

THE PURCELL REGISTER

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W. H. Walker, Editor

EDITORIAL ON INDIAN WAR

Many rumors are afloat as to the uprising among the dissatisfied Indians. As is usually the case, in matters pertaining to this territory, it is hard to determine how much of what is said is truth and how much is "hot air," arising from the lurid imagination of a sensational newspaper reporter. Most of the following report is taken from the Muskogee Phoenix, published near the scene of action and therefore reliable. The Times says:

Three hundred Creek Indians armed with Winchesters and pistols, all well mounted, and determined to fight to the bitter end.

That is the condition of affairs in all the section of country having Wetumka as its southwestern point and embracing all of the country around about Fentress, Furrs, Senora, Watsonville, Proctor, Burney, Ball Mountains, Bad Creek, and along the Deep Fork of the Canadian. Altogether embracing an area of twenty-

five miles square, beginning eight miles west of Eufaula and ten to twelve miles southwest of Checotah.

There are four distinct bands of these disaffected fullbloods who are armed to the teeth.

They claim that the membership of their towns, taking men, women and children, will number 5,000.

The four bands are going about the country and enforcing the old Creek laws. The following is a copy of the notice posted on the front door of C. H. Tully's store at Eufaula yesterday by a fullblood who came to town heavily armed, and who would reply to no questions asked him:

HICKORY TOWN

From this on the citizens or Creek citizen in the Creek Nation as far as the Creek lines extend and also therein there shall be no white labor employed. This law according to the treaty and everybody violating it shall be fined \$1.00 and the same shall be paid to the Nation. Also shall receive fifty lashes on the bare back. Any improvement made by white labor shall be confiscated as the property of the Nation.

Already these bands have taken summary vengeance on one of the tribe who disregarded their warning, and he was killed near Wetumka. There have been numerous whippings and the bands have succeeded in overawing all of the whites and halfbreeds, as well as a number of fullbloods who live in that district.

FEARS SEMINOLE UPRISING

Gov. John Brown was here several days last week. He stated that there were evidences that the Creek bands had been trying to get a few disaffected Seminoles to join their ranks. He stated that several emissaries had been sent to his nation by Crazy Snake, and there were indications that some of the people were uneasy and that they might, under the misrepresentations of Crazy Snake, be led into the uprising.

The presence here of U. S. Commissioner Marshall, of Eufaula, was due to the action of these bands who were patrolling in the vicinity of Eufaula and attempting to coerce a number of fullbloods into joining their bands. What was agreed upon between Marshall Bennett and the commissioner cannot at this time be divulged.

EUFAULA PEOPLE ARE ALARMED

People at Eufaula, it is stated, are alarmed over the situation. They fear that an attempt will be made to burn the town should matters grow worse, and they have represented that the actions of the Indians and their reported cruelties have aroused the people to a high pitch of excitement.

TROOPS WILL BE ORDERED

Marshall Bennett has wired the situation to the secretary of war. Last fall he detailed the circumstances to the secretary of the interior and secretary of war and they have full knowledge of the conditions which are now affecting the nation. Marshall Bennett states that it will be impossible for him to take charge of the suppression of these bands, and that he has asked that a troop of cavalry be detailed at once to the scene of the uprising.

The troops will come from El Reno on the Choctaw route and at Holdenville will change to the Frisco and disembark at Wetumka. From there they will in all probability go to Hickory grounds, which is in a northern direction and is situated on the banks of the Deep Fork.

The action of the cavalry will be decided by the conduct of the Indians, but it is feared that the fullbloods will attack the troop, and unless there are a sufficient number of the blue coats there will be a massacre.

TROOPS MAY BE AMBUSHED

Every foot of the country is well known to every fullblood and there are many places where 300 determined Creeks could ambush and destroy a troop of cavalry.

This is one of the most serious affairs that has occurred in the Creek country in many years and the people of Eufaula and Checotah are alarmed.

White men, women and children are reported as fleeing from the towns located in this district, The fullbloods are allowing them to depart in peace. Stores are locked up and barricaded in all of the towns above named and a reign of terror is sweeping over the valleys and prairies of that fertile country. Indians are confiscating best horses; they are riding all over the country in menacing bands and ordering people to do as they want them to or to take the consequence.

Families huddle together in darkened rooms after night, expecting to hear the war whoop and the crack of the Winchester. Men ask of one another how long they will be terrorized -- how long they will be allowed to live? And women crowd into wagons and start for the larger towns never expecting to see their friends and relatives again.

These are some of the reports that have reached Muskogee today. Every hour only sees the alarming conditions become more alarming and the officers of the law, under the recent rulings of the department are unable to do anything.

DEPUTY MARSHAL OVERPOWERED

Grant Johnson, the deputy United States Marshal at Eufaula, signified to Marshall Bennett that he would try to serve all process sent him; but, said he, "it is one man against 300, and those 300 are armed to the teeth."

Marshal Bennett is anxiously awaiting news from the secretary of war. He would not be surprised to hear that a troop of cavalry has been ordered to the Creek nation. In fact he rather expects it.

BAND ORGANIZED FOR PROTECTION

Roley McIntosh has organized a band of fifty warriors, including whites, for mutual protection. Each man is thoroughly equipped with Winchester and revolver. They are all splendidly mounted. They have established pickets throughout that section and have agreed upon a code of signals in the event the fullbloods under Crazy Snake make an attempt to carry out their threats. McIntosh's men are determined to sell their lives dearly, and should the combined bands attack them there will be a fierce and bloody encounter. Every man belonging to these bands is a dead shot with a Winchester and the havoc will be terrific.

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EDITORIAL ON CREEK ROLLS

Muskogee.

September 1st the Creek division of the Dawes commission closed its books, and the last opportunity any Indian of the five civilized tribes will ever have for making application to get on the rolls and take an allotment passed.

The Creek land office was the first to take applications for enrollment and the last to close its books. The commission has long been trying to get them closed, but the interior department, on one pretext or another, kept them open. The enrollment divisions of all the other tribes have closed applications long ago. On the 25th day of last June an order was issued that on the first day of September there would be no more applications received at the Creek land office. On July 28 a list of more than 4,000 names was published by the commission representing the number of Creeks whose names appeared on old rolls, but could not be accounted for. Since that time there

have been nearly 1,000 applications. Of these there will not be ten per cent who will ever be enrolled for allotment. There are in the Creek nation all together 3,779,094 acres. This was appraised by the Dawes commission at \$12,717,141.50, or more than an average of \$4.17 per acre. The appraised value represents about one-half the actual value of the land.

There are now on the rolls of the Creek nation 2,905 citizens by blood and 5,473 freedmen. In addition to these there are about 2,000 applications in that number which have not been passed upon. Not more than 200 of these, it is thought, will be able to get on the rolls.

The closing of the applications marks the beginning of the end of the work of the Dawes commission. All the Indians to whom land will be allotted are now either on the rolls or their applications are in and are being considered by the commission. All that is now left to be done is to allot these Indians their land and then dispose of the surplus acreage in the manner prescribed in the treaties for each nation. This work is now far under way. In the enrolling division there has been a mountain of work. Thousands upon thousands of applications have been made and rejected.

People have come from every state in the union to make an effort to get on the rolls. Every applicant was given a hearing, his testimony taken, transcribed, corrected and passed upon. Many of them had no legitimate claim to land, but under the law they were entitled to a hearing.