

THE TISHOMINGO LEADER

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EDITORIAL ON CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW INDIANS

The time has come for the closing up of the affairs of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, and payment by the government of the funds belonging to them. These payments are being held back as we believe, to allow certain parties, through their attorneys, time to get upon the rolls, and absorb the cash on hand in lieu of lands already received by members of the tribes.

The Senators and Representatives in Congress from this state should join in an effort to secure this payment. It may be predicted that, any man seeking office at the hands of the people, who is in favor of opening the Indian rolls, or who does anything to prevent immediate payment of this just annuity, will not receive the support of the people in the future. The time has come for immediate action.

This is not right; the rolls have been closed and should not be opened to satisfy grafters and grafting attorneys who have contracts for 50% or the amount recovered. There are hundreds of Indians who are sorely in need of the money justly coming to them. They need the money to buy grain, seeds for planting, and other necessaries. Congress should authorize the payment of this money at once.

The press and people should unite in terms of demand for immediate payments.

If any person can give a reason for re-opening the rolls and delaying the prompt payments of these annuities to the Indians, of the moneys to which they are justly entitled, we will gladly publish same.