

refusing the treaty reservations, had settled on the North Canadian River in the present state of Oklahoma, and in that year President Grant by executive order set aside approximately four million, three hundred thousand acres of land in western Indian Territory.⁹ Not until 1875, however, did the Southern Cheyennes and Arapahoes finally cease to be a problem to the military forces in and around western Indian Territory.¹⁰

Railroads brought settlers, and as the states surrounding Indian Territory became filled, the island of little used land was covetously desired by western frontiersmen.¹¹ Oklahoma boomers made the virtues of the unused lands known to other land hungry people.¹² After the passage of the Dawes Act in 1887 which provided the means for the final reduction of the Indian reservations and the opening of the Oklahoma lands in 1889, the fate of the tribal lands was sealed.¹³ Any honest reflection on the condition of these tribes would have led to the conclusion that the application of the Dawes Act to the Cheyennes and Arapahoes would be a serious mistake. The vast majority of these tribes were totally unprepared to accept citizenship and the individual ownership of land. Captain J. M. Lee, Cheyenne and Arapaho Agent, in 1886 conceded that at best after another continuous decade of progress he could class these Indians as "semi-civilized." Lee's description supported his position. ". . . Many adhere tenaciously to their old customs—the plurality of wives, . . . medicine making, holding of property in common, with many other ancient practices and superstitions. . . ." ¹⁴ Further, these Indians cultivated only 1,868 acres of land which was divided into some two hundred and eighty Indian farms.¹⁵ Although complete statistics are lacking, one suspects that much of this land was being farmed by inter-married Whites or Indians of mixed blood.

Progress and the program of allotting Indian lands in severalty could not be checked so Lee was replaced by G. D. Williams who agreed completely with federal policy. With more imagination than realism Williams reported that eighty per cent of the Indians of the reservation were "industrious and successful workers." By impli-