

their institutions, they realized that they had little with which to fight, and consequently, they swallowed their pride and by 1900 all had signed agreements with the Federal Court. In the meantime, the Government took definite steps toward limiting tribal authority, the passage of the Curtis Act in 1898. Among other things, this legislation gave the Federal Government power to move in and to occupy the field occupations, and education. Consequently, John D. Benedict of Illinois was appointed as Federal Superintendent of the schools with the territory along with the supervisor for each of the four Nations. So Benedict was sent from Washington, a White man to take over our educational system and all of what is now the State of Oklahoma with one man under him serving each of the tribes. One of the first obstacles the Federal Supervisors encountered was the fierce pride of the tribes who had their schools, especially it was true among the Cherokees who boasted that their schools were the finest in the Indian Territory whether this was true or not is probably a matter of conjecture. However, there can be little doubt that their schools represented their best efforts with, even if it was only their cherished efforts of their institutions. After the Cherokee Constitution was ended in 1866, Bible Schools were administered by National Superintendent and the Board of Education. Three local directors of each schools of the Nation were appointed by the National Superintendent subject to the approval of the Council. It was the duty of the directors to supervise the schools in their area to see the proper reports were filled out with the National Boards, examine all teaching applicants. First, second and third grade class certificates were issued, no first, second and third class certificates, not grades. First, second, and third class certificates were