

BACKGROUND OF ALLOTMENT, ETC.

(I was wondering, could you tell me how they came to divide the reservation up and make the allotments?)

You mean after it became law, that they would accept allotment?

(Well, how did it happen that it became law in the first place. I mean when the Cheyennes were first moved down here they had this big reservation and then later they divided it up.)

Well, there was this Indian Society that had an organization and they usually met every year at the Mohawk Lakes in New York. To discuss the advancement of the American Indian by dissolving his interest to collective livin', like community, like livin' in common. Settle down to what they call allotment of their lands - Severalty of land, they call it. To tracts of land see, whatever amount required for their proper livelihood. Well this Mohawk - I happen to know that the Indian Rights Association had some connections to it. They had some officials up there at that organization - That's the oldest Indian organization, I mean, oldest benevolent organization known now. The Indian Rights Association. I'm a member that. And they had some of their officials participate in those Mohawk conferences and a woman by the name of Mrs. Fletcher was very instrumental. Well, they talked on and they talked on. Conferences. Finally in 1887, February the 8th, Congress passed that law for the severalty of land to Indians by allotments. We used to call that the "Indian's Day."

(The what?)

The Indian Day

STORY OF HOW DULL KNIFE'S BAND, ETC.

We didn't call it that ourselves, the Indians didn't call it themselves, but that's what that Organization thought it ought to be named. Indian's Day, February