

TO THE VARIOUS RELIGIOUS AND TEMPERANCE ORGANIZATIONS OF THE
UNITED STATES:

We, your memorialist, the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in regular session assembled, realizing that the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes, namely, the Choctaws, Chickasaws, Creeks, Cherokees, and Seminoles, must soon discontinue their tribal relations and assume the responsibilities of United States citizenship; and believing that the Indians would be better satisfied with their new surroundings if permitted to have a hand in shaping the policy of the government that succeeds their tribal governments; and knowing that they would have more influence in the organization of a state formed out of the Indian Territory than they would if a state were formed by the union of Indian Territory and Oklahoma, hereby adopt the recommendations of the Chief Executives of the Five Civilized Tribes issued in convention at Eufaula, Indian Territory May 21, 1903, and ask all worthy outside agencies to assist us in having the United States government give us a state independent of Oklahoma.

It is well known that the Political, civil, and religious conditions of the Territory of Oklahoma are seriously affected by the liquor traffic, which is nowhere more arrogant than in Oklahoma. The extension of the liquor business over the Indian Territory is earnestly desired by the wholesale liquor dealers of the United States. The Choctaw people are inclined to morality and religion; yet, if exposed to the whiskey influence of Oklahoma, our present high standard of morality and religion will be lowered.

The treaty of 1830 with the United States Government under the provisions of which this territory was segregated from the public domain of the United States as a continuing home for the Indians, solemnly guaranteed, "That no part of the land granted them shall ever be embraced in any Territory or State". This pledge was given to each of the other Tribes of the Indian Territory. The treaty of 1897, between the United States

es and the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, ratified by act of Congress June 30, 1898, after providing that the tribal governments, as modified by that instrument, should continue until March 4, 1906, says:

"This stipulation is made in the belief that the tribal governments so modified will prove so satisfactory that there will be no need or desire for further change until the lands now occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes shall, in the opinion of Congress, be prepared for admission as a state to the Union".

Again, the United States government has maintained the strictest law prohibiting the introduction and sale of intoxicating liquors within the Indian Territory. The treaty of 1897, and the act of Congress of 1898, above referred to, contains that law:

"The United States agrees to maintain strict laws in the territory of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Tribes against the introduction, sale, barter or giving away of liquor and intoxicants of any kind or quality".

Practically the same provision appears in the agreements with each of the Five Tribes negotiated within the last five years. The purpose of that provision was to prepare the Indians of the Five Tribes and their territory, for admission as A STATE into the American Union. This protection was claimed by the Indians when these agreements were made and was readily assented to and enacted into law by Congress. Union with Oklahoma as a state means a total disregard of these promises and that protection.

Ours is a just cause. It is for the protection of the Indian and the betterment of the whiteman of Indian Territory. May we not know that our appeal will be heard by every church, and by every temperance organization in the United States? Will you not act in the premises by organizing for our protection? We ask you to make an appeal to your Senators and Representatives in Congress, and insist upon them carrying out these pledges of the United States government.

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION, IN REGULAR SESSION ASSEMBLED.

1. That we earnestly request the various religious and temperance organizations of the United States to assist the Indians of the Five Civ-

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Civilized Tribes in their efforts to prevent the annexation of Indian Territory to Oklahoma, either in part or in whole, and to secure an independent state for Indian Territory, on March 4, 1906, under a constitution that will prohibit the sale of intoxicants within the boundaries of such state, thereby protecting the Indians from the baleful influence of intoxicating liquors.

2 BE IT RESOLVED, That the National Secretary immediately furnish a certified copy of this memorial to the Chairman of the Five Civilized Tribes Executive Committee on Independent Statehood for Indian Territory.

3. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said committee is hereby requested to give this memorial widest possible circulation.

4. BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That this resolution be in full force and effect from and after passage and approval.

Proposed by Peter Conson, Chairman
Chief's message Committee

Bill No 15

Read, interpreted, passed
the Senate, and referred
to Power House this the
22nd Day of Oct. 1903
James M. McMurtry
Pres. of Senate

Attest

John C. Connel
Recording Secy

Read Interpreted
passed the House and
referred to the Principal
Chief this October 23rd 1903.
R. J. Ward
Speaker of the House

Attest

E. B. Dyer
Rec. Secy

Approved this the
23rd day of October 1903
Green McCurtain
Principal Chief
Choctaw Nation

Memorial to ~~Indian~~
~~Original~~
the various
religious and
franchise organiz-
ations of the
United States

Recorded in the
House & sent forth this
October 28th 1903
E. B. Dyer
Rec. Secy