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OWNERSHIP BEGINS

WHEN ALLOTTEE MAKES SELECTION OF HIS LANDS.

Secretary of Interior Reverses the Dawes Commission on the Matter of Time Ownership Begins. Applies to Entire Territory.

The secretary of the interior has reversed the Dawes commission in the matter of time when an allottee becomes the actual possessor of his allotment. The decision is that he becomes the owner when he makes his selection of land, and not when he is approved by the secretary of the interior as a citizen and entitled to the provision, of course, that he is finally approved as rightfully the allottee. The importance of the decision lies in the collection of royalties from coal and oil lands. Some citizens make

their selection of land on which they have improvements before they are finally approved as citizens by the secretary of the interior, the filing being a tentative one, until the final decision is made. If their ownership dated from the time of approval of citizenship there would be sometimes a year when the royalties from oil or gas wells and coal mines would go to the tribe instead of to the allottee. The decision rendered was in the case of William Johnston of Bartlesville, who claimed royalty from wells on allotments selected by his two minor children whose citizenship had not been approved. The royalty amounted to \$5,000. The decision applies to the entire territory.

Iowa Man Gets Plum.
Washington, Jan. 12.—The president today sent to the senate, the nomination of James D. Yeomans of Iowa to be interstate commerce commissioner.

Statehood Bill Laid Aside.
Washington, Jan. 12.—In order that the appropriation bill might be proceeded with the statehood bill was temporarily laid aside by the senate this afternoon.

Mrs. O. T. Gregory is reported ill at her home at 215 A street, northwest.

RUSSIA FOR PEACE

WILL MAKE CONCESSIONS—JAPS RETAIN ALL THEY HAVE.

Russia Wants Time to Build a Navy When She Will Go After What She Wants in the Far East—Will Have Another War.

Paris, Jan. 12.—The declaration made by Vice-Admiral Doubaasoff, the Russian member of the international commission to inquire into the North sea incident, in an interview to the effect that honorable peace between Russian and Japan is likely to be made, is considered highly significant. Heretofore the members of the Russian embassy and all the other Russian officials here have resented the suggestions of peace as humiliating. There is reason to believe that these were expressive of personal views before hearing from St. Petersburg, whereas Admiral Doubaasoff has just arrived from St. Petersburg after a lengthy audience with Emperor Nicholas, following the fall of Port Arthur.

The admiral, who is chief of naval construction, says he submitted to the emperor last Thursday a plan to complete the rehabilitation of the navy. The outlines of the plan were published to the Associated Press Saturday. Doubaasoff says the emperor gave it most favorable consideration and said it would be submitted to the council of ministers.

"I am convinced," said the admiral, "of immediate necessity for reconstruction of our fleet at all the Russian and foreign ship yards for the purpose of measuring strength sufficient to command supremacy at sea. This is absolutely indispensable, if we are to expect victory in the next war with Japan. The remnant of our fleet is hardly more than debris and entirely unequal to Japan's naval strength."

The admiral further said it was necessary to recognize these conditions, however painful they might be to the national self-love. "Therefore," he added, "I don't hesitate to say that we tend toward not far-off peace. We will leave the Japanese Port Arthur and the territory then now occupy in Manchuria. We will set ourselves resolutely to work to prepare an invincible navy, as this peace will be but temporary, and the next time we shall be amply prepared."

The official view is that Admiral Doubaasoff's statement is expressive of the growing sentiment within Russia favorable to peace. Reports show the movement has made notable progress in recent days, particularly at Moscow.

Emperor Nicholas has not shown a disposition to check the movement, although personally he disapproves of its opportunities.

FROM WYNNEWOOD.

Considerable Damage Done By Ice and Sleet—Good Rains.

To the Ardmoreite.
Wynnewood, I. T., Jan. 12.—The whole face of the earth is covered with ice and sleet. Considerable damage is done to fruit and shade trees. Telephone posts and wires are generally down which is a great inconvenience to the people of the town.

The health of the town and community is good.

There are a good many people from the states coming in to this part of the territory, especially from Overton county, Tennessee.

We had good rains in this section. The rain and sleet will put a good season in the ground for crops in the spring.

J. George Wright Re-appointed.
Washington, Jan. 12.—The president today re-appointed J. George Wright as inspector for Indian Territory. His commission expired several months ago and his re-appointment was delayed because of the opposition from some of the senators on the senate committee of Indian affairs. His retention was strongly urged by Secretary Hitchcock.

ALL TRIBAL BUSINESS

HANDLED THROUGH CLEARING HOUSE UNION AGENCY.

The Indian Agent at This Agency Handles More Than \$1,000,000 a Year of Tribal Money—Story of Revenues.

Few people have any conception of the vast amount of business which passes through the Union Indian agency at Muskogee, I. T., every day. Frances Wisdom, clerk in charge of the agency in the absence of Indian Agent Shoofield, says that it is now sending out an average of 600 letters a day and receiving fully as many. Some weeks as high as 4,000 letters are sent out. All of these pass through the Muskogee postoffice and add greatly to its business.

The Indian agency also performs many of the functions of a big bank or clearing house. It is estimated that more than \$1,000,000 pass through the hands of the Indian agent each year, some of which he handled twice. This does not include money paid out for salaries or running expenses of the agency, but merely the funds which are entrusted to him arising from tribal revenues. This money is sent to the United States sub-treasury at St. Louis, where it is placed to the credit of the tribes and paid out again to them through the Indian agent.

Mr. Wisdom estimates that the agency at Muskogee handles as much business as all the other Indian agencies in the United States combined. It handles the finances of five of the most powerful and highly civilized of the Indian tribes, some of which are immensely wealthy and some of them lacking revenues.

In the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations the common funds of the two tribes receive big revenues from the coal and asphalt lands, as well as from the oil and gas fields. These revenues arise largely from leases and royalties. They are placed in the hands of the Indian agent to go into the educational funds of the two nations. Vast sums of money also flow into the coffers of the Choctaw and Chickasaw townships and town lots. This year nearly \$1,000,000 has been placed to the credit of the Indian agent to be paid per capita to the citizens of the two nations. A large additional sum will be placed to the credit of these nations from the sale of segregated coal lands, which will be distributed by the Indian agent.

The heaviest revenues in the Creek Nation come from interest on bonds representing loans to different states and paying 4 and 5 percent interest annually. The nation receives \$125,000 interest annually on these bonds. The revenues from mineral royalties and the cattle tax in the Creek and Cherokee nations passes through the hands of the Indian agent, but instead of being placed to the credit of the nations collectively, it is paid out to individual citizens.

A continual stream of money orders is coming into the Indian agent's office every day, representing payments upon town lots which have been purchased by individuals after the town-site appraisements have been made. So many of these come through the Muskogee postoffice at times that the postmaster runs out of money with which to cash them, and has to suspend payment temporarily until he can send out and replenish his ready cash.

In addition to funds, all money realized from the sale of Creek lands by sealed bids passes through the agency. This in itself amounts to several hundred thousand dollars a year.

During the breaking up of tribal affairs of the five civilized tribes, which will occur within the next eighteen months, the money to be handled by the Indian agent will be greatly increased. The surplus and school lands of each nation, together with all other tribal property, will be sold before that time and all the money from these sales will be entrusted to the Indian agent. In the Creek Nation alone the sale of the surplus land will net the tribe about \$600,000.

These vast financial interests that are entrusted to the care and super

vision of the government through the Indian agency place upon the Indian agent great responsibilities, which, in addition to his many other duties, make his position of more importance than those who take merely a superficial view of the subject have ever imagined.

STORM DOES DAMAGE.

Plays Have With Telegraphic Wires Near Purcell—An Icy Time.

Purcell, I. T., Jan. 11.—The apparent disparity in the temperature registration in the territory south of the Arbuckle mountains and that immediately north of these mountains, is noticeably revealed in passage through Indian Territory via Santa Fe railroad during the present spell of weather. South of the Arbuckles, the country is flooded and soaked from the rainfall of the past few days. There is a scant shimmering of icicles clinging to the twigs, while telegraph wires are barely enameled with a thin coating of ice, but on emerging from the Washita canyon, to the north of these mountains, the scene indicates a temperature, much more severe. Telegraph wires are swayed beneath their covering of ice, while trees are fairly bowed to the earth.

The lighter telephone wires have gone down, as if melted at every span. The Davis, Wynnewood, Pauls Valley and Purcell local wires are greatly damaged as the lines are swayed and dangling in almost every street. At Purcell the ground has a covering of sleet and ice an inch and a half in thickness, and the earth is frozen beneath it. All Western Union wires leading south from this place are working all right, while the wires leading north are out. Three Postal wires, leading both ways, are also out.

Still greater damage is expected during the night, as the contraction of the wires, caused by the extreme cold, added to their weight of ice, will greatly increase the strain upon anchorings.

A force of linemen are here doing service for the Missouri and Texas telephone company. They were sent here to repair the damage done to the company's transit span over the Canadian river, during the overflow of that storm several months since.

The new crossing on the river is being effected by the erection of a big steel tower on either side of the stream for the support of the spans across the channel. This force of men will doubtless be called upon to look after the lines of the company, which have been damaged during the storm here and to the north of this place.

RIGHTS OF CHOCTAW BABIES.

Enrolling Commissioners Begin Taking Evidence at Atoka.

Atoka, I. T., Jan. 12.—The Choctaw Enrolling Commissioners arrived in Atoka today and begun hearing evidence by parents for the enrollment of their children born since Sept. 25, 1902. Last night there were about 200 Indians and freedmen here to have their new-born children placed upon the regular rolls.

The Choctaw council at its last session passed an act authorizing the enrollment of all children born after Sept. 25, 1902, and giving them all the rights of other citizens. This act will have to be approved by the President of the United States before it becomes a law. As there will be several hundred thousand acres of surplus lands after the completion of allotment under the present roll of citizens it is believed that the President will approve the act.

Statehood Delegations.

Among the dispatches from Washington yesterday is one showing that the Single statehood delegates there are attending their business, it reads:

"The delegation from Indian Territory, which is here to urge the admission of the two territories as one State, called on Senator Beveridge, who has charge of the bill, and also on Senator Cullom of Illinois, who is interested in it. Senator Beveridge in reply to the introduction of the delegation and remarks by the chairman, said he was glad the delegation had come, since it demonstrated the interest of Oklahoma and Indian Territory people in securing a State for their locality, and it ought to and doubtless would have a good effect. Senator Cullom said that the two territories would be brought in as one State without reference to the action taken on Arizona and New Mexico. The delegates will go to the White House to call on President Roosevelt tomorrow."

WATCHING FOR JAPS

RUSSIAN SQUADRON EXPECTS AN OCEAN ATTACK.

Russia Sends Submarine Boats to Vladivostok By Rail—French Officer Declares Russia Will Win Despite Many Reverses.

Libau, Jan. 12.—Four submarine boats have arrived here from the United States. They will be sent to Vladivostok by rail.

Suez, Jan. 12.—The division of the Russian second Pacific squadron commanded by Potrovsky arrived here today from Port Said.

London, Jan. 12.—According to the Daily Mail's Port Arthur correspondent Rear Admiral Voelkersam, commanding the second division of the Russian second Pacific squadron, has stated he expected to be attacked by the Japanese in the Indian ocean. He thought the Baltic squadron would call at Mahé, in the Seychelles group.

St. Petersburg, January 12.—The admiralty has not given the slightest official confirmation of the report of recall of Vice-Admiral Rojestvensky's squadron. On the contrary the officials point calmly to the preparations being made to reinforce the squadron with a division of the third Pacific squadron as sufficient evidence that Rojestvensky will not return to European waters.

St. Petersburg, Jan. 12.—A French military attaché, who has just returned from the far East in an interview today expressed the firmest confidence that, despite the reverses suffered by the Russians on land and sea, they would prosecute the war to a successful finish. The fall of Port Arthur, he added, would change nothing. The fortress had in reality somewhat embarrassed the plan of campaign, but it had also served its purpose.

Fireman Cox Injured.

Fireman Cox of the Ardmore passenger train on the Choctaw railroad, was badly injured Tuesday morning by being hit on the head by what he supposed was a mail crane while passing the town of Alderson on his return trip to this city. It is supposed that the crane had been left projecting over the track and that Cox who was leaning out of the cab was struck by it, inflicting a terrific blow on his head. He was immediately taken to South McAlester where he was given medical attention after which he was brought to this city where he lives. Dr. Hardy, who dressed the man's injuries, says that the blow was a terrific one and that although there is no symptom of internal injuries, it caused concussion of the brain. Cox was resting easy this morning and it is thought there will be no serious results from the injury.

Cold Weather.

Six degrees above zero is the record of the government thermometer in Ardmore for last night. Although this was seven degrees lower than the night previous the extreme cold affected one less it is clear and dry and at noon today the thermometer registered eighteen degrees above. The ground is thoroughly frozen, the coal and wood men are in their glory and a better hog killing time rarely comes along.

A car loaded with lumber while being switched around this morning on the Santa Fe tracks was derailed by the hard mud which had banked upon the crossing on Main street. The car ran off the track about a hundred feet, dragging the engine off also.

The old maxim that to buy the best is to buy the cheapest is true in the case of confectioneries, as well as other things, and if you buy at Kahn's you are sure of getting the best. 13

The South McAlester council has passed an ordinance that all buildings of more than two stories in height shall be provided with fire escapes.

For hot drinks go to Kahn's. He has the largest and most select line of drinks in the city. 13

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Total	\$260,000.00

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