

Washington, D.C., February 24th, 1897.

Hon. James K. Jones,

Washington, D.C.,

Dear Sir:-

We wish to invite your attention to the following facts relating to the request of the Creek people for the securing of \$400,000 of their moneys now in the Treasury of the United States, for the purpose of paying our national indebtedness and making a payment to relieve the present wants of our people.

We are owing, on account of the school fund, about the sum of \$103,000. This is incurred in improving and building up our school system, providing boarding schools, orphan asylums, and increasing the number of neighborhood schools.

We are also owing over \$230,000 on account of the general fund. This is incurred for regular councils, for paying regular standing officers, and the general court expenses of the nation, besides paying for five extra councils in the last two years, which were called for the purpose of meeting and considering propositions from the Dawes Commission; making a roll for payment, also making, at the request of the Dawes Commission, a roll of the Creek citizens, and for investigation into the internal affairs of our Government. These items cannot be tabulated, not having a statement showing what would come under each head referred to.

Hon. Jas. K. Jones. -2-

Provision was made by the Council by enacting laws to obtain revenues to meet these extra expenses, but largely on account of the uncertain status of our nation and country, in consequence of the policy of the United States to change our political status to that of citizenship of the United States, and the tenure of our land from communal to the individual system, has had the effect to prevent enterprises authorized by our laws yielding a revenue.

It will be seen from this, that our debt has not accumulated by extravagant expenditure, but for good reasons. It is our wish to liquidate this debt before tribal dissolution, and for that purpose, together with the fact that a large section of our country was visited by a drought last year, subjecting many of our people to great want for the means of subsistence, many of them are now in a suffering condition.

The appropriation asked for, or permission to assign \$400,000 of the amount due the Creeks from the Government, is simply asking what is their own for purposes that would commend themselves to every right-thinking man, and it is earnestly hoped that the Government will not deny our request.

Very respectfully,

(Signed) Pleasant Porter,
Chairman Creek Commission.

G. A. Alexander,
Pres't House of Kings & Creek Com.

G. W. Grayson,

Wm. A. Saapulpa.