

THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.,
August 6, 1896
Vol. 9 No. 37
W. H. Walker, Editor

A REPORT OF THE INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL

SIGNED BY J. M. PERRYMAN

The report sent out to the dailies last week to the effect that the International Council at Eufaula refused to countenance any negotiations with the Dawes Commission was evidently premature, as the following complete report of the proceedings of the Council, given in the Indian Journal, Eufaula, goes to show an entirely different action:

Eufaula, I. I., July 28.-- The adjourned session of the International Council of the Five Civilized Tribes met in the U. S. commissioner's court room at 9 a. m., with both the chairman and secretary present.

Prayer by G. A. Alexander.

The names of the duly accredited delegates were enrolled as follows:

CHEROKEES.

S. W. Mays, Naked Head, J. W. Duncan, D. M. Faulkner, H. T. Landrum, Roach Young, Stan W. Gray, John Wyckliffe, B. W. Alberty, C. V. Rogers.

CREEKS.

J. M. Perryman, G. A. Alexander, John Goat, S. B. Callahan, G. W. Grayson, A. L. Posey, P. Porter, E. B. Childers, R. McIntosh.

SEMINOLES.

K. N. Kinkehee, Thos. Little, Thos. McGeisie.

CHICKASAWS.

Richard McLish, E. B. Johnson,

The chairman announced that there were now represented all the Nations of the Territory except the Choctaws, and that he had inquired of the chief of that Nation by wire whether or not he may accept representatives at this council; that the council however, was competent for business and may now proceed to give attention to such matters and things as may seem to demand their attention.

On motion, the minutes of last council were read and in the absence of any objection the chair approved them.

On motion of Mr. McLish the communication of the Creek chief to the last session of the council was read and interpreted to the Seminoles. Motion for recess to 4 o'clock by S. W. Gray was voted down.

By request Mr. Wright, a visiting Choctaw, stated that he did not much believe that the Choctaw chief would send a delegation to the council. He was not a delegate and had no authority to make any statement, but had heard that he (the chief) would not send representatives. Convention went into recess until 2 o'clock p. m.

Council convened at the hour to which it adjourned. The secretary announced that there were present Messrs. Toole, Turner and Lewis, who are Choctaw, and although not bearing credentials were sent to take part in the convention if agreeable. Their case was submitted to the council, when on motion of Mr. Duncan, a committee composed of Messrs. Duncan, Johnson, Alexander and McGiesie were appointed to consider and report on the question of the status to be accorded the visitors. The committee on the subject of the visiting Choctaws reported, admitting them to the courtesies of seats in the council but not to votes on questions. On motion of Porter the

report was laid on the table. Porter moved that they be invited to seats in the council, but not to engage in the deliberations unless invited; motion carried.

The council was then addressed by chief of Cherokees, Mays, Porter, R. McIntosh, McGeisie, Alberty and McLish. Gray moved that a committee of two from each tribe be appointed to consider the suggestions of the speakers, and report to the council. This motion failed by a motion to adjourn to 8 o'clock tonight.

8 o'clock p. m. -- Council met and addresses were made by Grayson, Goat and others; adjourned to meet tomorrow morning at 9 o'clock.

Wednesday 9 o'clock a. M. -- Council met pursuant to adjournment, the chair and the secretary present.. Prayers by Thos. Little. Roll called and a quorum present. Journal of yesterday read and approved.

An address was made by G. A. Alexander.

A letter from J. B. Jackson to the chairman expressing his belief that the chief of the Choctaws would not appoint a delegation to attend the council, was read.

Porter addressed the council advising that the respective Nations appoint delegates to meet and confer with the Dawes commission on the subject of their mission to the Territory. This was interpreted.

Mr. Johnson, of the Chickasaws, read an address

in which he stated that the Chickasaws were bitterly opposed to any allotment of their lands to them by the United States government, but believed that they might within themselves devise a plan including allotment that would be to the best advantage of all the people.

Mr. Duncan, of the Cherokees, addressed the council, in which he, the same as the preceding speakers, believed the time had arrived when it is wise to prepare for a change of our present condition.

C. V. Rogers addressed the council, placing stress on the duty of this council and the nations to watch closely the subject of citizenship before the Dawes commission. Childers moved to proceed with the business of the convention without the presence of the Choctaws; carried.

Mr. Duncan moved that the chair appoint two members of the council from each of the tribes present, who shall proceed to draft a resolution or resolutions expressive of the sense of the council relative to the mission of the Dawes commission in the Indian Territory. The motion prevailed, when Messrs. J. W. Duncan and Stan W. Gray for the Cherokees, P. Porter and Roley McIntosh for the Creeks, Thomas McGeisie and Kinkehee for the Seminoles, Richard McLish and E. B. Johnson for the Chickasaws were appointed.

Council went into recess until 4 o'clock p. m.

Council met at 5:30 o'clock and received, read and interpreted the following resolutions reported by the committee:

To the Chiefs of the Five Civilized Nations:

We, the delegates of the several Nations of the Indian Territory, in International Council assembled at Eufaula, do adopt the following resolutions:

Whereas, The congress of the United States in the year 1893, passed an act providing that a commission be appointed by the president with authority to negotiate with the Five Civilized Nations, for a change from a tribal to a territorial form of government and final statehood, and a change in their land tenure in common to a division of their land in severalty, which act was in violation of our treaty relations with the United States and contrary to our wishes and interest, and under which act a commission was appointed by the president, who visited our country and endeavored to enter into negotiations with our respective Nations, and upon failure to accomplish this made certain misrepresentations to congress regarding the condition of our people and country, upon which the congress of the United States saw fit to continue their mission; and

Whereas, On their return to the Territory they

made additional propositions, which failed to receive consideration from our respective Nations, who were averse to any proposed change; and

Whereas, The commission made a report to the congress of the United States of their failure, embracing a statement of what seemed to them to be the condition of our people and country, which was erroneous and misleading in every important particular, the source of their information being no means trustworthy, which leads us to believe that they were unwittingly imposed upon largely by persons interested in our overthrow and disruption; and

Whereas, Congress, accepting their report as true, passed an act, which, among other things, provided that the said commission should have authority to determine the rights of citizenship in the various Nations and take our census, and also declare "it to be the duty of the United States to establish a government which will rectify the many inequalities and discriminations and afford needful protection to the lives and property of the citizens and residents thereof;" and

Whereas, The government of the United States has authorized and is making a survey of and sectionizing our country, without our consent, and taking this, in connection with the census now being taken of our citi-

zens, it becomes apparent to us that it is the determined policy of the government to carry out the purposes of the act of 1893; and

Whereas, Should the policy be carried out without conference with our people, without a thorough knowledge of our true condition, an irreparable injustice would be done to our people; Now therefore, be it

Resolved, That we hereby recommend to the chiefs of the Five Civilized Nations that they call their respective councils in extra session at as early a day as possible and lay before them the necessity of appointing a commission with authority and such instructions as they may respectively deem proper, to meet and confer with the United States commission having this matter in charge, with the view of arriving at some satisfactory solution of the proposition made by the United States which will afford greater security, if possible, and better protection to persons and property; Be it further

Resolved, That we further recommend that each Nation cause to be made a true, correct and authorized roll of its citizens and furnish the Dawes commission with a certified copy thereof, and further recommend that each Nation employ able counsel to represent its interest before said commission, to prevent any fraudu-

lent claims being admitted to citizenship.

We further recommend that a bureau of information be established which shall have for its object the matter of publishing to the United States congress and to the various state legislatures such literature or newspaper as will educate and inform them as to our true condition and wants, and refute the vile accusations that are published to the world by the newspapers among us and in the adjoining states in the hands of designing men and speculators.

We also recommend that each Nation send one or two delegates to its proportionate number of the state legislatures and secure from them resolutions or memorials to congress asking that body to keep faith with its pledges and treaties with the various Indian Nations and to take every precaution to prevent legislation detrimental to their rights and interests.

On motion of Mr. Mayes the report was read the second time Pending action the council took recess until 8 o'clock p. m.

8 o'clock p. m. -- The motion being on the adoption of the committee's report was agreed to.

On motion it was agreed that the secretary should cause to be printed copies of the action of the council in the Indian Journal and Cherokee Advocate and furnish

a copy each to the chiefs of the Five Civilized Tribes and the members of this council.

Speeches in general made. Duncan moved that the secretary be and is hereby instructed to write a letter to the Choctaw Chief expressing the regrets of the council that the Choctaws could not be present, and the hope that he will aid the council in carrying out the purposes of the resolutions.

Council then adjourned sine die.

J. M. PERRYMAN, Chair.

G. W. Grayson, Sec.