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Alex Posey, Editor

CREEK COUNCIL

Special to the Journal.

Whereas the Muskogee people, after tedious and trying years of doubt, debate and anxiety, yielded at last to the importunities of the representatives of the government, and confidently relying on their solemn and oft-repeated promises and assurances that if they will abandon their system of holding their lands in common for that of individual ownership under separate deeds to each citizen, then they would be protected by the government in the undisturbed possession and use thereof for an indefinite period; and desiring to aid and facilitate the work of the government in the settlement of the landed and other important interests of the nation, they have, in good faith, selected and are still selecting their lands in severalty, and

Whereas, in pursuance of the promises and agreements of the government, the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes

has issued to each of about 13000 Creek citizens certificates descriptive of the lands selected by each as his prospective individual allotment for which he will finally receive a deed, and

Whereas, in consequence of this determined policy of the government involving a change from collective to individual ownership of land in the Muskogee nation, and the issuance of the certificates above mentioned, our nation has become infested and over-run with non-citizen residents and others arriving from the adjoining states who have gone into the business of securing from the ignorant and very needy of the Creek people, written obligations based on the certificates they hold, in which they engage to sell their allotments and surrender their deeds therefor as soon as these are issued by the chief to the citizen, at a price in many cases so far below the real value of such lands as to be tantamount to simple acts of robbery of the ignorant and needy, and

Whereas it is elsewhere currently remarked, and now by this body believed, that these land companies plying their unrestricted vocation among our people, will by fraud and dishonest dealings soon make homeless paupers of a large number of the citizenship of the Muskogee nation unless some preventive measure is by the proper authorities adopted to protect our people against the lawless methods practiced by

the land buyers, and

Whereas the transactions of the land buyers with our citizens, inchoate though they be, are, in the opinion of this body, in glaring disregard of the plain provisions of the act of congress approved March 1st 1901, thus placing the actors in the attitude of persons conspiring to prevent the operation of this law of congress specially enacted to effectuate its promises to the Creeks, and

Whereas the authority and government of the Muskogee nation have been abolished by the United States, leaving us in times of great public peril such as we believe now confronts our people, with no refuge save an appeal to the power of the president of the United States for needed protection; and having an abiding faith and confidence in the will and purpose of the president and his advisers to extend full protection and justice to the Creek people in fulfillment of the promises of his agents; and since he cannot apply remedial measures unless apprised of our dangers and fears as we see them, therefore

Be it resolved by the national council of the Muskogee Nation in extraordinary session assembled at Okmulgee in the Muskogee nation that, his excellency the President of the United States be and he is hereby informed that it is the opinion of this body that formidable and rapidly growing

number of citizens of the neighboring states, now resident in the Muskogee nation, have, in various towns therein, organized themselves into business companies, and taking advantage of the poverty and need, their ignorance of values and the law against the transfer of Indian land title, of many of the citizens of the Muskogee nation, are engaged in the buying and leasing from them at ruinously low prices, of the prospective allotments of land that are to be deeded to them in accordance with descriptions in certificates of allotment given them by the commission to the Five Civilized Tribes which is destructive of the welfare of many of our people, and, if not arrested, must at no distant day result in rendering homeless paupers of the ignorant poor of the citizenship of our nation. It is the further opinion of the council that the transactions of the land companies and individuals referred to are in bold defiance and violation of the law of congress entitled: An act to ratify and confirm agreement with the Muskogee or Creek tribe of Indians and for other purposes, Approved March 1st, 1901; and it is the earnest desire and request of this body, that the president at the earliest practicable day, cause to be made an investigation of the grounds of our apprehensions of danger as expressed in the foregoing preamble and this resolution, and if they are found to be justified by the facts, then to take such effective action as will put a

stop thereto, and afford adequate protection to the interests involved.

Be it further resolved, that the principal chief be and he is hereby authorized and directed to submit to the President of the United States the forgoing preamble and these resolutions at the earliest practicable day, together with such other expressions in writing on the subject of the imperative needs of the situation as his judgment may prompt.