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INTERVIEW WITH CREEK DELEGATES

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Some of the Indians who come here on various matters connected with the welfare of their tribes are men of fair education, fluent in the use of English, and capable of strong argument in support of their peculiar views. Such a one is Mr. Cub McIntosh, a delegate here from the Creek nation. He is accompanied by Roley McIntosh, a dignified, elderly man, who is second chief of the Creeks. The two though bearing the same name, are not of blood relationship, When asked what their special mission here was the younger man said:

"We are here to try to get the act of June 7, 1897, repealed. That act transferred jurisdiction in civil and criminal cases from the courts established and conducted by Indians to the United States courts of the Indian Territory. We think our own tribunals are the best for our people.

"In the second place, we are here to bitterly fight

the proposition of allotment of our lands in severalty. We have always kept our lands as common property, and if let alone, always would. What is the need of dividing this common heritage among individuals? How has that policy worked among the white people? The white people have owned lands in severalty always, and as a result tens of thousands do not have a foot of ground to call their own. We think our plan much the best. We allow all our citizens ownership in whatever improvements they put on the land, but the title to the soil itself must never depart from the tribe. In this way every child that is born comes into the world to participate in a fair and fertile tract on equal terms with every other child, and its right to this joint ownership must ever be held sacred. If we did, as few think wise, agree to this division of the public property, it wouldn't be half a year before a few men would have title to every acre in the Creek nation, and the mass of the people would be reduced to abject poverty. Our people are unalterably opposed to this proposition. We are also against treating with the Dawes Commission.

"The time is not yet ripe for any political change among the five civilized tribes. In the Creek nation, out of a total citizenship of 14,000 at least two-thirds are fullbloods. These are not ready for a change involving a territorial or state government, for the reason that they do not speak the

English language and have not received any of the benefits of education. We have good schools, in which the rising generation is being taught and is progressing satisfactorily. In due course of time the youth of to-day will be prepared to accept new conditions, but there is no justice in forcing it on the people of this generation."

This is a fair sample of the way the Indian lobby put up the argument. As all know a smaller per cent of the people control land in the five tribes than in any other place on earth. The men who compose the lobby and put up the money, of course, do now, and have for years, controlled the lands in that country.