

Bill No. 30

A Memorial asking for the removal of Benjamin F. Hackett as United States Marshal for the Central District of the Indian Territory.

To the President of the United States:

Your memorialist The General Council of the Choctaw Nation, in regular session assembled, at Tuskahoma, the Capital of the Choctaw Nation, respectfully represents:

That it is composed of Senators and members of the House of Representatives elected by the suffrage of the Choctaw people;

That the entire Choctaw Nation, with the exception of a small area, comprises the Central Judicial District of the Indian Territory;

That Benjamin F. Hackett is the United States Marshal for the Central Judicial District of the Indian Territory;

That the conduct of United States Marshal Hackett, and certain of his subordinates throughout the Choctaw Nation, for the past several months, and upon the occasion of the recent assembling of the General Council of the Choctaw Nation was and is such as to convince the Choctaw people that he is unworthy of the high office he holds. He openly cooperated with one of the contending factions in the recent contest for Principal Chief, by permitting armed and lawless men to take and hold possession of the Capital building and exclude therefrom for an entire week, regularly elected members of Council and other officers. When appealed to, he stated openly that he would not remove such armed and lawless men from the Capital building or permit to be done; thus causing an expensive and wasteful delay in the regular business of the

Council, of an entire week, and necessitating a detail of United States troops to disperse the anarchy that prevailed. After the Capital building had been so held and controlled for many days, he approached the present Principal Chief, Hon. Gen. McCurtain, and asked him to meet the contending candidate, Thomas M. Hunter, for a conference. He came personally with Hunter to the hotel of Governor McCurtain and in his presence Hunter made a proposition that he would permit the Council to enter the Capital building and count the vote for Principal Chief, without interruption if he (McCurtain) would agree to decide the patronage incident to the office. After the rejection of the proposition by Governor McCurtain, the same armed and lawless men held control of the Capital building as theretofore, until the United States troops arrived and cleared the building and premises of all armed men. After the arrival of the troops Marshal Hackett maintained that the possession of the Capital building should not be interfered with and he and his deputies retired from the Capital grounds only after having been specifically requested so to do, by the commanding officer.

The Choctaw have ever reposed the greatest confidence in the government of the United States, and respect for its representatives, but they believe Marshal Hackett to be a bitter partisan, prejudiced and unfair, and not impelled by a desire to faithfully and impartially discharge the duties of his high office. Inasmuch as the Choctaw people are the wards of the government of the United States, and constitute a large proportion of the population and own a large proportion of the property of the Central Judicial District of the Indian Territory, with which Marshal Hackett is connected, they feel it not unreasonable to ask that the representatives of the government of the United States refrain from their exercise of their official power and influence, either for or against any of the factions of the Choctaw government. We have, therefore, the respectfully and earnestly request that Benjamin F. Hackett, be removed from the office