

The Chickasha Daily Express.

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WEEKLY EXPRESS
Established 1892.

For Chickasha First; The Indian Territory Second; The World After.

DAILY EXPRESS
Established January 1, 1900.

OVERCOAT WEATHER!

Had you thought
about it?
Northerly and Ice
and Snow
and so forth . . .

Will be here soon

and where will
you be without an
OVERCOAT?

The most complete line of Coverts,
Kerseys, Chinchilla, Beavers, etc.

Square yourself against
the weather.

See
THOMPSON THE TAILOR.
Postoffice building.

Making Indian Citizens

Chaotic conditions existing in Indian territory at present are without a parallel in history. Nearly 90,000 Indians are without a country and 300,000 white citizens are not allowed to use their right of suffrage. But out of this state of matters the United States government is busily engaged in framing a policy for the future guidance of a country that bids fair to equal any part of the Union.

A commission made up of three members with 300 assistants is now engaged in taking the final roll of the Indians of the different tribes, appraising their land and placing them on their allotments. By the 1st of January, 1901, this work will have been finished and the Indians will be ready to take out their naturalization papers as citizens of the United States. To bring this to a conclusion will have involved many years of labor and an expenditure of a million dollars.

"So long as grass grows and water runs," by the terms of this nation's promise, made in 1832, the Cherokees, Creeks, Seminoles, Chickasaw and Choctaws were to have for their own this tract of land known as Indian territory. So the Five Tribes set up their government, each holding to its own tribal forms. There was not even an Indian commissioner sent to keep his more or less paternal guardianship over them. But the whites came in, intermarried with the squaws, cheated the easy-going and indolent full bloods and gradually gained control of the government. The United States government stepped in to limit the power of the whites and preserve the rights of the Indians. Despite disabilities imposed upon them the whites kept pouring in and, as their number increased, they so vehemently demanded recognition that the government decided on a readjustment in the interest of all concerned. The advances of the commission, first appointed to visit the Five Tribes in 1863, were slow and halting, though well planned. For three years they could do nothing but ride over the territory and meet the "big" Indians, who promised to do much but who never did anything. Then they sent out the report that the Indians were harboring outlaws who committed crimes in other states, that the fullbloods were being deceived as to the real intentions of the United States toward their government and the wily half-bloods, who at that time had control of the affairs of the Indian government, were using every means to thwart the purposes of

the commissioners, all of which was true. Congress replied to this appeal by delving into the treaties with the Indians and there finding a clause whereby it could deprive the Indian courts of their jurisdiction whenever it saw fit. Certainly now was the opportune time, and the act was forthwith passed. The Indians squirmed and the full bloods threatened to rise. Some of the old full blood judges refused to quit their benches, but finally they learned it was of no use to kick; the act would be carried out. Other drastic measures were suggested by the commission and the Indians began to make overtures. Little by little they were persuaded to the steps which have led to the abolishment of the tribal rule. Though comprehending fully that the change would accrue greatly, to their individual advantage the Indians held tenaciously to the traditions of the tribes and surrendered them only when they saw that the new movement was inevitable.

WEALTH FOR THE INDIANS.

When the division is made those who have fought so hard and so long against it will be probably the richest savages in the world. The country which will be parcelled out among them is larger than the state of South Carolina, and of great beauty and variety. Most of the soil is very fertile. The water supply is ample. A belt of splendid oak forest, thirty miles in width, runs through the territory, and many other valuable woods are found there. Rich pasture lands afford fat grazing for thousands of sheep and cattle. Two million dollars' worth of coal was taken out of the Indian territory last year. It is estimated that the products of the soil for the year 1899 amounted to 6 million dollars. Besides these things petroleum in large quantities is known to lie beneath the soil and valuable veins of lead and zinc are indicated by rich outcroppings which have never been mined. A fine climate and beautiful scenery make this country one of the garden spots of the nation.

All this goes to about 87,000 Indians, 19,998,036 acres being

divided about equally among the different tribes. There are Indians and freedmen (negroes whose ancestors were or who are themselves freed slaves of Indians) who have head rights in the different nations as follows: Cherokee freedmen, 4,000; Cherokees, 30,000; Delawares having head right in Cherokee nation, 1,000; Creeks, 10,000; Creek freedmen, 6,000; Choctaws, 16,000; Choctaw freedmen, 5,000; Chickasaws, 7,000; Chickasaw freedmen, 5,000; Seminoles, 3,000. The Cherokees have invested or loaned to the United States \$2,635,000. The Creeks have two million dollars thus loaned, the Chickasaws \$1,308,000, the Choctaws \$546,000 and the Seminoles 1 1/2 million dollars. It is estimated by Taus Bixby, chairman of the commission to the Five Tribes, that each Cherokee citizen will get 120 acres of land of average value as his allotment, the Creeks will get between 160 and 200 acres, the Seminoles about 160, the Chickasaws and Choctaws about 500 acres each. Besides this land they will get equal shares of the invested funds which are to be paid to them just as soon as they have all selected their allotments.

RESULT OF THIS ENRICHMENT.

What will become of these Indians, thus suddenly enriched? In the opinion of those who know them best the outlook for them is not hopeful. Conditions at present are in a chaotic state, and it does not seem likely that living conditions will improve when the Indians own the territory. Towns with a population of 5,000 or 6,000 people have no sidewalks at all and no roads worthy of the name. After a heavy rain business is practically suspended. The buildings are of the flimsiest character. In the farming districts the Indians will not improve their farms because they have no positive assurance where they can take up their allotments. Few of the fullbloods send their children to school. At present, the whites, of whom there are 300,000 in the territory have practically no rights. They cannot own land, and prior to a recent decision they have not even been allowed to own houses or

stocks of merchandise, so that any white desiring to do business must do it under the name of an Indian or of an intermarried citizen having Indian rights. Many whites married squaws, thus obtaining tribal rights and the halfbreed children of these unions are the most intelligent and progressive members of the Indian community. Others paid the monthly tax of fifty cents and hired out to the indolent Indian farm owners or storekeepers, accumulating money by industry and thrift.

It is from this class that the danger to the Indian portends. These whites know the value of the lands. They have or can get money. As soon as the Indian takes up his allotment it is his to do with what he pleases. There is little doubt that in most cases, as regards the fullbloods, who make up about one-third of the total Indian population, they will sell out to the whites. It is generally predicted that they will sell out almost in a body, and emigrate to Mexico to find a wilderness wherein they can rear another edifice of tribal mismanagement, while the half breeds will remain to become citizens of the new state that will eventually be made out of the Indian territory. Wily fellows are these halfbreeds who well understand the value of what is coming to them. Far and wide they have roamed prospecting for lead, zinc, coal and oil and their discoveries they have kept secret, with a view to getting their allotments where these treasures lie. Then when local or Eastern capital comes with money in both hands the halfbreed will be in a position to get about what he asks.

ORDERLY ENROLLMENT.

Tourists from the East visit Indian territory rather expecting that wild Indians clad in blankets and gorgeous paint will be found hanging around the towns and railway stations and avidly eyeing the scalp of the paleface invader. Instead one meets a race of dark skinned people, some highly educated and glad to meet you, others a little stubborn with the deeply imbedded hatred of

Continued on 4th page.

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It's all in the Flour.

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(Successors to U. A. Horn.)

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and best assorted stock
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A good yard wide Sea Island Domestic 20 yards for \$1.00. A good Outing, 20 yards for \$1.00.
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