

Justice and Fair Dealing for every Indian who desires to become a good Citizen.

# 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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## SENATOR JOSEPH T. ROBINSON.

Although overflowing with good nature, Senator Robinson, of Arkansas, who is a member of the senate Indian committee, when occasion requires it, is as stern and forcible as a man can be. Whenever a matter comes under observation which does not seem right to him he does not hesitate to express himself emphatically against it in a manner which is peculiar to him. It was this characteristic which made him such an excellent chairman of the Joint Commission of Congress to Investigate Indian Affairs, a committee which, much to the regret of the Indians generally, went out of existence during the last session of Congress on account of the lack of appropriation to carry on its necessary expenses.

Senator Robinson's desire is to be fair always and to hear all sides of any question in dispute. Upon a previous occasion THE TOMAHAWK referred to this when Supervisor Linnen, who is probably one of the leading ringsters of the Indian office and is responsible for



SEN. J. T. ROBINSON.

much of its unpopularity, resorted to the usual method of superintendents, and some special agents and Indian inspectors, of charging all kinds of offences against members of Indian tribes who have the courage to make charges against field officials. Robert Hamilton, a member of the Blackfeet tribe of Montana, made charges against Supt. McFetridge. Senator Lane personally investigated the matter and called the attention of the Investigating Commission to it and in substance sustained Mr. Hamilton. Supervisor Linnen was sent by the Indian office to make an investigation on behalf of the office, and no doubt because he would have to take issue with Senator Lane, he reported against McFetridge but took the occasion to make numerous charges against Mr. Hamilton, no doubt to discredit him since his acts were not in issue as he is not a government employe. Senator Robinson stated to the Investigating Commission that the Linnen charges against Mr. Hamilton should not be considered by the commission as he was not the person who was being investigated, and that it was mere-

ly sufficient that his charges against McFetridge, who was a government employe, had been substantiated. Senator Robinson thus put a damper upon the usual method of charging members of Indian tribes with all kinds of offences, who would make charges against field employes of the Indian service, by the employes themselves, and in the heart of every Indian throughout the country was felt no doubt a deep sense of gratitude towards him for taking the position he did against making the Indian, who made charges against a government employe, the target instead of the latter.

Senator Robinson is a young man, being only forty-three years of age.

He is a graduate of the University of Arkansas, and at the age of twenty-three began the practice of law, and one year later was elected to the General Assembly of his native state; was presidential elector in 1910, and elected as electoral messenger; was elected to the Fifty Eighth Congress and served until the Sixty Second Congress. Having been elected governor of Arkansas in September 1912, he resigned from Congress on January 14, 1913, and was inaugurated governor on January 16, 1913. On January 28, 1913, he was elected United States senator, and on March 10, of the same year took his seat in the senate. This is a political record which probably has never been equaled in the history of the country, and with his energy and push no one can predict where Senator Robinson will stop in public life.

## CHIPPEWA DELEGATION HAS HEARING.

At a hearing given the Chippewa delegation by the House Indian committee at Washington last Friday, Congressman Miller and Edward L. Rogers addressed the committee.

Mr. Miller made an address to the committee which pleased the delegates immensely. He referred to the manner in which Chippewa tribal funds are being squandered in the most drastic terms, and advocated that these funds should be segregated and divided among the Chippewas, and the amounts which should be found due the competents should be paid to them immediately.

Mr. Miller gave some apt illustrations regarding the manner in which Chippewa tribal funds are being squandered, and if his most radical Indian constituents had prepared his address they could not have made it any stronger than he did.

Representatives Carter and Kanop of the committee showed their appreciation of the conditions existing among Indians generally, and expressed themselves strongly in favor of turning them loose and placing them on their own resources.

It was suggested by Representative Heyden that Mr. Miller prepare a bill to be introduced in Congress to create a commission which would come to Minnesota and classify the Chippewas into competents and incompetents, and those that were found to be competent to be paid their distributive share of tribal funds immediately, and this is probably what may eventually be done.

Mr. Rogers' address was confined to the payment of one-fourth of the Chippewa tribal fund now to the credit of the Chippewas in

the Treasury of the United States, but he added that the division of the whole fund would undoubtedly be acceptable to the Chippewas.

Congressman Lindberg appeared for the White Oak Point delegation which wants a bill passed by Congress that will give each member of the White Oak Point band a sufficient sum equal to the value of an eighty acre tract of land because they did not receive one hundred and sixty acres of land as allotments the same as the White Earth bands did. They are basing this claim under the treaty of 1867.

## The Enrollment Contest.

After the failure of M. C. Burch and his crowd of official grafters had failed to secure the conviction of the publisher of THE TOMAHAWK and others, upon the charge of conspiring to defraud the government of its functions of the care of the Indians upon this reservation which consisted of acknowledging affidavits of Indians that they are mixed-bloods, to assist the then Indian to get the facts; so that he might be able to make such recommendations as these facts would warrant to enable the mixed-bloods to obtain fee patents for their allotments, another attack was made by Burch upon the publisher and his associates against their rights to be enrolled with the Chippewas of Minnesota. Commissioner Sells, in his report for the past year takes occasion to dignify the matter by referring to it in the report in this way:

"In 1911 complaint was made by sixteen Indians of the White Earth Reservation that 86 mixed-blood Chippewas of Lake Superior were fraudulently enrolled and receiving benefits with their band. The tribe was requested to furnish proper evidence to support this charge, and due notice was served on the contestees, consisting of Beaulieu and Fairbanks families and their descendants, to show cause why their names should not be dropped from the White Earth tribal rolls and refund made to the government of moneys alleged to have been wrongfully paid to them.

Special Attorney Thomas G. Shearman, of the Interior Department, investigated the charges in the field. His report sustaining the charges and finding against contestants was submitted to the Court of Claims February 28, 1913. By decision of June 6, and December 21, 1914, the court held that it had "no jurisdiction of said claim or matter." April 8, 1915, a hearing was granted to the attorneys representing the respondents, and the case is now pending before the department for decision."

The manner in which Thomas G. Shearman conducted his investigation still remains fresh in the minds of the members of this reservation. It is well known that upon his arrival here, regardless of his instructions, Mr. Shearman first called upon a large number of warehousemen and government employes, and got all the information he could, and then induced these warehousemen to sign a formal complaint against the respondents whose rights were attacked among which were B. L. Fairbanks and the publisher of THE TOMAHAWK, and after he did this he called the respondents and sixteen Indians before him and held the hearings

referred to by the Commissioner of Indian affairs. At these hearings it was disclosed by some of the so-called complainants that Mr. Shearman had asked them to sign a paper which they admitted they did not understand the contents of.

The report of Mr. Shearman against the respondents in the enrollment cases is not justified by the testimony submitted before him, and if it is possible to do so the matter may yet reach the Indian committees of Congress.

It is very evident that the actions of M. C. Burch were based purely upon prejudice, and were not with the view to doing justice to the interests of the Chippewas of Minnesota, for if this had been the case persons whose rights during the past sixty and seventy years have never been assailed by any Chippewa would not at this late date be attacked by anyone excepting a prejudiced person. B. L. Fairbanks and the rights of his children were attacked by the Burch force because the former was associated with the publisher of THE TOMAHAWK in the attacks against the force for its unreasonable, unfair and contemptuous work against men who had purchased allotments upon this reservation in good faith, and these were the only members of the Fairbanks family, who number about three hundred persons and whose status is identically the same as Mr. Fairbanks, whose rights are questioned and who have been put to great expense in defending them.

While the attacks against the rights of the publisher have not

been confined to him as in the case of Mr. Fairbanks, the discrimination against him has been almost as broad as it has been against Mr. Fairbanks.

Unscrupulous employes have carried their fight against the progressives upon this and other Indian reservations in the country to extremes, and all that can now be said is to advise them to rely only upon Congress to correct the injustice they have suffered at the hands of these employes referred to.

## Indians Want Early Allotment Of Tribal Funds In Minnesota.

Washington, D. C.—Headed by Gus Beaulieu and B. L. Fairbanks a delegation from the White Earth reservation is in Washington to protest against the appropriations asked for by the government. With the delegation are Ed. Rogers, county attorney of Cass County; Charles A. Wakefield, David Bimowain and Sam Lyons. The committee will appear before the Indian affairs committee of the House.

The department asks for \$185,000 for Minnesota. The delegation objects to this on the ground that many of the salaried positions are sinecures, and that \$60,000 of the tribal money is wasted annually in this manner. They also want a distribution of the tribal funds. They assert the fund

has produced about \$12,000,000, of which \$6,000,000 has been expended. A detailed accounting for the whole is asked, and a demand made that a quarter of the funds now in hand be distributed per capita. This would amount to about \$148 for each Indian in Minnesota.—Mpls. Tribune.

## Saloonkeepers' Ingratitude.

Detroit Record—A little item which appeared in the published council proceedings of last week is, in our opinion, sufficient cause for editorial comment for two reasons; first, to keep the records straight, and secondly to show the world at large the ingratitude of a quartette of former Detroit saloonkeepers.

At the last session of the city council Joe Mackner, John Swanson, Martin Christianson and F. S. Courtright presented bills aggregating \$28,500, alleging that this enormous sum of money was due them because the city had collected that amount from them in the way of liquor licenses, and that this collection was illegal under the federal Chippewa treaty of 1855. The bills were referred to the city attorney.

If ever there was a case of ingratitude shown, and an attempted outrage upon a long suffering public, here it is.

No contention is made as to the relative value of the licenses issued; no recognition is shown of

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