

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
November 10, 1898.

Vol. 13. No. 29.

B. S. Smiser, )

Norma E. Smiser, ) Editors.

CONVENTION

The Tuskahoma party met in convention at the Capital on the night of the 26th of October, 1898, and for the purpose of nominating National officers to be voted for at the coming August election.

Gov. Green McCurtain, permanent chairman, occupied the chair. On motion of N. B. Ainsworth, Ben Watkins was selected to act as Secretary.

The Chairman then appointed N. B. Ainsworth, Judge G. W. Dukes and J. C. Hampton to draft rules governing the manner of voting, and after completing and presenting the same, they read as follows:  
Rule 1. Votes to be cast by counties, and every voter belonging to the party should get together and vote as a unity.  
Rule 2. If rule one be regarded as unsatisfactory, then every member of the party vote singly.

N. B. Ainsworth made a motion to adopt rule one, the Chairman fully explained the motion, but the convention by an overwhelming vote, adopted rule two.

The Chairman then asked for a motion to nominate candidates. Geo. Scott of San Bois was recommended as nominee for Treasurer, and immediately A. Telle rose and asked that George Scott be nominated for the office of Treasurer for the Choctaw nation by acclamation, and without a dissenting voice, he was so declared the nominee.

The next in order was the National Auditor, thereupon Hon. Amos. Henry on motion proposed the name of Hon. Simon H. Woods, present Auditor, and Noel James by request proposed the name of Willis Cooper.

N. B. Ainsworth then on motion asked that candidates be voted for by those arising who advocated their cause. The Chairman then said, all who are in favor of Simon H. Woods for our next National Auditor, can make it known by all going on the south side of the room.

The alignment embracing nearly the entire Convention, it was taken as conclusive proof that Mr. Woods was the expressed choice.

which the untutored highly appreciated.

On motion by Hon. Wm. H. Harrison, Hon. Solomon J. Homer was declared by acclamation the nominee for Secretary.

National Attorney being next in order, and as four names appeared a ballot was taken to ascertain the choice. A. Telle being far in the lead was declared the choice, whereupon Judge Ward made a motion to declare A. Telle's election unanimous, which was done by a rising vote.

Gov. McCurtain having previously addressed the Convention, stating that his official duties were so multitarious, that it was entirely impossible for him to continue as Chairman of the party the necessary duties thereto pertaining, and respectfully asked the convention to appoint another to act in his stead.

N. B. Ainsworth on motion, nominated Judge G. W. Dukes successor to Gov. McCurtain as chairman, and the convention arose and made the nomination by a unanimous vote. Judge G. W. Dukes then arose and thanked the convention for the high compliment and during his remarks felt it his duty to explain to those, who could not comprehend fully the remarks of the Indian inspector, made in the forenoon, which the untutored highly appreciated.

THE INDIAN On motion of Hon. Swiney McKinney, Gov.

November 10, 1896.  
McCurtain was requested to address the convention,  
which he did, as only he can, and the applause which  
followed showed it had weight.

N. B. Ainsworth made a motion that the pro-  
ceedings of the convention be published in the IN-  
DIAN CITIZEN.

On motion of Swiney McKinney the convent-  
ion adjourned. night of the 26th of October, 1896,  
for the purpose of nominating Mr. GREEN McCURTAIN,  
be voted for at the coming August Chairman.

BEN WATKINS, Green McCurtain, permanent chairman,  
Secretary.

On motion of N. B. Ainsworth, Ben Watkins  
was selected to act as Secretary.

The Chairman then appointed N. B. Ainsworth,  
Judge G. W. Dukes and J. C. Hampton to draft rules  
governing the manner of voting, and after complet-  
ing and presenting the same, they read as follows:

Rule 1. Votes to be cast by counties, and  
every voter belonging to the party should get to-  
gether and vote as a unity.

Rule 2. If rule one be regarded as unsatis-  
factory, then every member of the party vote singly.

THE MARIETTA MONITOR

Marietta, I. T.,  
Friday, October 14, 1898  
Vol. 4 No. 3  
B. G. Logsdon, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE BY GREEN MCCURTAIN

Tushka Homma, I. T.,

Oct. 6.

The Choctaw council convened in regular session last Monday and organized by electing Judge Henry Ward president of the senate, and Joe Duker speaker of the house.

The Tushka Homma party has a handsome majority in both houses and can pass any party bill desired. The Unions have refrained so far from offering any resistance and did not put up a candidate for any of the offices. But very few of the Union party men are here.

The votes of the August election for governor were counted Tuesday, resulting as follows:

Green McCurtain .....	1636
Wilson Jones .....	1223

Wednesday Governor McCurtain was sworn in for the second

time. He read his message, then both houses adjourned until the next morning.

Friday, October 14, 1928  
Vol. 4  
E. C. Lassiter, Editor

Nothing has been done so far, except the filing of one or two contest cases. They were referred to the committee on elections.

Several parties have been here this week with the intention of lobbying some railroad and timber bills through the council, especially the timber contractors.

Tuskegee House, I. T.,  
Oct. 6.

The Cheateau council convened in regular session last Monday and organized by electing Judge Henry Ward president of the senate, and Joe Duke speaker of the house.

The Tuskegee House party has a handsome majority in both houses and can pass any party bill desired. The Unions have refrained so far from offering any resistance and did not put up a candidate for any of the offices. But very few of the Union party men are here.

The votes of the August election for governor were counted Tuesday, resulting as follows:

Gwen McDurtain .....	1836
Hilson Jones .....	1823

Wednesday Governor McDurtain was sworn in for the second

7.4  
THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, September 1, 1898

Vol. 13 No. 19

B. S. Smiser )  
Norma E. Smiser ) Editors

PROCLAMATION OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Whereas, by Section 32 of an act of congress entitled an Act "For the Protection of the People of the Indian Territory, and for Other Purposes," approved June 28, 1898, it is provided "That the agreement made by the commission to the Five Civilized Tribes with commissions representing the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of the Indians, on the 23rd day of April, 1887, as herein amended, is hereby ratified and confirmed, and the same shall be of full force and effect if ratified before the first day of December, 1898, by a majority of the whole number of votes cast by members of said tribes, at an election held for that purpose; and further, "That the votes cast in both said tribes or nations shall be forthwith returned, duly certified by the precinct officers, to the National secretaries of said tribes or nations, and shall be presented by said national secretaries to a board of commissioners, consisting of the principal

chief and national secretary of the Choctaw Nation, the governor and National secretary of the Chickasaw Nation, and a member of the commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, to be designated by the chairman of said commission, and said board shall meet without delay at Atoka, in the Indian Territory, and canvass and count said votes and make proclamation of the result; and

"Whereas, on the 24th day of August, 1898, such an election was held, within said tribes, in compliance with the laws of said tribes and said act of congress; and such commission, composed of Green McCurtain, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and S. J. Homer, National Secretary of said Nation, and R. M. Harris, Governor of the Chickasaw Nation, and L. C. Burris, National Secretary of said Nation, and T. B. Needles, member of Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, assembled at Atoka on the 30th day of August, 1898, and then and there proceeded to canvass and count the votes cast at said election as required by law; and said commission hereby proclaims that there were cast for said Agreement 2164 votes; and against said agreement 1366 votes; there being a majority of 798 votes for said Agreement.

Now, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority in us vested by said law, we do hereby proclaim said Agreement duly ratified by the members of said tribes, in accordance with the terms and provisions of said Act of Congress.

GREEN McCURTAIN

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

S. J. Homer,

National Secretary Choctaw Nation.

R. M. HARRIS,

Governor Chickasaw Nation.

L. C. BURRIS,

National Secretary Chickasaw Nation.

T. B. NEEDLES,

Commissioner to Five Civilized Tribes.

THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, August 11, 1898  
Vol. 5 No. 38  
W. G. D. Hinds) Proprietors.  
B. F. Jobe )

JONES

Tobuckney.....	33	Red River.....	53
Osage.....	34	Jackson.....	54
San Bois.....	35	Blue.....	56
Skullywill.....	35	Tawson.....	58

RE-ELECTION OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Wolf and Botuklo counties are yet to hear from and both of these counties are Jones' counties, but well posted members of the Union party state that Jones will not come out of the counties with sufficient strength to overcome McCurtain's majority, which according to revised figures is 108.

Those who remember the majority given McCurtain one year ago will note that there has been a great falling off in the Tushkahoma party. In almost every precinct, McCurtain ran behind the vote one year ago and this has re-reduced the majority. It is claimed that the vote was nearly all out and that the interest in some precincts was more intense than previous years.

Wolf and Botuklo counties will reduce the 108 majority, but it will still be a majority and it is safe to assume that the present incumbert will serve another year.

Following are the majorities given each candidate in

the different counties:

McCURTAIN	JONES
Cedar..... 1	Red River.....53
Tobucksey.....23	Jackson.....34
Gaines.....26	Blue.....56
San Bois.....176	Eagle.....59
Skullyvill.....35	Tawson.....88
Sugarloaf.....43	
Wade.....44	
Kiamichi..... 7	
Atoka..... 3	
Jack.....46	

290

108.

398

Those who remember the majority given McCurtain one year ago will note that there has been a great falling off in the Tushkahoma party. In almost every precinct, McCurtain ran behind the vote one year ago and this has re-reduced the majority. It is claimed that the vote was nearly all out and that the interest in some precincts was more intense than previous years.

Wolf and Notable counties will reduce the 108 majority, but it will still be a majority and it is safe to assume that the present incumbent will serve another year.

Following are the majorities given each candidate in

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, July 28, 1898

Vol. 13, No. 14

B. S. Smiser

Norma E. Smiser

) Editors

of a citizen without his permission.

LETTER OF GREEN MC CURTAIN TO D. C. GARLAND

may have will expire on the 31st of December, and it

is improbable that they could cut San Bois, I. T.

sixty-four sections in that time, April, 16, 1898

have no right to prevent other mills under contract  
Hon. D. C. Garland

from cutting any timber. I do not think they have any  
Canis, I. T.

such contract as they claim and even if they have it

Dear Sir: is contrary to law, and they could not be protected

in their claim.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in which you state that the King, Ryder Lumber Co. claim they have leased from the National Agent sixty-four sections of timber in Red River county, and that they have made a survey and posted notices forbidding all persons from cutting timber within the limits of their survey.

I wish to say that the National Agent has no authority to give any lumber company the exclusive right to cut timber in this Nation. No matter what

kind of a contract they may have; they have no right to keep other mills from sawing lumber, provided they have a contract. And any contract they may have does not give them the authority to cut timber on the limits of a citizen without his permission.

Any contract that the King, Ryder Lumber Co., may have will expire on the 31st of December, and it is improbable that they could cut the timber from sixty-four sections in that time, and they surely have no right to prevent other mills under contract from cutting any timber. I do not think they have any such contract as they claim and even if they have it is contrary to law, and they could not be protected in their claim.

I am in receipt of your letter of the 11th inst. in which you state that the King, Ryder Lumber Co. claim they have leased from the GREEN McCURTAIN sixty-four sections of timber in Red River county, and that they have made a survey and posted notices forbidding all persons from cutting timber within the limits of their survey.

I wish to say that the National Agent has no authority to give any lumber company the exclusive right to cut timber in this Nation. No matter what

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.

Thursday, July 21, 1898

Vol. 13 No. 13

B. S. Smiser )  
Norma E. Smiser ) Editors

PROCLAMATION OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Whereas, by the terms of "An Act For the Protection of the People of the Indian Territory, and For Other Purposes," recently passed by Congress and approved by the President, it provides in Section 32, as follows: "That the Agreement made by the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes with commissions representing the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes of Indians, on the 23rd day of April, 1897, as herein amended, is hereby ratified and confirmed, and the same shall be of full force and effect, if ratified before the first day of December, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, by a majority of the whole number of the votes cast by the members of said tribes, at an election held for that purpose; and the executives of said tribes are hereby authorized and directed to make public proclamation that the said Agreement shall be voted on at the next general election, or at any

special election to be called by such executives for the purpose of voting on said Agreement; and at the election held for such purpose all male members of each of said tribes, qualified to vote under his tribal laws, shall have the right to vote at the election precinct most convenient to his residence, whether the same be within the bounds of his tribe or not;

Provided, that no person whose right to citizenship in either of said tribes or Nations is now contested in original or appellate proceedings before any United States court shall be permitted to vote at said election;

Provided further, that the votes cast in both said tribes or Nations, shall be forthwith returned, duly certified by the precinct officers, to the National Secretaries of said tribes or Nations, and shall be presented by said National Secretaries to a Board of Commissioners, consisting of the Principal Chief and National Secretary of the Choctaw Nation, and the Governor and National Secretary of the Chickasaw Nation, and a member of the Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, to be designated by the Chairman of said Commission; and said Board shall meet without delay at

Atoka, in the Indian Territory; and canvass and count said votes and make proclamation of the result; and if said Agreement as amended be so ratified, the provisions of this Act shall then only apply to said tribes where the same do not conflict with the provisions of said agreement."

Now, Therefore, I, Green McCurtain, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, by virtue of the authority given above, hereby proclaim that a special election shall be held on Wednesday, August 24, 1898, at which all of the voters of the Choctaw Nation, qualified as the said act provides, shall be entitled to vote on the ratification of said Agreement.

The County Judges of each of the counties of this Nation shall, at the August term, 1898, of the County Court, appoint three competent men to act as judges at each of the precincts of their respective counties, at the said election, and the County Clerks shall prepare duplicate poll books, on each of which shall be registered the votes "For Agreement" and "Against Agreement," and the precinct officers shall make returns accordingly and promptly to Solomon J. Homer, National Secretary of the Choctaw Nation, at Caddo, I. T.

If the court should fail to appoint election judges, or should those appointed fail to act, it shall be the duty of the voters when assembled, to appoint suitable persons to fill such vacancies. Those voting for the ratification of said Agreement are instructed to place upon their ballots the words "For Agreement." and those voting against the ratification of said Agreement, will place upon their ballots the words "Against Agreement."

In testimony whereof I have hereto affixed my signature, as said Principal Chief, and caused the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation to be affixed, this, the 18th day of July, 1898.

(S E A L)

GREEN McCURTAIN

Principal Chief Choctaw Nation.

Attest:

WALLACE BOND,

Private Secretary.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, July 14, 1898.  
Vol. 13. No. 38.  
B. S. Smiser, )  
Norma E. Smiser, ) Editors.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Governor McCurtain will issue his proclamation in a few days calling a special election to vote on the agreement, for August 17. No citizen of Texas is allowed to vote on this agreement, even if he is running for governor. See?

n 24

tion in the U. S. courts, and liable to imprisonment.  
 THE INDIAN CITIZEN  
 And I ask and demand of them to produce any proofs what-  
 Atoka, I. T.  
 July 7, 1898 that I have leased, any corporation or  
 Vol. 13 No. 11  
 B. S. Smiser ) Editors  
 Norma E. Smiser )  
 county or any other point, or have received any money  
 from any such company for such purpose.

PUT UP OR SHUT UP

If the Editors of this platform have not the means  
 to furnish the proof Sans Bois, I. T. only be necessary  
 for them to furnish June 22nd 1898. those from whom  
 they obtained the information on which they based these  
 Ed. Citizen  
 charges, and I will see that they be compelled to  
 Atoka, I. T.  
 give any information they may have, even if they be

Dear Sir: into the courts to compel them. But I am  
 satisfied Kindly allow me space in the columns of  
 the INDIAN CITIZEN to refer to that portion of the  
 Union Party denouncing platform, in which I am denounced  
 for leasing unlawfully, large tracts of timber lands  
 in Red River county, to companies and corporations  
 for a nominal sum.  
 Very truly,

GREEN McCURTAIN.

I wish to say to those who framed the so-called  
 platform that I wish them to substantiate the charge  
 they have thus made against me. If I have violated the  
 timber law, as they have charged, for any sum of  
 money, small or large, then I am subject to prosecu-

tion in the U. S. courts, and liable to imprisonment. And I ask and demand of them to produce any proofs whatever to show that I have leased, any corporation or company, or individual, any timber lands in Red River county or any other point, or have received any money from any such company for such purpose.

If the framers of this platform have not the means to furnish the proofs I ask, it will only be necessary for them to furnish me the names of those from whom they obtained the information on which they based these charges, and I will see that they be compelled to give any information they may have, even if they be forced into the courts to compel them. But I am satisfied that the Union Party having no legitimate issue on which to base a platform, have used me as a subject. If I were not in existence then the Union Party would have no platform.

Very truly.

GREEN McCURTAIN.

I wish to say to those who framed the so-called platform that I wish them to substantiate the charge they have thus made against me. If I have violated the timber law, as they have charged, for any sum of money, small or large, then I am subject to prosecu-

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory

Jan. 5, 1899.

Vol. 13. No. 37.

B. S. Smiser, )

Norma E. Smiser, ) Editors.

Therefore, no one authorized  
one that could be enforced  
no one authorized to receive the  
I have decided to take no  
further steps in the matter, and will let the timber  
business

LETTER TO GREEN McCURTAIN TO W. N. DUNN

doing all I can to hurry up the allotment, and am in  
hopes we will be able to give name Sans Bois, I. T.,  
such title in a few months as will Dec. 30, 1898.

sell their timber. All there is left for you is to  
Mr. W. M. Dunn,  
wait until that time.

Red Oak, I. T.,

Whatever my personal feelings might be in

Dear Sir: I am compelled to take the above stand

because of the unanimous action of the last Council

I have your letter of the 29th instant; and  
in replying would say that while it is currently reported  
I find among all my people everywhere, with the fewest  
exceptions, earnest approval of the Council's action  
Council was not approved, yet I have had no offici-  
in stopping the timber business. As Chief, I am bound  
to respect the wishes of so great a majority of my  
abolishing the office of National Agent, thus leav-

ing the Nation without any one authorized to make a  
timber contract; but should a contract be made, there  
is no one authorized to collect the royalty, as Coun-  
cil also passed a law abolishing the office of In-

Very truly,

GREEN McCURTAIN,

Chief, Sans Bois, I. T.

spector. There being, therefore, no one authorized to make a binding contract, one that could be enforced in a court, and no one authorized to receive the royalty under a contract, I have decided to take no further steps in the matter, and will let the timber business stop, except mining timbers. I am, however, doing all I can to hurry up the allotment, and am in hopes we will be able to give members of the tribe such title in a few months as will enable them to sell their timber. All there is left for you is to wait until that time.

Whatever my personal feelings might be in this matter, I am compelled to take the above stand because of the unanimous action of the last Council in repealing the law allowing the timber contracts. I find among all my people everywhere, with the fewest exceptions, earnest approval of the Council's action in stopping the timber business. As Chief, I am bound to respect the wishes of so great a majority of my people.

Very truly,  
GREEN McCURTAIN,  
Prin. Chief Choc. N.

THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, October 27, 1898  
Vol. 5 No. 49  
W. G. D. Hinds)  
B. F. Jobe ) Proprietors.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Governor McCurtain and the whole Choctaw people have reason to congratulate themselves upon the readiness with which they have taken the initiative in the new condition of affairs. It doubtless would have been better for the Cherokees and Creeks if they had been blessed with a states-man at the helm, gifted with the same foresight, the same practical up-to-date convictions, the same fearless honesty that has characterized the course of the able Choctaw chieftain. No truer words were ever spoken than the above. If the Indians are not going to turn their faces toward progress and nineteenth century ideas, they will be left, woefully left, and the ill effects of present exhibitions of stubbornness, of racial prejudice, of puny arguments dilatory tactics, prevailing at present to some extent in the Cherokee and Creek tribes, can only work disastrously upon the Indians who obstinately refuse to accept the inevitable, which is alike for their own and the common good. The President of the United States is the friend of

the Indian and the sooner they pin their faith on him and turn a deaf ear to the mouthings of ignorant obstructionists or designing lobbyists and schemers, the sooner they will begin to see daylight and get out of the mire. The startling words of McCurtain should find lodgement in every patriot's mind. These important truths will become more and more apparent as time advances. This is no time for the Indians to falter or sulk. It's time for them to be up and doing and proving to the world their equality in strength and mind with other men. reason to congratulate themselves upon the readiness with which they have taken the initiative in the new condition of affairs. It doubtless would have been better for the Cherokees and Creeks if they had been blessed with a states-man at the helm, gifted with the same foresight, the same practical up-to-date convictions, the same fearless honesty that has characterized the course of the able Choctaw chieftain. No truer words were ever spoken than the above. If the Indians are not going to turn their faces toward progress and nineteenth century ideas, they will be left, woefully left, and the ill effects of present exhibitions of stubbornness, of racial prejudice, of puny arguments dilatory tactics, prevailing at present to some extent in the Cherokee and Creek tribes, can only work disastrously upon the Indians who obstinately refuse to accept the inevitable, which is alike for their own and the common good. The President of the United States is the friend of

THE MARIETTA MONITOR

Marietta, I. T.,  
Friday, September 23, 1898  
Vol. 3            No. 52  
B. G. Logsdon,    Editor

NEWS ITEM OF GREEN MCCURTAIN

Hon. Green McCurtain is still the honored principal chief of the Choctaw government, but the Secretary of the Interior is the acting governor of the Indian Territory, and Muskogee is the capitol. Evidently we are making history fast. -- Choctaw Champion.

Just so, but in the language of the yankee captain who captured a preacher while playing the fiddle for a dance, and being questioned the preacher stated that he belonged to the army of the Lord. Whereupon the officer replied: "Well, old man, your'e a h -- l of a ways from headquarters." The same might be said of our acting governor.

THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, August 25, 1898  
Vol. 5 No. 40  
W. G. D. Hinds )  
B. F. Jobe ) Proprietors.

EDITORIAL ON ELECTION OF McCURTAIN & JONES

And now they are talking this way: Jones claims to be elected McCurtain ditto. They will meet at Tushkahoma, get into a scrap, and Uncle Samuel, who is going about just now with a chip on his shoulder, will pull his hands up another notch higher, slip over to the Capital building from the Frisco depot, grab up that gubernatorial chair, smash it, and like one of old driving the money changers from the temple, he will chase McCurtain, Jones, et al, from the capital and transfer the whole business to Col. Wisdom, the Curtis bill and the Indian inspector. Funnier things have happened, but we don't know them.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, August 25, 1898.  
Vol. 13. No. 18.  
B. S. Smiser, )  
Norma E. Smiser, ) Editors.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

McCurtain is re-elected by 151 majority. While pleased with his re-election McCurtain's friends are surprised that his majority was not larger. Yet to a close observer there is little for surprise and a great deal of congratulation over the result. McCurtain is the logical man for the place and under ordinary circumstances would have polled double the vote of his opponent, but when it is known that he was compelled to fight the smoothest wire-pullers in the Choctaw nation, to convince the full-bloods that a change is inevitable and the large negro vote in line it can be readily seen that the Governor had a Merrimac task to perform. That he was equal to the occasion the return show. His first and most dangerous enemies were the wire-pullers, hesitating at nothing, they circulated all manner of unreasonable reports, and so rapidly did they performed their

work that scarcely enough time elapsed to brand one report as false until another demanded attention. In most instances the charges were too shallow to have weight and only the uneducated were influenced by them. The full bloods, as a rule are naturally "sot" in their belief that treaties are inviolate and small effort on the part of the managers of the Jones campaign was sufficient to convince them that the election of Jones would assure a return of full tribal government. The negro voters, with few exceptions, were on the market and the Jones men did not hesitate to place their slush fund where it would poll the largest vote, but this proved of no avail. The contest was bitterly waged in each of the seventeen counties and there was surprise ever the result in each county. McCurtain is victorious and with a firm hand will guide the Choctaws through two more eventful years; in the meantime the treaty will be ratified and in after years his most bitter apponents will thank him for saving them from themselves----

the occasion the return show. His first **EXCHANGE** most dangerous enemies were the wire-pullers, hesitating at nothing, they circulated all manner of unreasonable reports, and so rapidly did they performed their

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,  
June 23, 1898.

Vol. 13. No. 9.

B. S. Smiser, )  
Norma E. Smiser, ) Editors.

LETTER OF GREEN McCURTAIN

The following emphatic letters from the  
Ft. Smith Elevator speak for themselves:

Dr. E. N. Wright, in his letter published  
in the Elevator, makes certain charges against me  
which I thought were useless to answer, thinking  
that statements emanating from such a source could  
injure no one; but fearing there may be some people  
who do not know the Doctor as well as the people in  
the Nation, I answer his letter for their benefit.  
I have delayed doing so only for the purpose of  
getting statements from Wesley Anderson and N. B.  
Ainsworth, two gentlemen whom Dr. Wright refers to  
in his letter to substantiate his charges.

Although Wright wishes people to believe  
he refused a large sum of money from patriotic  
motives, yet he is not very consistent in his state-  
ments as to how much was offered hire. When he

first made public his honesty, in refusing this money, he stated that I had offered him \$13,500, but in his last two statements he charges me with offering him a bribe of \$10,000. Now which one of these statements he wishes us to believe is immaterial to me, for both amounts are so much above his price that I cannot conceive how he expects his friends to believe them, much less the public at large. *is not worth buying.*

I do not wish the little Doctor to excite himself or be uneasy in any way, or place himself in the role of a blackmailer. He should not place himself on the market at such figures for his market value has long since been established, and the value of his stock is on the decrease. The Doctor knows too well that I am on to his price. His price is \$100, and if I wished to buy him I would not offer him more than that amount, for it was one of Ed Chaddick's sight draft for \$100 that he took to help the "Mineral Bill" at the last special session of council, in September, 1896. And the little Doctor was too shrewd to get his draft cashed in Fort Smith, as some others did who received similar drafts. The Doctor went to Krebs and got D. M.

*June 22, 1897.*

Hailey to cash it for him. And while we were in Fort Smith tracing up this bribery business that resulted in the passage of the "Mineral Law" the Doctor looked very innocent while he was assisting me to trace up these little sight drafts, not thinking his part in the transaction would show up. And knowing what I did about him it would look very foolish in me to offer him anything. In my estimation he is not worth buying.

Doctor Wright's repeated statements in regard to this matter reminds me of what the Irishman said about his man. He said "the fellow would have to eat wool in order to make his statements hang together." So I would advise the Doctor to eat wool before he makes any more statements, for it has been so long since he has spoken the truth that true words would sound like a foreign language to him.

As the Doctor has undertaken to eat me without salt I will have to submit, as I had rather be "chawed up" by a thing like him than to undertake to "chaw" him.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

Sans Bois, I. T.,

June 22, 1897.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.  
Thursday, October 13, 1898  
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B. S. Smiser                      )  
Norma E. Smiser                      ) Editors

THIRD ANNUAL MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

To the members of the General Council:

Gentlemen:

For the third time I am before you to deliver my annual message. I will set forth the condition of our nation today and give you, for your guidance, my views touching our present and future welfare. It fell to my lot to be Principal Chief during the most critical and trying times that we have ever experienced as a nation. Heretofore the Chief has only had to deal with mere details as laid out by the council, and because our government was running smoothly had little or no trouble. But in my case it was different. The United States had grown tired of our manner of holding our lands and with certain parts of our government, and by slow but sure pressure had brought us to that point where we had to turn our faces to these difficulties, and regardless of our personal wishes or desires meet

meet these demands and make the most of them. The history and result of all this is the adoption of our agreement entered into at Atoka, on April 23d, 1897, by the handsome and gratifying jamority (counting all ballots) of over one thousand. To fail to add that I feel a great personal pride in this majority would be to withhold the truth. In all these trials and charges I have been actuated by a desire to do that which I believed for the best interests of all our people. In advocating and carrying out these changes I have had to contend with the most trying difficulties known in politics, viz: money and ignorance. The representatives of money are those who have drawn large individual royalties from coal as well as from the public domain, through large pastures and other monopolies. And so all through this campaign, where the howling has been the loudest, where the dust has been thrown the highest in the air an examination of the case has revealed some coal owner wailing and decrying the agreement because it has shut off his royalty. The one thousand majority for the agreement shows just how much real sympathy they deserve, for it is true of this class as of all others actuated by selfishness, they get more than they deserve. For that class against

the agreement from prejudice, much can be said that is worthy and true; they are our full bloods and generally well advanced in life; they are for the most part uneducated and have heard all their lives that our right to hold our lands and government as we think best was a treaty right and therefore would be respected by the United States. They know by bitter experience (for many of them came from Mississippi) that all our changes have worked hardships for them, and while they would admit that there are abuses in our government which ought to be corrected, they thought it best to endure their present evils rather than cut the cable that bound them to the best government (with all its imperfections) they had ever had. Let him who has the heart blame these people; for myself, my sympathies are with them, and I have this consolation, that in all these fights the rights and privileges of this very class have pressed harder upon me than all the others. I saw three or four years ago that the clouds that were gathering over us would break sooner or later, and, having been elected for that purpose, I made the agreement. In all our negotiations I sought to cure the evils that weakened our government, and to make such a division of all our common property as would be equal and fair.

In selecting a commission to assist in the negotiations with the United States commission due care was exercised to get the service of honest as well as able men, for in those negotiations were involved the interests of all our people, And I am glad to say that, so far as I know, only one mistake was made in the choice of my commission, and in that we were fortunate by misfortune, as it resulted to our advantage in so far as it strengthened our cause and crippled the opposition. We, as a people, are indebted to the faithful work and untiring energy of Capt. Standley, Wesley Anderson and N. B. Ainswirth for the greater portion of our success-- it was they who stood in the thick of the fight at Washington and contested every inch of ground belonging to the Choctaw people; this they did against an opposition that would stop at nothing to accomplish its selfish purpose. These men saved us so much of our government as was agreed upon, and indeed we have much for which we should be grateful to them. I called upon the Hon. Wesley Anderson to go to Washington in the interest of the agreement, he being one of the commissioners selected by me to assist in having the agreement ratified by congress. He promptly responded to the call, went to Washington and did invaluable service in the work to

which he was appointed. There was no appropriation made at the last session of the Council as compensation for such services or to defray expenses of a delegate while there, and as a matter of course Mr. Anderson had to bear his own expenses. It would be base ingratitude for us, as a people, to refuse to compensate Mr. Anderson for his services in this matter. And in passing from this subject, I will say that while I am Chief it will be my aim and desire to carry out this division in the spirit in which it was made, and I am glad to tell you that I have the best reasons for saying that the President and Secretary of the Interior will do all in their power to the same end.

#### PARTY STRIFE

Our future welfare as a nation demands that we make a good beginning of this new era; that we at once demonstrate our ability to govern and be governed within ourselves. This we cannot do if party prejudice is the controlling sentiment. The intention of good government is always defeated whenever prejudice is allowed to enter into legislation. And I therefore strongly counsel against the agitation of party feeling both in and out of the council. Party principles, so long as confined to honest differences of opinion and advocated

in the interest of good government, are nothing damaging but whenever their support degenerates to ill will and hatred, the government is in danger and reform is necessary. Our government cannot stand the shock of internal dissension and I appeal to you and to the political parties of our nation, in the interest of all the Choctaw people, to forget the unpleasantness of the past and unite in one common effort to successfully meet the new order of things.

#### FINANCE

Total receipts .....	\$152,732.92
Total expenditures .....	252,479.85
	<hr/>
Balance in hand .....	\$ 313.07

The above statement of our finances is based upon the report of the National Treasurer, and shows our financial condition upto the time that the Indian Agent ordered all royalties paid to him. And all other payments made since the passage of the Curtis Bill in its amended form are in the hands of the Indian Agent, hence no statement of them is given here.

#### PUBLIC DOMAIN

In view of the fact that we are soon to divide

our public domain, I recommend that you pass such laws as will absolutely prohibit the cutting and selling of timber of all kinds, except firewood for ones own use. Of course the contracts now existing with saw mills will have to be carried out, but they should be given proper notice that they must cease work on December 1st, next--this law will have to be approved by the President. The necessity for such a law is so plain that no argument is necessary.

#### SCHOOLS

Our schools have been hampered for lack of funds. It is gratifying to me, though, to see that at least two thirds of our annual appropriations of last year went for education. I recommend that you take the proper steps to make all necessary repairs on our school buildings and that the Board of Education be authorized to insure all our academies. I feel that you will do what is for the best interests in the matter of educating our children and will not specify any particular course other than that above mentioned which is of the most praiseworthy

of the Choctaw council a  
the passage of that the school text books  
required for the education of our children should be

purchased by the nation and furnished free of charge to the children (citizens) attending our schools. Many children have in the past been deprived of an opportunity of getting an education because of their parents not being able to get books for them, but that excuse can be pleaded no longer; the opportunity for getting a common school education is placed within reach of all. The nation has done its full duty in this direction and it remains for the parents to show their appreciation of this charitable system by availing themselves of the opportunity to educate their children.

#### CHANGE IN OFFICE, COURTS, ETC.

In the nature of the changes made in our government we will not need certain offices, heretofore important factors in our government, and such offices should be abolished to save us an unnecessary expense to our government. I recommend that you limit the circuit courts to two terms not to exceed two weeks each. And in this connection would also recommend that proper laws for collecting permits, costs and all fines imposed by the courts be enacted. The necessity for liquidating the outstanding scrip of the various counties has become urgent from the fact that this is the winding up of our affairs, and to this end I recommend that all

taxes and permits including merchants, outside of incorporated towns, and farmers permits go to the counties in which such taxes are collected, and that the sheriff collect said taxes and receive in payment of the same county scrip or its equivalent in money.

#### NEGROES

Under our changing conditions these people are giving us no little trouble. Of the millions of negroes heretofore held in slavery in the south, the Indians alone divided their lands with them. We have also given them free schools and they have enjoyed the benefits of the public domain, and many other advantages which their black brother has not had in the states. But for all these advantages given them candor compels me to say that, with now and then a notable exception, the negro, as a people, has lifted up his heels against his best friend--and in these political matches, hog like, has followed the man who has the corn in his sack, true to their nature, have squealed all the louder when corn was passed their way and not thrown to them. But that government is best which lifts all the people. They are among us and will remain. If they grow up in ignorance among us it will be all the worse for us. I recommend, therefore, that you make the best provision

as regards free schools and their academy as our limited finances will permit. You cannot use any royalty from coal or asphalt. You will be confined to the moneys arising from our invested funds. Special provisions should be made to protect us against unscrupulous teachers, who report pupils in attendance when they are absent. Also against giving incompetent teachers certificates to teach.

#### CITIZENSHIP CASES

The Citizenship Commission created by the last Council has done good work. They have saved the nation thousands of dollars, and this good work is not finished. I recommend that you reduce the number of the commission to three and give me authority to control them in such work as the best interests of the nation demand. We employed ex-Judge James M. Shackelford as attorney during the year, and his work has been satisfactory. I also entered into a contract with Hon. J. M. Wilson of Washington, D. C., and N. B. Ainsworth to look after our interests before congress and the supreme court of the United States. The Indian appropriation bill contains a clause giving us the right to appeal in all cases, and also to test the right of congress to authorize the Dawes commission or the United States courts to

say who are citizens of our nation. As these cases have precedence we hope to have a decision this winter on this important question. In the meantime we are doing all in our power to protect ourselves against these would be Indians. I am particularly anxious to beat these cases for two reasons; first, because a large number of them are whites and haven't a drop of Indian blood in them; and second, because no good can come from a set of people who deliberately and wilfully perjure themselves for the sake of a few acres of land. Such people are essentially bad. When a man will steal his home by perjury, he is bad at heart; and every time he looks at his home and land so gotten, the thought of his perjury and robbery will come up. There can be no good citizens come out of homes whose closets contain skeletons of perjury and robbery. And so I hope you will continue my authority to do all in my power to beat these vampires who are seeking to saddle themselves upon us.

#### APPROPRIATIONS

In the matter of Making appropriations I especially urge that you exercise great care, for the financial condition of our nation will not admit of extravagance injudicious legislation, neither will the

President, under whose official notice all your acts must come, permit it. I recommend that you include all special appropriations in the general appropriation bill, in order that they may pass at one time under the President's supervision. His time is precious and he should be given as little trouble as possible. I am a firm believer in Presidential supervision, and the proper course for us to pursue is to seek the aid and advice of the President in all our affairs. And in conclusion, gentlemen, I will say that the government that we build up under our agreement must be able to stand the scrutiny of all good men. We must look upon the President and the United States as our friends and must act on the principle that they seek and desire our best political and temporal welfare. If we live up to the spirit and intent of the government created in the agreement, we will have our political destiny in our own hands and it will be harder to dislodge us at the end of eight years than it was to make the agreement. But if we are not going to turn our faces toward progress and nineteenth century ideas we simply will be left. Indians must obey, as the white people have to obey, the laws of progress. So let us look to the future with a hope and a determination to meet

whatever it contains for us with honest hearts; let us forget the past; let us be friends indeed and in truth, and that God who is mercy and justice will not forsake us.

Respectfully,

GREEN McCURTAIN,

P. C. C. N.