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EDITORIAL ON MOTY TIGER

Okmulgee, Ok., Jan. 10.-----Moty Tiger, chief of the Creek tribe of Indians, never lifted a scalp in his life, having long been a minister of the gospel, and a straightforward, God-fearing man. But the time seems to be near at hand when Chief Tiger may lose his own scalp, unless he gives desperate battle. For the first time, he is tasting the bitter fruit of having mixed in the white man's politics, which was forced upon him by the dismemberment of his tribal government by Federal authority. Chief Moty's troubles are due to the hunger of white men for federal office in the Indian country.

Moty Tiger became chief of the Creeks upon the death of Chief Pleasant Porter, under whom Tiger long served as second chief. Tiger is a fullblood of the most conservative type. He speaks English with reasonable ease when among intimates, but in public places or in official matters he reverts to his

native tongue and refuses to converse in the language that Chaucer made sweet to the ear. He lives on a farm about seven miles south of this place.

Chief Moty's present trouble is mainly due to his support of M. L. Mott for re-appointment to the position of attorney for the Creek Nation. Mott is a Republican. His place pays about \$5,000 a year. There are about two thousand Oklahoma lawyers, and an even greater number of lawyers in other States, who would like to get the Mott job. Mott has been causing a lot of trouble to Indian land grafters. He has fought them for years, and has prosecuted them in the courts to a degree that has made him a highly undesirable citizen in many parts of old Indian Territory.

Chief Tiger likes the way his attorney has been doing things for the Creeks. Recently, Chief Tiger was indiscreet enough to make this statement: "Mr. Mott is a Republican. I am a Democrat. But I am first and last for my oppressed people. And so long as I am chief, Mr. Mott, if he so desires and I can have my way, will remain attorney for the Creek tribe."

That was where Chief Moty made a mistake, if

he wished to sleep nights and be re-appointed chief of the Creeks by the President of the United States. Attorney Mott's employment contract expires on January 15. Perhaps a majority of the Creeks are Democrats. Many of them joined the Confederacy in the Civil War. These Creek Democrats who are active in politics are unwilling that Mott should be re-appointed. Usually, the Creeks indorse the candidacy of an office-holder seeking re-appointment. This is what Mott would like to receive, and what Chief Moty would be pleased to see Mott get.

Two meetings have been held to memorialize Washington for authority to hold a special session of the Creek tribal council for the alleged purpose of equalizing the allotment of certain lands. The insurgents were numerous, and no attempt was made at these meetings to make "medicine" for Attorney Mott. Another meeting is to be held this month.

Chief Tiger's predicament recalls his witticism to Commissioner Cato Sells when the old chief was in Washington several months ago. Tribal matters had been discussed from an infinite number of standpoints, and with such intricacy that Chief Moty had grown a bit confused as to the main question. Leaning against the

wall, he said:

"Down in Oklahoma I have a dog that is useful in hunting squirrels. He is a pretty good dog, but when he puts up a squirrel where the trees grow close together and the shade is heavy, the squirrel sometimes jumps to another tree without the dog's seeing him change places. Consequently, this fool dog often stands and barks for hours and hours up the wrong tree. Mr. Commissioner, before I do much more talking, I want to find out whether I am barking up the wrong tree."