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## INDIAN TERRITORY AFFAIRS

### J. GEORGE WRIGHT'S ANNUAL REPORT TO DEPARTMENT.

Granting of Mineral Leases and Revenues Therefrom—Expenses of Indian Schools and Townsites. Recommends Changes.

Special to the Ardmoreite

Washington, D. C., Nov. 19, 1901.—The annual report of J. George Wright, United States Indian Inspector for Indian Territory was made public today at the department of the interior. Mr. Wright begins with a reference to the various laws enacted at the last session of congress for the Territory, and their application, during the portion of the year covered by the report.

In referring to the recent agreement with the Seminole Nation, providing for the general winding up of the affairs of the tribe, Mr. Wright states that the work is progressing as rapidly and satisfactorily as possible under the suspension of the Dawes Commission. No matters of consequence have been before the inspector or Indian agent during the year with the exception of some investigations required concerning the grazing and holding of cattle within the limits of the Nation by non-citizens without authority.

Mining operations in the Choctaw nation are covered in detail. The report shows that on June 30, 1901 there were 81 leases in existence, providing for the mining of coal. The agent adds that the policy pursued by the department in the matter of granting both coal and asphalt leases has been such as to discourage applicants for speculative purposes, and the satisfactory effect of the policy has been shown by the large decrease in the number of applicants filed.

The coal and asphalt royalties collected in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations last year amounted to \$199,663.55. This sum has been placed to the credit of the two nations in the relative amounts respectively due them and held for educational purposes in accordance with the provisions of the agreement.

In referring to the Creek and Cherokee nations Mr. Wright says:

"Under the provisions of the Curtis Act no formal permits have been entered into by the department covering mineral lands in the Creek nation. Several informal permits have been granted to parties, both citizens and non-citizens, allowing them to strip coal in small quantities on lands selected by Indians and their prospective allotments, with the consent of such Indians, upon which coal royalties has been paid to the United States agent at the rate of 8 cents per ton, the same as in the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations, which royalty during the year has amounted to \$4,128.55, as against 3,923.27 for the previous year, showing an increase of \$1,194.95.

The recently ratified agreement with the Creek nation does not reserve mineral lands, and inasmuch as the department has decided that it will be necessary for said lands to be taken cognizance of by the commission of the Five Civilized Tribes in the making of the final appraisements and the distribution of the allotments, all coal permits heretofore issued in the Creek nation have since been concealed.

It has been held that inasmuch as coal, oil and other mineral substances in places are a part of the realty, and as Indian citizens can only dispose of their allotments before the expiration of five years from the date of the ratification of the agreement, on May 25, 1901, with the consent of the secretary of the interior, the citizen who attempts to make a lease by the provisions of which he disposes of coal or other mineral, in or under his allotment, illegally attempts to dispose of part of the fee, unless such disposal is made with the consent of the secretary of the interior.

In June last there was considerable agitation near the town of Red Fork, in the Creek nation, concerning the discovery of what was believed to be a valuable oil well. Investigation of the matter, however, developed the fact that the reports concerning the same were exaggerated, and that it would require considerable expenditure of money to ascertain the character and quantity of such oil. The matter as reported to the department, and the holding above referred to concerning coal, oil and other leases was the sequence of such oil agitation, and it was held as above stated, that any lease for the purpose of extracting

such oil would not be recognized by the department.

No other permits of this character have been granted during the year.

The same in the Creek nation, there have been several informal permits granted to both citizen and non-citizens to mine coal in the Cherokee nation, the royalties upon which have been paid to the United States Indian agent at the rate of 8 cents per ton, and has amounted during the year to \$6,326.67, as against \$3,956.91, for the previous year, showing an increase of \$2,470.66.

The coal mined in the Cherokee nation lies near the surface and is mined by the stripping process. No other minor operations of any character have been carried on during the year in the Cherokee nation.

The townsite commission in the Choctaw nation has surveyed, platted and appraised the town of Sterrett, including the cemetery, the work costing \$3,253.37. The commission also completed the same work at the town of Aloka at a cost of \$1,768.94. Since then the commission has been engaged in platting, surveying and appraising the town of South McAlester. Similar work was also carried on in the towns of Guthrie, Kiowa, Calvin and Pojeau.

Under the act of May 31, which authorized the secretary of the interior to set aside a tract of land for town-purposes along the lines of new railroads, the department has approved during the year segregations at eight stations in the Creek nation and ten in the Chickasaw nation, along the recently constructed line of the St. Louis Oklahoma and Southern railway, which extends from Sapulpa in the Creek nation to Denison, Tex.

The work of surveying, appraising and selling townsite property in Muskogee and Wagoner, Creek nation, was completed during the year, and the townsite boards assigned to other cities.

Owing to the fact that all available surveyors were engaged in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations during the year, and by reason of the pending agreement with this section, no steps were taken to survey or plat any towns in the Cherokee nation of which the exterior limits were established during the year.

Special agent Wright estimates that the work of surveying and platting the various towns in the Indian Territory thus far completed has been about \$3.50 per acre.

The issuance of the department order last February for the ejectment of all merchants in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations who refused to pay the tribal tax, which was sustained by a decision of the attorney general of the United States, has had the effect of causing the majority of merchants to settle with the two nations. Damage suits against Special Agent Wright have been instituted, however, by parties who were removed, and whose places of business were closed, which have not yet been decided by the courts.

The total collections of revenue in the Creek nation during the year amounted to \$30,827.69. This fund is used in liquidating outstanding indebtedness of the nation.

The total revenues collected in the Cherokee nation during the year amounted to \$19,329.65, while the expense in collecting this sum was \$4,638.34.

Since the extension of the authority of the department over the school system in the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations the results attained have been much more than satisfactory. The boarding schools will now compare favorably with the average high school in the states. The result accomplished in both manual training and industrial work have been highly satisfactory, as it has increased the interest in educational matters, which is shown by the crowded condition of the boarding schools, and the increased number of neighborhood schools.

There have been maintained during the year in the Choctaw nation five boarding schools or academies; two of these are orphan academies, at which a number of pupils remain the entire year. The school year of such of these academies is nine months, and there was a total enrollment of 525 pupils, an average attendance of 430, at a total cost of \$58,496.87, or \$135.98 per capita.

There has been maintained during nine months of the year 161 neighborhood or day schools in the Choctaw nation, with an enrollment of 2,879 pupils, an average attendance of 1,924, at a cost of \$58,469.02 or \$17.87 per capita.

In addition to these day schools in the Choctaw nation, there has been an enrollment of 305 Choctaw pupils in day schools in the Chickasaw nation, the pupils being of Choctaw blood and residing within the limit of the Chickasaw nation and attending pri-

vate schools. The Teachers of these pupils are paid \$2 per month per pupil, making a total expenditure for the Choctaw people in the Chickasaw nation \$3,174.70.

The total enrollment of Choctaw pupils, including academies and day schools is 3,704, with an average attendance of 2,555, and a total cost of \$96,968.50.

The report shows that liberal appropriations have been made by the Chickasaw nation for the maintenance of their schools, and that during the year there were mentioned five boarding schools, but owing to the fact that these schools, as stated above, have not been under the charge of the government, the data and statistics could only be procured through the tribal authorities, and such have only been partially furnished at this time, and therefore the total enrollment and cost of such schools in the Chickasaw nation can not be given. Such information as has been procured is shown in the superintendent's report.

The school system in the Creek nation is exclusively under the control of the National government.

The total enrollment of the 9 boarding schools was 591, an average attendance of 459, costing \$50,470.40, or \$112.16 per capita, while at the 64 neighborhood schools there has been an enrollment of 2,970, with an average attendance of 957, costing \$17,788.28, or \$18.58 per capita, making a total enrollment of 2,661 pupils, an average attendance of 1,497 and a total cost of \$68,258.68.

Supervision has been had over the schools in the Cherokee nation, under provisions of section 1A of the act of June 28, 1898, there being no ratified agreement with said nation, and the examination and appointment of all teachers and employees are made by the tribal board of education and the United States supervisor acting jointly.

The Cherokees during the year maintained three boarding schools and one colored high school. The enrollment of these four schools has been 696, with an average attendance of 455, at a total cost of \$48,275, or \$106.10 per capita. They have also maintained during the seven months of the year 124 neighborhood schools with an enrollment of 4,153, an average attendance of 2,356, costing \$34,000 or \$14.63 per capita, making a total enrollment of 4,849 pupils for the nation, a total average attendance of 2,811, and a total annual expenditure of \$82,735.

The Indian appropriation act approved May 31, 1900, made provision for the disbursement of what is known as

(Continued on Page 4.)

## THE SITUATION IS CRITICAL

### FURTHER BLOODSHED FEARED IN KENTUCKY MINES.

The Mines Are Closed Down and Warrants Issued for the Arrest of Participants in Sunday's Battle. Apply for Foreign Charters.

Madisonville, Ky., Nov. 19.—The man who was killed in the battle at Providence Sunday morning—Garrett Given—was a negro who lived here. Bud Couch, mortally wounded, was also a negro, and both were union men in the attacking party. Three of the wounded were non-union men who were guarding the mines.

A terrible state of affairs exist, not only at Providence, but all over Hopkins county and at Empire in Christian county. There is a state of unrest and no one is surprised at what a day may bring forth. Troops are expected. County Judge Hal and Sheriff Sutton are both at Providence, and under their direction part of the soldiers on duty there are scouring the country in an effort to discover other members of the union party who engaged in yesterday's battle.

The report that the lieutenant of a military company led yesterday's attack is without foundation. George Crouch, the negro union miner who was shot yesterday, is said to have given the authorities valuable information bearing on the attack before his death.

Warrants have been issued for alleged participants in the fighting. It is said additional troops will be sent to this county immediately.

One of the mines of the Providence Coal company is running, but the large mine on which the attack was made is idle. This is true because of the excitement, the disorganized force and the killing of so many mules during yesterday's shooting.

It is said the Barnard and other coal companies of Hopkins county have decided to take out foreign charters in order to get protection in the United States courts.

The union officials here disclaim responsibility for the attack and say that the men who were implicated in yesterday's affair acted on their own responsibility.

Orders were issued by President Wood to the strikers in camp here to break camp at once and join the strikers in camp at Nortonville. It is believed the camp here will be broken up today.

The restraining order of Federal Judge Evans' court is having its effect and the camps in the immediate neighborhood of Reinecke mines was broken tonight. About 175 men moved.

Dr. Echols will be at the Whittington hotel every Monday, from 1 to 4 p. m. Practice limited to disease of the eye, ear, nose and throat. Errors of refraction corrected. 19-5t

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