

THE MADILL NEWS

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EDITORIAL ON LAST CREEK COUNCIL

Muskogee.

The last annual session of the Creek Indian nation opened at Okmulgee last Thursday. Most of the time was taken up with the reading of the message of General Pleasant Porter, principal chief of the nation, in which the veteran leader outlined the measures that, in his opinion, should be passed by the council before the end of the session of thirty days hence.

Referring to the Indian appropriation bill providing for the removal of restrictions upon the alienation of the allotments of freedmen, or citizens not of Indian blood. Chief Porter declared the law has had a bad effect on the non-English speaking people of the nation in that it has created the impression among them that they must sell their lands.

Chief Porter disapproves of the construction of the agreement as interpreted by Judge Raymond in the Noah Foster case, which

compels parents to give bonds for the legal management of the allotments of the minor children. Many of the people, he says, are unable to make report as required, of the manner in which they have handled the allotments of their minor children, and will have to secure the services of an attorney to do this for them. This will put them to much expense. The allotments of orphans and incompetents, he declares are in much more deplorable condition, as no person except a citizen can be made their guardian. Consequently a large per cent of them are receiving no benefit whatever from their allotments.

The message declares against the promiscuous leasing of Indian lands, and especially homesteads. "I believe it would be better," it says "to secure the passage of a law by congress prohibiting the leasing of the homesteads for the same period of time that sale is prohibited. Then all citizens will have at least a home for that length of time, and by that time sufficient progress will have been made by them to understand its value and through its proper use obtain a livelihood."

In pursuance of a previous announcement Chief Porter expresses his opposition in his message to the sale of the residue lands, declaring that such action will be a direct violation of the agreement.

He believes that each allottee should be given enough of the residue lands to equalize his allotments to the value of \$10,040.

Only brief mention is made in the message of annulling the contract with the Creek national attorney, A. P. Murphy, which resulted

in an investigation and the filing of two damage suits.

Several minor recommendations are made in the message. One is the re-accounting of the expenditure of the Creek monies by the department for purposes unauthorized by law will be made with the department so as to secure an appropriation by congress to cover it. It is also recommended that an appropriation of \$75,000 be made by the council to pay the outstanding indebtedness of the nation.