

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka I. T.
July 6, 1899
Vol. 14. No. 11
B. S. Smiser }
Norma S. Smiser } Editor's

LETTER OF BLAIR J. SHOENFELT

Department of the Interior:
United States Indian Service,
Union Agency.
Muskogee, I. T.
June 20, 1899

Hon. Green McCurtain,
Principal Chief Choctaw Nation,
Sans Bois, I. T.

Dear Sir:

Replying to that portion of your letter dated
the 17th instant in which you say that noncitizens
are holding cattle in excess of that allowed by
your law and that renters are not allowed to hold

to exceed ten head of cattle, that no provision is made for other noncitizens than farmers or enters to hold any number of cattle in the Choctaw Nation, that you have received many complaints of noncitizens holding cattle in large numbers, some as high as 1500, you are informed that if noncitizens are holding or introducing cattle in the Choctaw Nation without the consent of said nation that it is a direct violation of section 2117 of the revised statutes of the United States, which declares:

"Every person who drives or otherwise conveys any stock, horses, mules or cattle, to range and feed on any land belonging to any Indians or Indian tribe, without the consent of such tribe, is liable to a penalty of one dollar on each animal of such stock."

All persons holding cattle in violation of the above provision should be reported to this office, giving name and residence of parties also number and brands of cattle so held.

Very respectfully,

J. BLAIR SHOENFELT

Approved:

U. S. Indian Agent

J. Geo. Wright, U. S. Indian Inspector.