

cation, the Cheyenne and Arapaho reservation was dotted with "neatly whitewashed" houses and five to one hundred acre farms, all being successfully worked by the Indians.¹⁶ Charles F. Ashley, Williams' successor, attempted to correct these optimistic statements when he assumed control of the agency's affairs in 1889. He found the agency in a "very demoralized condition," a number of farms abandoned, and more distressing, almost complete opposition to allotment.¹⁷ The bitterest opposition to the federal policy centered in the non-progressive nucleus led by Young Whirlwind, Little Big Jake, Little Medicine, and Howling Wolf who had replaced the old war chiefs such as Stone Calf and Little Robe after their deaths.¹⁸ These Indians in the 1870's located themselves in the western portion of the reservation where they maintained their tribal camps, living on their annuity goods, treaty monies, and such tribute as they could exact from the herds of Texas cattle which passed over their lands to the cattle towns of Kansas.¹⁹

Despite the obvious fact that the Cheyennes and Arapahoes were not sufficiently advanced to make the successful transition to citizenship and its implications, the Cherokee Commission arrived at Darlington, Oklahoma Territory, on July 7, 1890 to begin negotiations for allotment and the sale of surplus land. Forty days of negotiation failed to produce an agreement, and a recess was called until the first week of October. When the non-progressives refused to meet at the appointed site, the commissioner easily prevailed upon the progressives to accept the government's terms. Rumor that those who signed the agreement were to be killed did not prevent Left Hand, principal chief of the Arapahoes, from signing and others followed his example.²⁰ Rapidly gaining the assent of the progressives and padding the list of signatures with those of women and children, the government officials considered the agreement ratified by the middle of November, 1890.²¹ Evidence points to the fact, however, that the agents never acquired seventy-five per cent of the signatures of the adult males as required by the treaty of 1867.²²