

COPY.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,

Land.

Office of Indian Affairs,

77,071-1903.

Washington, Dec. 3, 1903.

purpose by the Chickasaw Nation, shall be final and binding upon the Choctaw Nation.

Sec. 2. That such Commissioner shall proceed in the discharge of his duty under the direction of the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and he shall make written report to him, which The Honorable, transmitted to the General Council of the Choctaw Nation for its information and such action as it may deem proper in the premises.

The Secretary of the Interior.

Sir:

Sec. 3. That the salary of such Commissioner shall be six dollars per day, and he shall receive ten cents per mile when traveling upon his official duty, while in actual service, and There is enclosed herewith a report from Inspector Wright, dated November 23, 1903, transmitting an Act of the National council of the Choctaw Nation, approved by the Principal Chief October 28, 1903, entitled "An Act providing for the settlement of existing matters of difference between the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations."

The Inspector refers to a similar act of the National Legislature. The Act is as follows:

ture of the Chickasaw Nation concerning the same subject, which "WHEREAS, There exist matters of difference between the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations, chief among which is the claim of the Chickasaw Nation to an interest in the sum of \$68,102.00, appropriated and paid the Choctaws in pursuance of the decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the Choctaw Nation vs United States, rendered under the Act of Congress, approved March 3, 1881, entitled 'An Act for the ascertainment of the amount due the Choctaw Nation as compensation for the lands taken in fixing the boundary between the State of Arkansas and the Choctaw Nation;' and, Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and one by the Governor

WHEREAS, It is necessary and of the highest importance that this and all other matters of difference existing between the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations shall be settled in a way that shall be final and binding upon both Nations before the end of the tribal government; therefore,

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL COUNCIL OF THE CHOCTAW NATION ASSEMBLED:

Sec. 1. That the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation is hereby authorized to appoint a Commissioner on behalf of the Choctaw Nation to represent and act for said Nation in the matter of the settlement of all matters of difference existing between the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations; and such Commissioner, when so appointed, shall have full power and authority to that end; and the award and finding of such Commissioner acting jointly with any duly authorized Commissioner or authorized authority created for that Nation would appoint a representative of that nation immediately after



and expenses of the Chickasaw commissioner and one-half of the notification that the Choctaws had taken steps by legislative enactment looking to co-operation with the purpose of the Chickasaw Act, and that it appears the Act now transmitted contemplates such co-operation in order that the claim referred to may be settled. He invites attention to the fact that the Act under consideration makes no reference whatever to the member of the Commission to be appointed by the Department, and the further fact that it does not appropriate money to pay one-half of the salary and expenses of such commissioner. He does not consider, however, that the failure on the part of the Choctaw council to make an appropriation warrants the disapproval of the Act, and he suggests that the Act be approved provided one-half of the salary and expenses of the commissioner appointed by the Secretary can be paid from the Choctaw tribal fund by the Department without the consent of the Choctaw National Council. Department. The office does not believe that

The Chickasaw Act mentioned by the Inspector was transmitted to the Department with office report of February 13, 1903. The Act, except the preamble, is quoted in full in that report.

Section 2 thereof provided for the appointment of a commission to be composed of three members, as follows: "One member to be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior who shall act as Chairman, one by the Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation and one by the Governor of the Chickasaw Nation. The decision of said commission shall be final and binding upon the Chickasaws when approved by the Secretary of the Interior."

Section three of this Act appropriated money to pay the salary



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