

MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.  
Thursday, Feb. 28, 1901  
Volume 14, No. 5, (699)  
M. R. Moore Manager

EXECUTIVE ORDER OF LAH-TAH-MEKKO

A greater portion of the week the counsel for the defendants, Messrs. Fears & Crump, and Chief Porter, Marshal Bennett, District Attorney Soper and Judge Thomas have been considering the Creek uprising matter and on Tuesday last the same was brought up before Commissioner Sanson and disposed of by the Harjo band signing the following agreement:

"We, the undersigned, after being duly cautioned and warned that anything we may say may be used in evidence against us, do of our own free will and accord make this voluntary statement, and do hereby waive examination before Thos. A. Sanson, Jr., United States Commissioner, and agree to plead guilty to the following statement of facts before any grand jury duly impanelled and sworn within the Northern District of the Indian Territory, and we will also plead guilty to any indictments found against us by any grand jury in the Northern

District of the Indian Territory, and we will also plead guilty to any indictments found against us by any grand jury in the Northern District of the Indian Territory founded upon the following statements of facts:

We state that as citizens of the Creek Nation we have been opposed to the abolition of our courts by any act of congress and to any change in our tribal form of government, and that in October 1900 we met together and agreed to form a government of our own with a full complement of officers, including a judicial system, with a principal chief and a second chief and a cabinet composed of twelve members.

That in the furtherance of said agreement and understanding a government was formed of which Lah-tah Mekko was principal chief and Jim Deer second chief, with an advisory council or cabinet composed of twelve members, with a House of Kings and a House of Warriors, and lawyers who constituted the judicial branch of our government.

That it was our intention and purpose to pass laws and to execute the same upon all citizens of the Creek Nation without regard to any act of congress in force in the Creek Nation.

That the said government was formed for the purpose of causing the arrest, imprisonments and punishment of all persons, citizens of the Creek Nation, who should take any allotment of lands or rent any lands to non-citizens of the Creek Nation, or employ any white non-citizens in any capacity whatsoever.

That we established a body of light horse who were to arrest all persons committing any act in violation of any act of our said council and who were doing any of the things herein before enumerated, and it was our intention that all persons who attempted to take any allotment under the act of Congress intituled "An act for the protection of the people of the Indian Territory and for other purposes," approved June 28, 1898, and commonly known as the Curtis Bill, should be taken from their homes and placed upon a strip of land fifteen miles square and there kept, and that the remainder of the property of the said Creek Nation should only belong to the members of our organization and be held in-common under the old laws and customs of the Creek Nation.

That in the carrying out of said agreement, notices were posted by members of our lighthorse in various portions of the Creek Nation, a copy of which is hereto attached, marked Exhibit "A" and made a part

hereof.

That it was our intention to cause offenders against our laws to be summarily dealt with by being whipped and fined, and that we caused to be arrested and whipped a citizen of the Seminole Nation, named Little Jim, who had a Creek wife, the said Little Jim, being charged with the crime of larceny, and we inflicted upon him as penalty therefor twenty-five lashes; and we also caused one Jim Prister, or Red Breast, to be arrested for resisting our lighthouse, and he was given twenty-five lashes upon the bare back.

We further denied any person the right of trial by jury, and any party who was arrested was to be tried before the lawyers, who were to impose a penalty if they found him guilty.

That our capital was at Hickory Ground in the Creek Nation, and we had a seal made intended to be in the similitude of the seal of the Muskogee Nation, and issued commissions to our light horse, a copy of a commission to a light horse being hereto attached, marked "Exhibit B," and made a part thereof.

We further state that our council had a session at the capital ground at Hickory Ground during the months of October and November, 1900, and that during

said session we were notified by the United States Indian Agent, J. Blair Shoenfelt, and by the United States Marshal, Leo E. Bennett, that the said government was unlawful and without authority of law and we were directed to disband and return to our homes; and that notwithstanding these notices from the aforesaid officers, we proceeded to reconvene our council in the month of January, 1901, and said notices, a copy of which is marked "Exhibit A" and hereto attached, were thereafter posted by members of our light horse under the direction of our council and principal chief, and that we intended, notwithstanding said notices from said United States officers, to enforce said provisions and to carry out the orders set forth in said Exhibit A, and to arrest, punish and imprison citizens of the Creek Nation who should violate the same. Our light horse were armed with pistols and Winchester for the purpose of carrying into effect said order or any other orders that might be given to them by Lah-tah Mekko, our principal chief, or our council.

FEARS & CRUMP,

Attorneys for Said Defendants.

"EXHIBIT A."

Hickory town,

Oct. 11, 1900

From this on the citizens or creek citizens in the Creek Nation as far as the creek line extend, and also there shall be no labores Employed. This law created according to treaty any person Violating this law shall be fine the sum of One-hundred Dollars \$100.00 and shall be payed to the Nation. Also shall received fifty lashes on his bare back. Any person that was employed shall be removed by the Principal Chief or he shall appoint any person that he see fit to do so or through the Indian agent.

The law which created was from the treaty.

Any farm or improvement near any premises or person, house or place shall be his.

Any improvement thats away from any person shall not be his, it shall be the property of the nation, house, well, barn, fence. It shall be a public domain of the Muskogee Nation or citizen. Any person shall have the right to occupy them. That is to the Creek citizens of the Muskogee Nation.

Also any person or persons should interfere  
such Notice shall be fine the sume of \$50.00 fifty  
Dollars.

LAH-TAH MEKKO,  
Principal Chief of M. N.

"EXHIBIT B."

Hickory Ground  
Muskogee Nation I. T.  
Oct. 24th 1900

Know ye that I

Lah tah Mekko Principal Chief of the Maskogee  
nation by virtue of the authority vested in me by law  
do hereby Commission George Smith as a Light horse  
Captain and he is empoweren by these presents to per  
form the duties of the Same in accordance with law.  
Given under my hand and the Seal of the Maskogee nation  
the day and Year above Written.

LAH-TAH- MEKKO  
Principal Chief Maskogee  
Nation  
(Seal)

Those who have signed the statement are:

Harjo Chitto	Kelly, John
Bearfoot	Keppa
Beaver Sam	Lucas, Frank
Bruner, Robertson	McIntosh, Abram
Bruner, Robert	Marshall, Sam
Bruner, Sam	Mitchell, Louis
Bear, Joe	Mozer, Thomas
Choella	McNac, Aaron
Coker, Charles	McNac, Alec
Creek, (Bear) John	Marshall, Barney
Deer, Ban	Pigeon, Jonas
Deer, Noah	Panoskey, William
Deer, Edmond	Pollogee, George
Deer James	Perryman, Pompey
Emarthla, Sam	Phillips, Pompey
Emarthla, Yaha	Richards, Eastman
Frank, John	Riley, Louis
Fish, Robert	Scott, Turner
Factor, Chete	Scott, Nobler
Fish, Chilly	Starfey, Joe
Fish, William	Smith, George
Fixico, Yahola	Starr, James
Fixico, Hulputta	Simmons, George



Gray, Willie	Squirrel
Grayson, Joe	Sewell, Barney
Gooden, Edward	Tiger, Tom
Harper, Shawnee	Tiger, Jackson
Harjochee, Hulputta	Tiger, Little
Harjo, Oches	Timothy, John
Harjochee, Tulwa	Timothy, Noah
Henney, Court	Tomsochee
Hicks, George	Taylor, Rolly
James, Chotka	Talmarsee
Jack, Phillip	Tiger, John
Johnson, Gilbert	Yardeka, Louis
Jefferson, Silas	Yahola, Nokus
Killo, Sammie	Yahola, Sampson

The names of all Creeks arrested, except four, will be found in the above list. Rev. Jim Smith and Barney Deer and two others who are now sick and who could not come to the court house to sign their names are the exceptions.

A special grand jury was impanelled today, and tomorrow will find true bills against each of the seventy-four men mentioned above.