

THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL
South McAlester, I. T.
Thursday, Oct. 20, 1904
Vol. 11, No. 47
U. S. Russell, Editor

EDITORIAL ON BILL PASSED BY CREEKS

Today a bill passed the House of Kings in the Creek council demanding that the secretary of the interior appoint an investigation committee to be composed of men outside the federal service in Indian Territory and not members of the Creek Nation, to probe to the bottom alleged frauds in the schedule, appraisement and sale of town lots in the twenty-five government townsites in the Creek Nation. The same time a bill passed house of warriors, the lower house demanding an investigation and statement of all moneys which had been disbursed through federal officers here and which had belonged to the nation.

These are matters that are liable to turn up all sorts of things in Indian Territory. There is not a man living in Indian Territory who was here when the townsite work commenced and seen it through who will deny that there has been crooked work in many ways. The old towns in the Creek Nation were made in

what is termed government townsites. That is they were taken in charge by the government, surveyed, platted and the lots on which there improvements were scheduled to the persons who owned the improvements. These parties paid the appraised value of the lots in payments covering three years. These lots are now being paid out in some of the towns. The lots which were unimproved were sold at auction to the highest bidder, the government being the auctioneer. It will be seen at once the power of a townsite commission. They were absolute authority as to where streets should run, how much land would be included, whose improvements were on the lots, what it took to hold a lot and the appraised value. It was a subject of a great deal of protest, the manner in which some towns were cut up by streets and how some parties held so much property. But the matter was never investigated, though H. H. Hinckley who was in charge of such work was summarily dismissed. It was talk of the territory at the time if Bonaparte would take up the townsite business when he made his investigation there would be some rottenness unearthed, but he did not take it up.

The money received for all lots sold in a government townsite goes to the nation. The Creeks have never had a townsite money payment and they are not only getting

anxious about it but they want to know why there
were some men in each town who were apparently more
favored than any others.