

State Editor 8

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# THE TOMAHAWK.

Published in behalf of, and to secure the welfare of the Indians of the United States.

Truth before Favor.

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## THE TOMAHAWK.

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## INDIVIDUAL INDIAN TRUST FUNDS.

Daily complaints are heard among the Indians upon this reservation because Supt. Howard refuses to pay to owners the trust funds he is holding, in some instances without any authority of law. It is the general belief that Howard is holding out from these funds some of the interest if not the principal. Whether this is true or not the Indian office at Washington, if it is really trying to protect the interests of the Indians, should cause an investigation of the reason Supt. Howard refuses to recommend applications to the office for Indians whose funds he is holding.

Recently a member of this reservation, whose individual funds are being held by Howard and who is perfectly competent to look after his own affairs, called on the latter for a sufficient sum to purchase a team of horses, but the superintendent would not consent to make a recommendation to have the amount allowed unless the applicant would consent to purchase a five hundred dollar team. What was the object of this unless, as it is generally believed, the superintendent wanted to make "a rake off."

Another young man, Clifford McArthur, who is a better business man than Supt. Howard, tried to get his funds amounting to several thousand dollars paid over to him which the latter is withholding, but up to this time has been unable to do so.

The superintendent holds over two hundred thousand dollars of individual trust funds which belong to members of this reservation and they find it almost impossible to obtain any of this money except in very small sums.

These funds are on deposit in one or two banks in Stearns county it is claimed, and as this is the county from which Howard comes it can only be surmised that he has a deal with those banks regarding these funds from which he may derive personal benefit. In order to get a fair deal the owners of trust funds should ask the Indian office at Washington to place their funds in some United States depository either at St. Paul or elsewhere, so that they may be reasonably sure that no ulterior motives is causing the superintendent to withhold their funds.

## Contradicts Commissioner Sells.

Last week Supt. Howard called a number of Indians into his office to discuss certain matters with them as he stated, but his principal topic was to inform them that the statements that his salary was being paid from tribal funds of the Minnesota Chippewas was not true.

This is a question of veracity

between him and Commissioner Sells, who, in a letter addressed to Representative Miller, dated February 16, 1915, stated that Supt. Howard's salary was being paid from Chippewa funds, but the latter stated to the Indians that his salary was being paid from funds of the United States.

Supt. Howard receives \$2100 per year salary and to the Indians his services are not worth twenty-one cents, and if he tells the truth, which is very much doubted, it is a good thing that the government is paying him his salary—a good thing for the Chippewas at least.

## Replies To Invitations To Attend Celebration.

The secretary of the 14th of June celebration has received many replies to the special invitations which were sent out by him, some stating that they will be here and others saying that they regret their inability to do so, among which are the following.

Senator Clapp says he will be here notwithstanding that he has numerous engagements at other places during the month. He also assured the delegation that waited upon him at Detroit last Monday that he would be present here during the celebration unless some unforeseen circumstance prevented him from doing so.

Secretary Lane states in a letter to Mr. Hallett as follows:

"I have your cordial invitation of the 25th inst. to be present at the Chippewa Celebration on June 14th and 15th next. I should like very much to attend, but am so submerged with matters of departmental concern here that it is impossible for me to leave the city."

"With renewed expressions of regret at my inability to be present and my best wishes for a successful celebration."

Gov. Hammond acknowledges the receipt, through his secretary, of the invitation to attend the celebration here, but states he will be unable to accept it on account of the date which will be one when he will be in the midst of a trip with members of the legislature through northern Minnesota. He expresses regret because he knows that the celebration is one he would enjoy, but he hopes, however, that at some future time he may have the pleasure and privilege of visiting this place. The governor extends his greetings to the participants in the celebration and his best wishes for its entire success.

Mr. Chester A. Congdon, who is probably as well and as favorably known among the members of this reservation as any man, and whose acquaintance began in the early eighties while he was assistant United States district attorney for Minnesota, writes as follows:

"I received yours of the 25th asking me to attend the annual White Earth Celebration to be held June 14th and 15th. I thank you for this invitation and you may be assured that I will attend it if it is possible. I have just returned today from a three months' absence and find that I must go to New York next week, and I regret that it is impossible for me to say now whether I can get back in time for the celebration."

"You may assure all my friends at White Earth that it will be a source of keen regret to me if I cannot get back in time to attend it."

Hon. D. S. Hall, the most popular official that ever came among the Chippewas, also ac-

knowledges the receipt of an invitation and says:

"I appreciate your kindly consideration and thank you all for it. There is no place I can think of that I would rather attend. I have attended many celebrations and have always enjoyed them as the best friends I have in the world gather there at that time, and I would like to shake hands with them, for we never know but it may be the last time; but the very serious illness of Mrs. Hall, which has kept me tied at home for nearly a year, will prevent my attendance greatly to my regret."

"I ask you to thank President Parker, and others, for this special and courteous invitation, for their good wishes and kindly thoughts are more to me than gold."

G. G. Hartley, who is well known to the Chippewas of Minnesota as the nephew of Major James Whitehead, formerly an Indian trader and afterwards a government Indian agent, says in reply to the invitation sent to him by the secretary of the association:

"Upon arrival here today I find your kind letter of the 25th ult. inviting me to be present and speak at your celebration on the 14th inst., and in reply I can only say I have been planning to be present at the celebration if possible, but my movements are so uncertain that I cannot be sure and you had better not depend upon me for a speech."

## Should Become A Supervisory Board.

The school board which was organized in 1911 by the local council of this reservation and adopted last year by the General Council, should be reorganized and become a supervisory board with jurisdiction to investigate all the positions now held in the service of the Chippewas of Minnesota, so that it may weed out those who are either filling sinecure positions or are unnecessary. The Chippewa service should cease to be a charitable retreat for the friends and relatives of officials and politicians at the expense of the Chippewas.

With a board composed wholly of members of the Chippewa bands of Minnesota who have had experience in the Indian service of the government, and who cannot be controlled by the Indian office or the officials of Chippewa Indian superintendencies either by a few courtesies being extended to them or by the fear of losing their positions, the Chippewa Indian service might be reduced to purely one of a business basis, and this much good might be accomplished by the board.

The members of the board should be paid a salary adequate to their services including all their travelling expenses, and, if possible, a bill should be urged in Congress to place the board entirely under the jurisdiction of the Chippewas, and its reports should be made to the secretary of the interior and to Congress. The board should be entirely independent so that its work would not be jeopardized by the interference of superintendents of reservations, and above all its members should be workers and fearless men.

This suggestion for a supervisory board did not originate entirely with THE TOMAHAWK but arose from discussions with leading members of the Chippewa of Minnesota bands; THE TOMAHAWK is merely the medium through which the suggestion is made.

JUNE 14, 1915.

SENATOR CLAPP WILL BE PRESENT.

A BIG TIME EXPECTED.

Every effort is being made to have the next annual celebration of the settlement of the Chippewas upon this reservation, which will take place on the 14th and 15th of this month, one of the best we have had for years.

Senator Clapp informed a delegation that waited upon him last Monday at Detroit that he would make it a point to be present at the celebration, and he will give an address. Efforts are being made to secure the presence of representatives Steenerson and Lindberg and it is hoped these may be successful also.

The Chippewas of Minnesota have as the champion of their rights in Congress Senator Clapp, and as he knows more than any other public man regarding their affairs, his address will no doubt be most interesting not only to the Indians but also to the whites on this reservation and vicinity. Added to this some of the prominent ladies of this village are going to entertain some of the white visitors from outside the reservation by having a picnic.

The Chippewas upon this reservation are willing to make great sacrifices in order to have their annual celebration kept up as it brings them into contact with each other and causes them to either renew old friendships or "bury

the hatchet" as the case may be.

We recall distinctly the first 14th of June celebration which was held here, and it took place at the Episcopal Church. It consisted of a picnic and speeches by some of the then notable chiefs and prominent men of the reservation. There were some charades or representations presented by the then old sexton of the church, Kish-kun ah-kud or stump. Rev. J. J. Enemegabow was then the leader and originator of the celebration, and he and the other elderly men of that time enjoyed themselves immensely, apparently, and the celebration was such a success that there has not been a break in it since; it has been held annually as this one will be held next 14th and 15th of June.

## The Executive Committee Should Furnish Picnic Provisions.

One of the members of the Executive Committee of the forthcoming celebration has informed a representative of THE TOMAHAWK that one of the members of the committee of ladies who are going to look after the picnic which will be given to some of the visitors on June 14th, asked him whether it would not be fair to have the supplies for the picnic furnished by the association, and he replied most positively in the affirmative.

The ladies have shown a most liberal disposition, and are undoubtedly as anxious as anyone

else that the celebration will equal some of the old time celebrations, and no burden should be placed upon them except that of preparing the picnic, the supplies should be furnished by the association.

The Executive Committee should immediately call a meeting and designate the amount which the ladies should be allowed for the picnic.

The association will no doubt be not only willing but pleased to render all the assistance the ladies may desire towards furnishing them with whatever supplies they may need, for everyone realizes that the success of the celebration will be largely due to their influence and assistance.

## COUNCIL MEETING ADJOURNED.

Pursuant to notice the local council of White Earth Reservation met at the White Earth Hall on May 28th last, and after a brief discussion of certain matters pertaining to the Chippewas of Minnesota in general and after the selection of a delegation to go to Detroit and meet Senator Clapp on the 31st ult. an adjournment was taken until June 10, 1915, when delegates will be selected to attend the General Council of the Minnesota Chippewas which will meet here on June 12th, 1915.

Joseph Charrette,  
President of local council.

By Arthur C. Beaulieu,  
Secretary.

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