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EDITORIAL ON CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW INDIANS

Mr. McGuire, on January 25, 1910, introduced the following bill, which was referred to the committee on Indian affairs:

Be it enacted by the senate and house of representatives of the United States of America in congress assembled, that the secretary of the interior be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed to re-examine the records in the custody of the commission to the five civilized tribes and in his department, and to enroll on the citizenship rolls of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations all persons born prior to March fourth, nineteen hundred and six, and shown by said records to be of Choctaw or Chickasaw Indian blood, and who, on or prior to June twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-eight, resided in said nation. No additional testimony shall be taken or received in any case except where the party has been enrolled as a Choctaw or Chickasaw

freedman and the examination records are silent as to the claimant's ancestry on either the father's or mother's side. In such cases additional testimony shall be admissible to establish the Indian blood and descent of the claimant. Upon the completion of the enrollment work under this act the secretary of the interior shall certify to the secretary of the treasury a correct list of all those persons now enrolled as freedmen who are of Indian blood and descent and who may be enrolled under the provisions of this act as citizens by blood, and for whose erroneous enrollment as freedmen any sum of money has heretofore been paid or found to be due to either or both of said nations; and the secretary of the treasury shall enter a charge against the funds now on deposit with his department to the credit of either of said nations of such amount, or shall deduct the same from any award or judgment subsequently certified to his department for settlement. Any person enrolled under this act shall be entitled to equal participation in the property of the Choctaws and Chickasaws with those whose names now appear on the citizenship rolls as approved on or before March fourth, nineteen hundred and seven.

WANTS ROLLS REOPENED

Washington,

Jan. 28.

Senator Dick has introduced a bill to authorize the transfer from the freedmen roll to the roll of citizen by blood of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations of persons of Choctaw or Chickasaw blood on the side of either parent regardless of legitimacy of parentage. This is an attempt to reopen the rolls as came up in the Fleming suit and recently rejected by the supreme court.

OIL ROYALTY ORDER

Washington,

Jan. 29.

It is expected that next week the interior department will rescind its order of last spring, whereby oil operators were required to pay Indian lessors royalties on oil at a 41c a barrel basis. Since last spring the matter has been in controversy.

MAY AMEND CREAGER BILL

Washington,

Jan. 29.

Senator Gore has called a meeting of the Oklahoma congressional delegation to meet Monday to go over the Creager bill providing for winding up of the affairs of the five civilized tribes, and to agree on amendments. It is likely the bill will be so amended that the surface of the segregated coal and asphalt lands in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations will not be appraised as provided, but that the mineral will be appraised and the government given the preference right for a limited period to purchase the minerals at the appraised valuation.

The provision for a forest reserve of 1,500,000 acres in the southeastern part of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations will be greatly reduced in acreage, if not eliminated entirely.