

THE OKMULGEE CHIEFTAIN

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R.H. Jenness, Editor

PROTEST AGAINST CAPTAIN A. S. MCKENNON

Muskogee,

A protest has been filed at Washington against the approval of the contract of Captain A. S. McKennon as national attorney of the Seminole Nation, and with it charges have been filed against the official conduct of the attorney's office during the past year.

The protest has been put in the hands of Inspector J. George Wright, at Muskogee. It charges that Captain McKennon has been leasing and buying land in the Seminole nation, contrary to the regulations of the interior department, which prohibits government officials from having any interest in Indian lands. The question which must be settled in connection with the charges, if they should be proven true, would be whether the Seminole attorney is a Federal officer or

merely an employe of the Indian Nation.

Captain McKennon admitted yesterday that he and his partner, Wilmott, have a lease on 300 acres of land belonging to three negro allottees, and have put improvements upon it. He states, however, that the negroes needed the money, and that the leases are the best that could be given the allottee, and were made in their best interests. All leases and deeds made in the Seminole nation must be made on blanks from the national attorneys office, and approved by the governor of the nation. Captain McKennon says that all these leases taken in the nation are good, but that before he assumed office, Moody Johnson, secretary to Chief Halputta Micco, now deceased, issued about 120 leases that are not good. Captain McKennon says that the fight on him is being made by men who object to the protection afforded the allottees through the attorney's office and want matters changed.