dick Karr, Clarence Gibson and Clinton Ogan, set for the 22d of this month before Judge Yancy here, has been stricken from the docket and the cases will be investigated by the Wagoner grand jury.—Progress.

Jerry Simpson was defeated out in the short grass country in Kansas last week and it is said that after the expiration of his term in congress he will go back to his farm and raise stock and wear sox like other people.

The United States government will never allot the lands of the Creeks and Cherokees without their consent. This is a great truth and the attention of the Cherokees is especially called to it.

The Kansas editor who found a bunch of snakes in the road fighting in a horrible way, would be arrested for introducing if he lived in the Indian Territory.

Now that council has refused to create another commission to negotiate with the Dawes commission, the next best thing to do is to adjourn sine die.

A self-made man is generally a man whose parents have kept themselves poor all their lives to give him an education and a start in the world.

The Coffeyville Daily Journal finds fault with the Muskogee Times for printing the same story five times during the last six weeks.

The United States again asks an immediate answer from Spain. This is about the four hundredth time since the blowing up of the Maine.

And so the Creeks failed to ratify the agreement after all. The advice of some very prominent people has also been rejected.

The rejection of the treaty by the Creeks is a hard blow to the big pasture owners of the Creek country.

Since the Frisco reduced fares to three cents the frequent enquiry is, when will the Katy do likewise.

The most truthful man in the world will lie when a woman asks him how he likes her new hat.

The incorporation of towns in the Indian country has come to be an epidemic.

The national council has decided to "stand pat" and "Too-quas-tees" is very happy.

Will the Cherokees be governed exclusively by the Curtis bill?

## THE CHEROKEE COUNCIL.

TABLET, Nov. 16th, 1898.

It seems that when Indian Indian inspector Wright was over here, the Board of Education, being desirous of "doing the right thing" went with him to visit the institutions of learning. On this trip they demanded of each of the superintendents twenty-five dollars to defray expenses. Rev. J. F. Thompson refused. They did not insist—presumably because they stood in awe of him. R. K. Adair refused until they promised to receive him and pass on claim this council in their report. This they did. It now develops that J. George Wright "paid the freight" and G. Wash Mitchell, M(oney) face) L. Paden and J. Easy Butler had twenty-five dollars apiece to put in their pockets for future expenses.

Senator Manus (full-blood) from Tahlequah district, introduced a bill yesterday providing for a treaty commission, which was lost by a tie vote. This practically leaves the Cherokees in the hands of the Curtis bill. The vote indicated that the Curtis bill was preferable to a treaty with the Dawes commission.

Treaty bill killed in senate by tie vote—so close!  
A few days ago a "feeler" resolution that would have been defeated by a small majority, was withdrawn—so close!

Now, who among us has patriotism enough to furnish the money necessary to untie the senate and reverse the majority in the house? That is the momentous question.

T. W. Triplett is the caucus nominee for member board of education, to succeed J. E. Butler. To do everybody justice two more places should be created by council, and John C. Duncan and R. H. Fields elected to them. In a multitude of counsel there is much wisdom.

But the will of the caucus is not supreme, for Harvey W. C. Shelton was elected by council, and not Mr. Triplett.

As reported to you T. W. Triplett was nominated by the caucus to succeed John E. Butler, but the nomination created such a stir that the Downing's determined to give him a race on joint ballot. Seeing defeat staring them in the face, the Nationals repaired to the square, east side of capitol, just before the hour for convening of council, and drew Triplett down and put up Rev. E. P. Robertson. The change, however, was too late and H. W. C. Shelton was elected as stated.

The result gives general satisfaction. A refreshing breeze passed through the northwest corner, on the second floor, of the capitol.

Just before the senate adjourned yesterday J. R. Leach, of Saline, introduced a resolution to compel the chief to issue warrants to officers of the nation whose official heads went off under the Curtis ax. It is the supposition that this post mortem disbursement is intended for funeral expenses.

It is rumored that the opposition will introduce a treaty bill, in which event one of two conclusions is correct—they see the error of their way, or they have "taken a tumble" to Muskrat and Grass.

If it is the intention of council to do nothing, it is succeeding beautifully.

**Wagoner Saying's Court Report.**  
B. F. Crabtree, false pretence, was acquitted by the jury.

There are two other cases of the same charge pending against him in this court. The case against Dad Burns, charged with dispensing of intoxicating liquors, was continued by agreement.

Thomas Johnson, larceny, two cases continued. Henry Minco and John Thomas, larceny; transferred to Muskogee. Henry and Fred Colbert larceny; jury trial verdict guilty. Henry was sentenced to the penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., for two years and Fred to the reform school for boys for two years. Elizabeth Still and J. A. Thompson; larceny, continued by defendants. Sam Cochran, larceny, continued.

George Drew, larceny, continued. George Nicks, Charles Weeks and Martin Owen, larceny, transferred to Muskogee.

Andrew Cadjo, murder, transferred to Muskogee and set for Jan. 24.

John W. Ellison, larceny and receiving stolen property, transferred to Vinita.

George White, murder, transferred to Vinita.

John Ledinger, selling liquor; sent to the reform school at Booneville, Mo., for two years.

Walter Marshall and William Grosdon, larceny, transferred to Muskogee.

Edward Burgess, larceny, sent to the reform school at Booneville, Mo., for two years.

Joseph Anderson, charged with bigamy, found guilty.

Robert Sampson, continued to December 4th.

Albert Bradshaw, charged with larceny, continued.

John Dean and Ned Island, charged with larceny; Dean found guilty by jury, Island, found not guilty and was discharged.

George Hart, charged with assault on a child, fined \$400 and committed to jail until fine and costs paid.

Almon Cuddebeck, charged with whiskey, sentenced one year and one day in the Missouri state penitentiary at Jefferson City, Mo., on a plea of guilty—sentence suspended.

One Utley, Seminole Indian, charged with adultery plea of guilty, sentenced one year and one day in Missouri penitentiary. Sentence suspended.

Albert Noble, charged with whiskey, sentence sixty days in jail and fine of \$100 and costs. Sentence suspended until further order of court.

Mose Meeks, charged with stealing two horses, trial by jury and verdict of guilty brought in.

Horace Pierce, same charge, not yet sentenced.

John Painter, defendant, charged with murder, duly arraigned and plead not guilty.—Sayings.

**A Territorial Teacher's Association.**  
To the thoughtful observer, it is rather surprising that, with the great number of teachers now at work in the Indian Territory, there has been no attempt to bring the educational forces together. The common complaint has been, that there was but little system in the teaching, no uniformity in "course of study" and no professional pride.

The teaching and the teacher were isolated by distance and want of sympathy. At present there are many enthusiastic teachers in our midst. They consider teaching a profession and a worthy one. They are devoted to it, not for the value received, but for the grand opportunities to influence the young lives for good.

Besides, there are many young teachers, who are ready to catch the spirit of the true teacher and be moved by their enthusiasm.

The objections, of former years have been removed. There are central points which can be easily reached without great expense. Now there is an army of teachers. The urgent demand for better teaching, and the interest taken in educational affairs, all these things point to a new era in school teaching in the Territory.

Organization is essential to effective work in any class or profession. The Indian Territory teacher's association should be an actual fact. Uniformity of studies, methods of instruction and a perfect understanding in regard to the doings of our neighbors and fellow-teachers, should be considered.

Many live topics should be discussed and agreed upon. The papers of the territory would gladly give their columns to print the papers and discussion and thus broaden the influence of the association.

The writer of this article has received many letters in reply to an inquiry regarding a meeting. All favor a meeting at some central point about December 27th 1898.

Let all teachers and friends of education push this matter. Write to the undersigned at Vinita, I. T., giving suggestions pertaining to the success of the movement.

Sincerely yours,  
W. A. CALDWELL.

**The Rev. Irl R. Hicks'**  
Annual Almanac and monthly paper, Word and Works, are now known from sea to sea. We are pleased to call the attention of our readers to the almanac for 1899, now ready. It is a splendidly printed and illustrated book of 116 pages and the storm forecasts and diagrams and astronomical and scientific matter are superior to anything that has ever been seen before in a 25 cent book. His monthly journal, Word and Works, is one of the best literary, home and scientific magazines in the country, besides containing his monthly storm forecasts with explanations. The subscription price of Word and Works is \$1.00 per year and a copy of the Hicks almanac is sent as a premium to every yearly subscriber. Single copies 10c. Price of Almanac alone, 25 cents. Send your order to Word and Works Pub. Co., 2201 Locust street, St. Louis Mo.

**Protect Your Trees from Rabbits.**  
Don't delay this. Now is the time. First remove all borers by digging the dirt from the collar of the tree, scraping it to be sure that no larvae remain; take a newspaper at least 16 inches long and wide enough to surround the tree. Tie with common wrapping twine at the top to hold in place. No rabbit will ever touch a tree thus treated. You need not remove it; simply cut the string; the paper in most cases will adhere to the tree and serve the purpose of a protector for three years. It is the cheapest and best wrap ever invented. Any old paper will answer. Try it. You will never buy another veneer or other wrap. It costs nothing, is quickly done, answers every purpose.—Western Fruit Grower.

## AT BADGETT'S THIS WEEK

We are pushing Men's and Boys' Suits and Overcoats and Ladies', Misses' and Children's Cloaks and Capes, and Dress Goods.

We are "long" on all of these lines, and in order to shorten our stock we will offer you some prices that are extremely low. This fact you will appreciate when you inspect the goods.

# BADGETT'S

The tremendous rush of last week left us with a great many remnants on our remnant counter. They will be cleaned up Friday and Saturday at just about your own price. In this lot you will find:

Standard Prints at 3 cts. Shirts 5 to 10 cts.  
Best Apron Gingham at 4 1/2 cts.

Quite a lot of short lengths in dress goods, and they are away under values—at Badgett's.

## THE POPULAR STORE.

## DR. WILLIAM R. STRAW DROWNED.

Loses His Life in a Swollen Stream at Claremore.

The shocking news reached this city by wire from Claremore Tuesday morning that Dr. Straw was believed to have been drowned the day before while attempting to ford a stream a few miles from there. This belief was soon strengthened to conviction and a continued search was rewarded by the discovery of the body last evening, and it will be brought here today. The unfortunate man went to Claremore Sunday morning on the train and at that place took a buggy and drove to Dr. Boling's.

The doctor was drowned in Panther creek, a small stream a mile or so south of "Dog creek. Some boys out hunting Monday afternoon along the creek came across the coat and hat of the unfortunate man, and a little farther up they discovered the buggy and team; both horses were drowned. They fastened the buggy so that it could not wash away and then gave the alarm. The overcoat had evidently been pulled off hurriedly, and the buttons torn off in the effort. Some letters in the pockets led to identification. Dr. Straw had spent Sabbath night at Dr. Boling's ranch, and started back to Claremore about ten o'clock in the forenoon, Monday, and would have reached the creek within less than thirty minutes. Searching parties were formed, several persons from Vinita going out and taking part. Dr. Straw was an eye and ear specialist and came to Vinita and located for the practice of his profession a year ago last May. For the greater portion of that period he made his home with Dr. T. T. Wimer, who for a time was his partner. For the last two months he has been boarding with the McNair brothers. He was twenty-seven years old, and was a native of old Virginia, having been born and raised at Rural Retreat, in that state. His mother was telegraphed to for directions as to where the body shall be interred.

**Do Him an Injustice.**  
It is now said that Hon. R. L. Owen is working in the interests of the Mexican immigration so discussed by the territory press. Mr. Owen, like Dick Adams, et al, is no doubt getting good pay from the Mexican land syndicate for his services and influence, and whenever the pay stops his influence and work will likewise stop.—Wagoner Record.

The Record, unintentionally doubtless, does Mr. Owen an injustice, as is disclosed by extracts from a letter from that gentleman to THE CHRISTIAN, of date the 13th. That portion of the letter touching upon this subject is as follows:

"I have no objection to the full bloods doing as they please and going to Mexico. Would you myself if I thought it to my interest, but I would not give them any advice on that or any other subject except in an honest and faithful way. In point of fact, I have never advised them to go to Mexico, but have suggested to one or two who have spoken to me of it that they should be exceedingly cautious in the matter, and avoid the advice of men having land for sale, and should only take such a step after free and painstaking investigation. They are liable to make a bad move unless they follow this line. I believe some of them will go from what I have heard indirectly, but if they do, they will act on their own judgment and not my advice."

13-18.

**MUST NOT CUT TIMBER.**  
So Says J. George Wright, "Governor of the Indian Territory."

A letter from union agency, Muskogee, approved by J. Geo. Wright, inspector, addressed to J. L. Cantrell, living on Horse creek, reads as follows:

"Dear Sir:—Yours received. Until permanent allotments have been made and patents issued therefor to the individual Indians, no one is authorized to sell timber off of his place and no one is authorized to buy timber off a place, until the final disposition of the land or claim has been made in the Cherokee nation."

Of unusual interest to every reader of this paper is the advertisement elsewhere in this issue of the St. Louis Globe-Democrat, unquestionably one of the greatest of American newspapers. That peerless paper can now be had by mail, every day, including the big Sunday issue, for only six dollars per year, and, at that price, it is certainly within the reach of all who desire to read any daily paper. The weekly Globe-Democrat is issued in semi-weekly sections of eight pages each, making it practically a large semi-weekly, and almost equal to the average daily, at \$1 a year. This issue is just the thing for the farmer, merchant or professional man who has not the time to read the daily paper, but wishes to keep promptly and thoroughly posted. It is made up with especial reference to the wants of every member of the family, not only giving all the news, but also a great variety of interesting and instructive reading matter of all kinds. Write for free sample copies to Globe Printing Co., St. Louis, Mo.

## HAVE YOU NOTICED?

OUR EVERYDAY PRICES ARE ALWAYS LOWER THAN MOST PRICES MADE BY OTHER FIRMS ON THEIR SO-CALLED SPECIAL SALES. INVESTIGATE AND SEE FOR YOURSELF. THIS WEEK:

**Flannelettes.**  
1,200 yards of mill lengths Flannelettes, all styles, sold everywhere for 10 cents; as they last for

**7 1/2 cents**

**Ladies' Gloves**  
200 samples ladies' wool fleece lined gloves, none worth less than 25c and many worth 50c and \$1; while they last at

**10 cents**

**Jackets, Capes**  
We closed a big line of Jackets, regular 6.00 garments, at 3.50; regular 10.00 Baucle 5.00. See our capes at remarkably

**Low Prices**

**Boots, Shoes**  
Do you know that it would be to your interest to examine our line of boots and shoes. Full line of rubber boots and

**Overshoes**

**Clothing.** Suits for men at \$1. The nobbiest line of men's suits shown in Vinita for \$4.98, \$7.50, \$10 and \$15. Overcoats at lowest prices for best qualities. Get acquainted with Jumbo prices.

## Jumbo Groceries are Better.

# JUMBO STORE.