

THE INDIAN JOURNAL

Muskogee, Creek Nation, I. T.  
Thursday, Dec. 7, 1876  
Vol. 1 No. 29  
W. P. Ross, Editor

MEETING OF THE SIOUX AND MUSKOGEE

Okmulgee, I. T.

Nov. 28, 1876

The Sioux visitors to the Indian Territory arrived at this place on Tuesday at noon, and filed through the town a cavalcade of twenty wagons containing ninety-six representatives of the northern tribes. Three Arrapaho men and one women; two Cheyenne and ninety Sioux, which number includes, perhaps, a half-dozen women. It being to difficult to hazard an opinion as to sex, from the dress.

They are now encamped on the banks of the Okmulgee, a beautiful stream that circles around on the north and east of the town.

The party are in charge of Col. A. G. Boone, of Colorado; Dr. J. W. Daniels, of Minnesota and E. A. Howard, of Michigan, who is also the financial agent

and paymaster, There are three interpreters in the party.

At the invitation of Locher Harjo, principal chief of the Creeks, the party came up from camp to the National Council House, and after a general handshake and "How," and looking about the place marched into the House of Kings, where they were addressed in Creek by the chief, Locher Harjo, as follows, and interpreted in English by Legus Perryman and then into Sioux:

To the Sioux, my brethern:

"I am well pleased to see you here in the Mukoke Nation, brethern of the same race as ourselves. I was told a long time ago of my red brethern, the Sioux, that were living in the far northwest. I had heard of the name of your tribe and of many of your leading chiefs. I have heard of your great in war and great in Council. I have heard of your trouble on account of the intrusion of white men on your reservation in search of gold. I have heard that the United States government had determined to remove you from your own home and, perhaps it might be to this Indian territory to the west of us. When I heard that you might possibly come to this Territory, which has been

"set apart for the home of the Indians forever" I was glad. I would like to have all our red brethern settled in this Territory as we have provided in our treaty. We, the Creeks and Cherokees, have the same kind of title and patent for our lands from the United States, which guarantees this Territory to us for a home, under our own form of government, by people of our own race as long as "grass grows and water runs." And I think, therefore, we shall live forever on our lands. I should like, and I express the wish of our people, that every Indian tribe should come here and settle on these lands. That this Territory may become filled up with Indians to the exclusion of others who may be inimical to our race and interests. We believe our right to our soil and our government, which is best suited to our peculiar necessities, would be safer if all our race were united together here. That is my earnest wish. Then I think the rising generation could be educated and civilized, and what is still better christianized, which I believe would be the greatest benefit of all. This would be to our mutual benefit and good. I know I express the minds of our people when I give you this welcome to our life of a higher civilization, which is better than the old life so long

led by our race in the past."

At the close of his remarks Spotted Tail the leading Sioux chief spoke as followd, which was interpreted into English and then into Creek by Mr. Perryman:

#### SPEECH OF SPOTTED TAIL

"My red brethern, we are glad to meet you and listen to your talk. We have come in peace to your country to see it for ourselves as our Great Father has wished. White men gather all things together for themselves. When he gathers he don't want anyone to take it away. My country is covered with gold. I have made a bargain with our great father to sell it, because the white men came to take it ... try. We saw no good houses, all shanties, nothing but poor little ones. All the people are poor. My land is covered with gold and I must have pay for it. I am looking at the country, when I get through I want to see my great father and talk with him and then I can tell more about it."

At the close of all the sentences his companions would give a general expression of satisfaction. They are splendid specimens of mankind, physically speaking -- large, well formed, walking erect with an air of importance that would have been ludicrous but for the

painful thought that they were ignorant captives and but as sheep led to the slaughter -- destroyed for a lack of knowledge. Of all the treaties yet made with our race this is the most uncertain to the Sioux for a reservation from which millions of gold has been and may yet be taken, the consideration is -- well a promise to feed and clothe till they can take care of themselves, but another promise added to the long list that never has been kept. The next congress, or the next in a fit of economy or fictitious show of retrenchment, may neglect to make the appropriation as in the case of the Osages this year.

From this point they go to Muskogee, thence by rail to their homes in charge of E. A. Howard, while Mr. Daniels and Col. Boone go to Washington to report. They do not see the best cultivated part of the Creek Nation, none of the Seminole, Chickasaw, Choctaw, or Cherokee, as they should do for the good influence it might have upon them to see what Indians have done and what they too might do if they could be induced to try. It is evident that they come here to view the country because it is the expressed wish of the great father that they should. But the simple fact is that they have been carted in wagons at great inconvenience and expense from Wichita to Arkansas City, thence by the

old trail west of the Pawnees, down Chakamoska, Red Rock,  
Turkey Creek to the Cimaron, by Cheyenne agency, Shawnee  
town, Sac and Fox agency, Okmulke and Muskogee nearly  
all the way through a wilderness and thus ends the  
great farce of the Centennial year.           VIDETTE