

HOLDENVILLE TRIBUNE

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DEATH OF HULPUTTA MICCO

With the death of Halputta Micco, of the Seminole Nation, last month, the Seminoles were left without a head or a successor of their own selection. In June, now nearly two years ago, John F. Brown, one of the ablest Indians of the territory, a man of large wealth and great influence, both at home and abroad, who had been chief of the Seminoles for sixteen successive years during whose administrations the affairs of his people were placed in a condition superior to that of any other tribe in the territory, was turned down and a fullblood, who neither spoke nor understood English, was elected to the chieftainship. The new chief was loved by his people, had good common sense and considerable genius for affairs of a primitive kind. But he was old, having passed the three score years usually allotted to man. His keen business discrimination was attested when he selected J. C. Johnson for his private secretary, one of the ablest of his race and on whom he leaned heavily for council and guidance.

But aged, feeble and in his dotage he came into power during his declining years and died before the expiration of his term. Thomas Little was elected second chief coincident with the election of Halputta. But he died last November, thus leaving the nation without a regularly elected head. At the death of the second chief Jacob Harrison was elected by the Seminole council to the vacancy and is now the acting chief.

There is a strong probability that a special election will be called soon for the election of both a chief and a second chief. The candidates prominently mentioned for the office are; Okchun Harjo and Dan Kinkehe, a shrewd Indian of considerable ability. About 11 months yet remain before the dissolution of tribal affairs, March 4, 1906. It would be a wise thing for the Seminoles to elect one of their ablest tribesmen to wind up their affairs.

In the interim, the affairs of state are being conducted by Acting Chief Harrison and the keen, able Johnson who holds matters of state with a firm grip.