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THE TOMAHAWK.

OFFICIAL ORGAN OF THE MINNESOTA CHIPPEWAS
'Truth before Favor.'

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

Vol. XVIII.

White Earth, Becker County, Minnesota, Thursday, January 20, 1920.

No. 39

THE TOMAHAWK.

Official Organ of the Minnesota
Chippewas.

B. L. FAIRBANKS Owner.

L. LOGAN, Editor and Publisher.

Published Weekly at

White Earth Agency, Minnesota.

Entered at the Postoffice at White
Earth, Minn., as mail matter of the
second class.

SUBSCRIPTION: \$1.50 PER YEAR IN ADVANCE

CHIPPEWA AFFAIRS AT WASHINGTON.

Washington, D. C.
Jan. 15, 1920.

Special to THE TOMAHAWK.)

Mr. John G. Morrison, President of the Chippewa General Council, and Messrs B. L. Fairbanks, Edward L. Rogers and Paul H. Beaulieu, members of the Legislative Committee of the General Council, arrived in Washington last Saturday. The Committee immediately went into session and considered the work done by Mr. E. J. Warren, member of the Legislative Committee who has been in Washington, and Webster Ballinger, attorney for the Council. The items of appropriations for the next fiscal year were considered with care, likewise the Steenerson Drainage Bill and the bill for the winding up of the affairs of the Chippewa people. As a result of the meeting of the Committee the following items were approved by the committee relative to appropriations for the Chippewas during the next fiscal year: \$15,000 for the support of old and indigent members of the tribe. Last year the department used a little over \$8,000 for this purpose. Complaint had been made that there was suffering among the old members of the tribe, and the committee decided to increase the amount this year to \$15,000, or so much thereof as may be necessary.

\$20,000 is appropriated for the hospitals at White Earth, Red Lake, and Fond du Lac. This is twice the amount used last year by the department, but as the Secretary is authorized to use only so much of the \$20,000 as may be necessary, the committee deemed it best to increase the amount to \$20,000 particularly as many complaints had been received about the closing of the hospitals at Fond du Lac and White Earth.

\$20,000 is appropriated for the establishment, construction and equipment of additional public school houses to be operated under the control of the State Public School System. This is a new appropriation and is intended to provide public schools at the homes of many Indian children now in the Government Boarding schools. When these schools are equipped they will be maintained by the State at no expense to the tribe. The \$20,000 represents less than one year's expense of maintaining 70 children in boarding schools, and will provide public school facilities for probably 200 or 250 Indian children, resulting in a saving of hundreds of thousands of dollars in future years to the tribe.

The regular appropriation of \$10,000 for the council was agreed upon.

\$10,000 for the construction of roads on the Red Lake Reservation.

\$5,000 to be paid from the proceeds of Indian labor, Red Lake Agency.

\$1,400, to be paid from the proceeds of Indian labor, White Earth Agency.

These items were submitted to the Indian Bureau, with the request that any appropriation made for the agencies, that is for the pay and expenses of agency employees, should be made out of the Public Treasury and not out of the trust funds of the tribe. The Indian Bureau insisted upon an appropriation of \$45,000 for agency expenses and insisted that this should be paid out of the trust funds. The delegation objected to this, but stated that it was helpless to prevent the appropriation from the trust funds if the Department and Congress insisted upon it but that if the appropriation was made from the trust funds the tribe expected to recover the amount back from the Government with interest when ever the claims of the tribe against the Government were referred to the Court of Claims. Accordingly the Department and the Committee included an item of \$45,000 to cover all agency expenses at the Leech Lake, White Earth and Red Lake Agencies out of the trust funds. All the other items insisted upon by the council were approved by the Department and appear in the Indian Bill.

The Committee inadvertently overlooked the item of \$1,000 for the White Earth celebration. This has been called to the attention of the Committee and the delegation is assured that the item will be inserted in the bill when it comes up for consideration on the floor of the House.

The appropriation of 4,000 made out of the Public Treasury under the Treaty of 1867, will be used to aid the public school at White Earth and other public schools in the Chippewa country.

This year for the first time in all the history of appropriations for the Chippewas the appropriations are separated and limited to express uses. For instance, not a dollar of the money appropriated for the hospitals, the support of the old and indigent Indians can be used for agency expenses. The same applies to every item in the bill.

The Committee decided with reference to the Red Lake Drainage Bill introduced by Congressman Steenerson to insist upon amendments that will protect the Red Lake Indians as well as the owners of property to be drained. The bill as introduced protects neither the Indians nor the settlers. Senator Nelson has introduced a drainage bill in the Senate which has been referred to the Department and upon which hearings will be had. The Legislative Committee will then present the case of the Red Lake Indians and of the settlers.

The bill to wind up the affairs of the Chippewa Indians has been held up until the return of Assistant Commissioner Meritt. He has been ill and it was necessary for him to take a vacation. He is expected back next Monday, at which time it is expected an agreement can be reached with the Department upon this much needed legislation.

The Department, in order to legalize if possible the previous illegal expenditures from the trust funds of the Indians, drafted a provision of law authorizing a per capita payment of about \$5,000,000 to the Chippewas, and reserving \$1,000,000 of the principal fund for expenses of administration,

education and other purposes." The Chippewa people have at all times objected to the use of their money for "administrative purposes". The Department now proposes to withhold \$1,000,000 of the principal fund to pay agency employees in Minnesota for years to come. If this is permitted then practically all the money that may be recovered in the future from the United States, or from the sale of the remaining property can be used by the Department for administrative and other expenses and it is doubtful whether the Chippewa Indians would ever receive another nickel from the estate. The General Council will not sanction this scheme. The Council is in favor of a payment to the Indians of the principal fund, but they will not consent to a large part of the fund and all the money that may be received in the future being withheld for the use of the Department. The department did not, when it prepared the bill authorizing the per capita payment of \$5,000,000, expect that it would be enacted into law, but offered this provision as a bait to the Indians, knowing that the General Council and the Chippewa Indians when they understood it would oppose the provision on account of the reservations to the Department. Even if the Council should surrender the rights of the Chippewa people there is no probability that Congress would enact the provision into law as drawn by the Department, as it would immediately lay the Government liable for millions of dollars in claims.

Be Cautious, Be Careful.

(By Leta V. Meyers.)

The Indian race today, as all through the past, is without a leader and in about the same straits as a herd of buffalo ready to plunge over a precipice and dash themselves to destruction, because they have no leader to guide them. This is sad too because the Indian race was once a powerful nation and we would hate to lose the last of them in this tragic manner.

Perhaps our leader hasn't been born yet; perhaps he is already here but is just waiting a proper stage of development, or a certain recognition on the part of his people.

We cannot succeed and do anything worth while unless we organize and select a strong and respected leader, and a leader of our own kind. For who ever heard of a wolf or a bear being the leader of a herd of buffalo? Did the Irish people go to Burma to find a leader? No, they looked around at home and found a man of their own blood, a good man, and elected him to the Presidency.

Order Limiting Time to File Claims and for Hearing Thereon.

(Jan. 6-21)
State of Minnesota, County of Becker, In Probate Court.

In the Matter of the Estate of Omyah-wah-cumig, Decedent.

Letters of administration this day having been granted to Frank P. Beaulieu, of White Earth, Minn., It is Ordered, that the time within which all creditors of the above named decedent may present claims against his estate in this court, be, and the same hereby is, limited to three months from and after date hereof, and that Monday, the 4th day of April, 1921, at 10 o'clock a. m., in the Probate Court Rooms at the Court House at the city of Detroit, in said County, be, and the same hereby is, fixed and appointed as the time and place for hearing upon and examination, adjustment and allowance of such claims as shall be presented within the time aforesaid.

Notice hereof be given by the publication of this order in The Tomahawk, a weekly newspaper printed and published in said county as provided by law.

Dated Jan. 3rd., 1921.
E. O. HANSON,
Judge of Probate.

of their "Republic". I've no doubt though that before they did there were a lot of hot-headed Irishmen who spoke up and said, "Me, me, I want to be the leader, the President of the Irish Republic. I am a lawyer; I'm a politician; I'm a professor, or I'm a thoroughbred Irishman." And I suppose there was a great deal of difficulty in convincing these Irishmen that it would be impossible to have four Presidents, but only one who was all of the "four-in-one."

Now, my dear friends, isn't there a good Indian some where in this great country who can lead his people to victory? Of course there is, only you must not take such a long time to convince yourself of this fact. From the North where he has made one of the best records an Indian ever made, comes a strong young fellow whose head is high and whose heart is right. Fate has kept him from going to Congress and later from becoming the Secretary of his State, perhaps she was saving him to make him the leader of his people, the next Commissioner of Indian Affairs. But this young man will no doubt have a hard time, as there is a great deal of fiction to live down. As I was told in the office of the Chairman of the House Committee on Indian Affairs, "Indians are mean. They are jealous of one another; they don't like one another, and if this Indian man were appointed Commissioner and he did something that another tribe other than his own did not like, the other tribe would lay it to the fact that it was because he was of the tribe he

was." Indeed a great deal of fiction to live down, for is the argument any more reasonable that to say of a white man Commissioner when he displeases us that it is because he is a white man and doesn't care anything about the Indians or understand what is best for them? Is it?

"Do you know, or do you want to know," I said to the old gentleman who told me he was the Chairman's secretary, and who is quoted above, "that the peace pipe has been smoked, and the tomahawk buried? Do you know that an Osage is glad to shake hands with a Chippewa, or a Crow to shake hands with a blackfoot? Well, they are, and all this talk about it being a position that could not and should not be filled by an Indian is all nonsense. On the contrary it is a position that should be filled by an Indian in preference to a white man."

We could have an Indian Commissioner; we should have an Indian Commissioner; we will have an Indian Commissioner if we all get together and pull hard for him.

He will be our first Indian Commissioner, and maybe our last Commissioner, Indian or otherwise, and what a wonderful thing it would be for our citizenship and freedom to come through our own blood.

But we must be cautious and careful and choose the right man; we must stop this dillydallying if we would have any voice at all in the naming of our next Commissioner.

INVESTIGATOR INDORSES NEAR EAST RELIEF

During the Peace Conference in Paris the American Commission to Negotiate Peace, appreciating the importance of accurate, first hand information about the Armenian situation, sent Capt. Benjamin Burges Moore, of the American Red Cross as head of a special mission to study and report on conditions. Captain Moore's findings as to the value of the work done by the Near East Relief form part of his official report.

"Armenians are sincerely grateful to us," Captain Moore states, "since it is no exaggeration to say that they would have disappeared as a nation had it not been for this splendid help given them by the Near East Relief and the American Food Administration. The best that sympathetic Americans can do is to continue and enlarge the present admirable work of the Near East Relief."

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