

THE CHEROKEES DO NOT WANT SOMETHING FOR NOTHING

He knows. The Cherokee, and this is for you youngsters, the old time Cherokee and there's many of them here in this audience now, well know that their fathers and their mothers told them the truth when they were informed that the land on which we stand, and there was 13 million acres of it, all of it belonged to our people and the government didn't give it to us. Our forefathers fought and paid for this property, the United States themselves having bought it from France in 1803. Our people originated in Georgia and Tennessee as we all know. And some of those anxious people, greedy for our property back there, thought it would be better if the government would ask us to come out here. Well, after considerable trouble and travail and heartsick and tragedy, our people were removed out here. But before they came, we had them to sit down there at the table and we took a deed to this property. Just like the warranty deed to your farm. It belonged to the Cherokee people. We owned it, we operated it, our people were happy, our children, our mothers our fathers looked up on it not free because it was ours.

UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT DIVIDES THE CHEROKEE NATION 1901

Then in 1901 or '02 it was decided that this would all be destroyed and we would divide it up and divide it up and divide it up and destroy the splendid Cherokee Nation. A government of our own with our own selected leaders. Honorable men, able men, fine women, tortured people, that had brought to this country the first free public schools in the history of the world. The Cherokee public school system was free to our children, and it was supported by the Cherokees and maintained by them and didn't cost the government of the United States a single dime. It would not be fair to these children, if I did not say to you that in my humble opinion, your future--your future, is much brighter than ours was. I think the time has come when the American people from one end