

thousand and six hundred and twenty-seven and were being maintained across roughly seventy-nine to eighty thousand dollars a year.

#### INTERFERENCE OF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT ON INDIAN EDUCATION

In a letter, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, Benedict said, and he's the Federal Superintendent, remember. He wrote back to Washington. He said, "The Cherokees have the finest schools in the Territory. The Board examines and appoints all teachers, fixes their salaries, and has generally and has been generally supervising over all the schools. They have abolished all winter vacations and making more progress than that is, than is being done in any of the other Nations." And this was Benedict's report to Washington. He goes on to state that the Board appointed three directors for each of the neighborhood schools, and he gave their duties. He said, "Each member of the National Board was elected for three years on staggered basis. One member being chosen each year. There were regular salary officials, school system required post bond, guaranteeing satisfactory performance of duty." For instance, in 1904, Samuel Park who just been elected to the Board for three year term made bond in the amount of two thousand dollars with E.D. Washburn and E.L. Cookson signing over property and houses and cattle in that amount, so that he might serve on this National Board. The Cherokee Nation was divided into three geographical districts for educational purposes at least. With one member of the Board being immediately in charge of each of the districts. According to the Indian Inspector, they were first of all determined about the qualification of the teachers, make and revoke appointments, establish and discontinue schools, appoint local directors, receive sworn statements, teacher reports, issue requisitions for warrant and organize and supervise the high schools.