

46 Am 141 Ledger

Robert T. Cummins

12-1-25, inquiring
after the claim to
Director Grant -

To Frank 2-16-26 - for
Treaties & Patent - No copy -
See Frank P 36.

CHEROKEES SEES GAINS IN GOVERNMENT SUITS

Progress Reported at Conference
Of Leaders Here and Instruc-
tions Are Elaborated

ORDER MONTHLY REPORTS

Preliminary work in the prosecution of the huge claims of the Cherokee tribe against the United States government under the jurisdictional bill is progressing rapidly, according to the report of tribal attorneys read to members of the Cherokee representative committee at a meeting here yesterday.

Chairman Levi Gritts read a telegram from Frank J. Boudinot and his associates, attorneys for the Cherokees, which reported the following progress:

The prosecution is now well financed and well equipped to plunge into the work of establishing Cherokee claims against the government totalling approximately \$50,000,000.

Accountants for the prosecuting attorneys have been at work for the past 13 weeks, checking the records of the interior department made during the nineteenth century. Several large items have already been discovered which support the Cherokee claims. Departmental and Cherokee officials will agree on certain claims and the interior department officials will recommend to congress that appropriations be passed to pay these claims.

Seek Millions in Interest

The proposed resolution allowing the Cherokee attorneys to file their petitions in the court of claims separately or jointly, instead of jointly only, has not yet been introduced in congress. Congressman Hastings declared at a conference Saturday that he would reconsider the resolution and may introduce it, but it is believed Senator Harrell will enter the resolution, which is designed to expedite the work of prosecution.

Final arguments in the "Additional Interest for Eastern Immigrants" case will be delivered in March in the supreme court of the United States. This suit was filed by Boudinot before the passage of the jurisdictional bill and involves unpaid principal and interest on a judgment, obtained several years ago by the Eastern Immigrant Cherokees against the government. Should the Cherokees win in this suit, they will receive \$2,500,000 in additional interest at once, to be distributed per capita among Cherokees of the Eastern Immigrant group.

Chairman Gritts appointed a committee to translate and construe the Cherokee treaty of 1866, at the request of the tribal attorneys.

On the interpretation of the first article of this treaty rests the claim of the Cherokee tribe to \$8,000,000 in property and money alleged to have been given to negroes without the tribe's consent. It is understood that attorneys will base their case in this claim upon the interpretation placed on the treaty by the Indians. John R. Smith, Gore; William Rogers, Gore, and D. R. Coody, Porum, were selected by Gritts to prepare a translation of the treaty.

The representative committee authorized its secretary to notify the Cherokee attorneys in Washington to make a monthly report to members of the committee on the progress of the prosecution.

The Cherokee representatives also instructed the secretary to inform the attorneys that petitions must be submitted to the committee before being filed. The representative committee members will review the claims and instruct the attorney which they shall prosecute first.

Gritts Commends Burke

Gritts declared that Commissioner of Indian Affairs Charles Burke deserved commendation for his aid in obtaining passage of the Cherokee jurisdictional bill.

"Mr. Burke has favored the jurisdictional bill since he learned that it was the desire of the Cherokees that it be passed", he said. "The Cherokee people feel that he has been of great service in pushing the measure. The commissioner was once opposed to the measure, but has been more liberal in supporting it since he learned how we Cherokees feel. He did not insist on any amendment to the bill as originally submitted by the tribe.

"If the measure had not had his support, it would not have been passed - of that I am certain."