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Dr. O. Wood, Proprietor

EDITORIAL ON SALE OF LANDS BY THOS. W. HUNTER

Ardmore,

Aug. 14.

In the opinion of Thos. W. Hunter, late candidate for governor of the Choctaw Nation and one of the most prominent Indians in that country, the interior department will never be able to sell the coal lands of the Choctaw nation with the present plan in force. The recent attempt of the department for the fourth time to dispose of the segregated lands has convinced Mr. Hunter that the attempt will be futile. Legislation is needed in the disposal of the coal area, he says.

Speaking of the failure of the department in the matter Mr. Hunter said that the main reason was due to the plan to sell the coal land in 960 acre tracts. "If the department," he said, "would undertake to sell the lands without any limitation as to the amount a person or corporation could buy I firmly believe that the area

could be disposed of in short order. Big companies show no disposition to purchase small tracts. The department has fixed a minimum price and it seems that the figures have never approached it. For this reason the department has turned down the recent bids. The only plan that I see is to sell the lands without restrictions or limitation."

Mr. Hunter states that the Choctaw legislature recently authorized Green McCurtain, the present chief of the nation, to dispose of the coal lands and Mr. McCurtain was given full authority to do as he pleased in the matter. The authority of the tribal legislature is questioned. Mr. Hunter thinks that nothing will be accomplished by McCurtain, nor does he favor the plan in the least. Should the governor sell the lands he will be paid a . . .