

THE INDIAN CITIZEN.

Atoka, Indian Territory
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S. S. Smiser,
Noriaa E. Smiser, Editors and Props.

HON. GREEN ~~McCURTAIN'S~~ SPEECH
ALLOTMENT CONVENTION.

We have met here to-day for the purpose of discussing a question which I look upon as a very serious one, yet some of the leading men are trying to make it appear that we are in no danger, and are endeavoring to make a political issue of this question merely for the purpose of making themselves popular among the ignorant class of voters. We know that advocating a change in the tenure of our lands is unpopular among that class of voters, yet any man that would take advantage of the ignorant class of voters, and use his knowledge and influence in misrepresenting the true condition of affairs concerning our future existence as a Nation, should not be trusted with the reins of this dying government for one single moment. For no intelligent man can look

upon the existing state of affairs here and say that he is opposed to a change of any kind. If he does make such an assertion you may depend upon it that **he** has some object in view, by which he can make more money by **having** the United States Congress to force a change upon us.

I claim that the opposition of **some** to treat with the Dawes Commission is merely a design of theirs to prejudice the uneducated full-blood against the Commission, and make themselves popular, that they may secure their votes **in** electing them to any office that they may aspire to; while others oppose the change for lack of sense. I defy you to "jump up" any of these persons who are so bitterly opposed to a change, and get a single one of them to show by what means there can be secured to us the unrestricted right of self-government and full jurisdiction over person and property within their respective limits, as guaranteed to us by the **U.** S. Government in the Treaty of 1855, Art. VII. I challenge them to show us **where** this faith has been carried out And if not, can they suggest a remedy? I say no And if they can conceive of any remedy, the time is ripe for them to suggest it.

It would be very easy for me to **admit** that I am opposed to a change if I could see any possible means of avoiding it; but I am powerless and I find my government in a helpless condition. What then is to be done? I say let us treat with the Commission and secure the best terms we can. In this respect I am like the conquered General in time of war "who is anxious to surrender if he can be given reasonable terms through through which his people **can** live in peace and be saved from slaughter."

Now if any person can show **me** a way, or suggest a plan to remedy the evils now in our midst; if such plan can be carried out, then I am with you, and not till then. While you are opposed to a change, I am here to tell you a change is going on every day. You may argue that there is no change; but I know better. Stop for a moment and compare the condition of affairs to-day with that of 20 years ago, and then say if you can that there is not a continual change going on. At that time every Indian that had a little home, lived in comfort surrounded by ponies, cattle and hogs. He had a little patch of corn **sufficient** for his wants during the year. But now what is his condition to-day? **Can't** you see the difference?

You can scarcely find an Indian with any kind of stock. It is true you can see large farms which the Indian calls his: but the farms will be in charge of **some** white man, who has **large**, fine mules plowing **in** the field, and who rides **around** in his buggy, and when you go to the home of the Indian who claims this fine farm you will find him crouched upon his stool by the side of his door with nothing to eat; and having no horse feed, his pessel-tail sore-back pony will be seen feeding on the hillside, hobbled, for fear it will get out of his reach.

You show me where one well to do Indian lives and I will show you twenty who live in poverty and starvation. And when anyone tells you that he is afraid the full-blood will not be protected in his property, I will tell you he has no property, except his land, which is now held in common by the Choctaws, and if the present state of affairs continues two years longer he **won't** even have that to bother you for protection. And that is why I say let us divide our lands equally among ourselves according to its **valuation**. It is **all "bosh"** that a change will be injurious to the full-bloods. Their condition cannot be made any worse than it now is. I know whereof I am talking.

I have been among them and studied their **conditions**, and I know the change we speak of will not make their condition worse.

We are powerless to check the change that is continually going on. Show me the condition of affairs ten years, or five or even two years ago, and then tell **me** there is no change. I will show you 35 white men **to-day** to one white man 15 years ago. **And** these changes are continually going on **from** day to day, and they are more radical and far-reaching. **Can** you show any way of stopping this tide of emigration? If so you had better be putting your remedy into force.

There is a certain class of politicians (bug-a-boo-fellows) who are going around among our people, telling what they would do if they were chief. Such fellows remind me of a quack doctor, who finding some one afflicted with a serious chronic disease, without waiting to be called in to prescribe, volunteers his service and says to the sick person, "**I** am the doctor for your case, and if you will let me treat you **I** will cure you of your disease, and save your life." And having the patient's consent he commences to dish out his medicine by the pint and pound, always in large quantities and sweetened with sugar, which,

while it is pleasant to the taste, yet it has no healing qualities; and although he takes it for several months the disease does **not** abate but grows worse and worse **while** his strength fails daily.

Would the sick man continue to take the quack's medicine after discovering it is worthless? **No**, his good judgment would cause him to get a good doctor, who would first examine the patient before prescribing and although his medicine be bitter yet the patient knows his disease is in its last stage and it is necessary to swallow **it** even though **it** be bitter. And **if** the physician locates the disease in the head and finds it necessary to remove his eyes the patient will submit to the operation to save his life; or he would rather have his arm taken off rather than lose his life. So we should deal with the question **in** issue on the same principle. While you have had men to tell you what would be best for you and your people, and although you follow their advice yet you find the country growing worse and worse. And the power and strength of the government growing weaker and weaker each day.

There are men standing right on the brink of eternity telling you that your country is **in** no danger,

and yet tell you all to stand together solid against a change. **If** there is no danger why do they advise you to stand solid together? We have men among us today who would stand unmoved, while you were on hopeless ground that is sinking from beneath your feet gradually but surely and which would eventually land you into eternity, provided they could get to hold some little office during that short space of **time**. Our Choctaw friends are a peculiar kind of people.

Some of them will tell you to fight to the bitter end, and sacrifice all that you have, or he has too; just for the sake of being elected to the Ranger's office, to post strays at a salary of \$50 a year or to the office of District Chief as a general **Instructor** at the same munificent salary. **I** assure you we have men among us who are so anxious to have **'Hon'** prefixed to their name, that they are getting as dangerous as the **Quack** Doctor who would sacrifice your body for the sake of the little money that there is in it. While their advice might sound well and pleasant to the ear, it is not healing to the body. The disease affecting our country is getting chronic, causing it to perish away. Hence I

say let us stop listening to this foolish advice, and depend altogether upon our own good judgment.

It was within my power to put more spirit in what I have said. But my aim has been to keep within the promise I made to myself, to extenuate nothing, "nor to set down aught in malice. I have endeavored to retain **from** mentioning names of any **persons** as much as possible. But where I have found myself compelled to do so, I trust such reference will raise no unkindly feelings. If I am compelled to mention any name it will be because of an expression by **some** individual on this question, that gave me some **new idea**. And it is only in such connection that I will use names, if I use any at **all**. **There are many** foolish expressions **made about** this question that I would not go ten steps to hear, and such **expressions** we will pass unnoticed now.

What I have told you **is** an everyday occurrence, and you have even seen it to-day and you can not tell me **I** have said anything that is not true.

My friends I advise you to keep this question out of politics for it concerns the Nationals and progressives alike. We should make this a kind and friendly discussion and agree upon some plan of action.

While we can take no official action in this **matter**, yet we have the right and privilege as citizens of the Choctaw **Nation** to assemble peaceably **in** convention and pass resolutions requesting the **General** Council to take such action upon this question as we can agree on.

my reason for keeping this question out of politics **is** that we have some men mean enough to charge some Indian like himself wanting and asking for this **change**, and would use **it** as an election scheme. Every Indian should be made to understand that this question was not brought upon us by the request of any of the five civilized tribes. An act was passed by Congress March 3rd 1893 creating this Commission to come out here and see **if** they could treat with us, and persuade us to abolish our Tribal Government and change the tenure of our lands. And the last Congress added on two more commissioners, and they are now here ready to treat with us. By this we see there is no Indian to blame, And now this commission tells us the United States will not put out the **intruders**. Then why should we depend on the treaty, when it is nothing more than a dead letter. While we have some voice in saying what disposition shall be made of our land, I

say let us divide it up equally among ourselves.
if we let this opportunity slip and let it go back
to congress **it** will be handled by our enemies with no
mercy shown to us.

We have everything to lose and nothing to gain
by putting **it** off, and I cannot urge **it** upon you too
strongly that you and **I**, and all the leading men in
this nation owe it to our people to look this matter
squarely in the face and get the best terms obtainable.

I am opposed to treating on and settling the
town site question first. **I** intend to make the town—
site question the last issue. There are many of you
who favor treating with the Commission, and are back-
ward in saying so. For myself **I** will say that the
best thing for us is to treat with the **Commission**
openly and above board. I advocate it because I think
it is the best thing for the Choctaw people, and **if**
you refuse to listen to what **I** have said, and lose
your rights the blame will not rest with me. I will
feel that I have done my part and **will** be satisfied.

I don't care how ignorant you may claim to
be, you can see this for your self for it is before
you. **I do** not have to run to the Cherokee or Creek
Nation to consult them about the affairs of our

country. Their business does not concern **us**, nor **ours** concern them. We have too much at stake to be meddling with the affairs of other tribes. They are capable of running **their** own affairs. We will have all we can do to give our own affairs the proper attention.

WAGONER RECORD

Wagoner, Ind. Ter.
July 19, 1895
Vol. 3 No. 42
M. Phillippe,
C. W. Hatfield, Editors

RESOLUTION ADOPTED

BY GREEN McCURTAIN, E. N. WRIGHT ET AL

South McAlester, I. T.

July 11,

At a convention of the leading citizens of the Choctaw Nation today the following resolutions were adopted, with reference to the allotment of their lands, to confer with the Dawes Commission, and made addresses:

"It is the general sentiment that allotment is near at hand:

"Whereas, We, the citizens of Choctaw Nation, regardless of party affiliation, in convention assembled, at Hartshorne, i. T., July 11, 18 5 realizing the danger which surrounds us, affecting our tribal government, and the tenure of our lands, and feeling

that we have no interest in common with the other three nations, viz: The Creeks, Cherokees and Seminoles, as we have more **at** stake, having everything to lose and nothing to gain, and believing that whatever is done on this line should be done at once, and,

"Whereas, The **change** contemplated affects the **great** mass of our **people**, the poor and uneducated, whose rights it is our duty to protect and promote, that class of our people **who** are becoming poorer and more dependant every year and,

"Whereas, The United States **Courts** in the Indian Territory are gradually encroaching on and depriving our courts of their jurisdiction, **making** it impossible to properly inforce our laws, and,

"Whereas we have evidence to believe that the United States Congress is taking steps to make radicle changes affecting our government and the holdings of our lands, and,

"Whereas, 7e believe **that** if we refuse to recognize the steps taken by the government on this line, that the government is **preparing** to sectionize this country to settle this question for us, in which

case we are confident that such settlement will be detrimental to our future welfare, and

"Whereas, We believe that in case of dissolution of our tribal relations, being the party most interested, we should have the complete control of the division of our possessions, and

"Whereas, We are informed by the commissioners, and also by other parties in authority at Washington, that if we take this question up of our own free will, then we will have the authority to dictate terms to the United States government, and it will accept them, which we are confident would be to the best interest of all our people. Therefore be it

"Resolved, By this convention, that we hereby memorialize the general council in regular session Oct 1895, to enact a law creating a commission to confer with the Dawes Commission, and that whatever terms may be agreed by the commission shall be submitted by the council to the people to be voted on.

GREEN McCURTAIN, Chairman

"E. N. Wright, Sec., and others."

THE TALIHINA NEWS

Talihina, Choctaw Nation
July 18, 1895
Vol. 4 No. 2
B. F. Grandy, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

large number of **representative** Choctaws met at Hartshorne, **Wednesday, July 10**, to consider the allotment **question**. It was attended by many full-bloods, who took an active interest in the proceedings. Speeches **in favor of** treating with the Dawes commission were made by such **prominent** persons as Green **'cCurtain**, **ex-delegate** to Washington, ex-member of the Choctaw council, and ex-treasurer of the Choctaw nation; J. J. Allen, national timber inspector; **Judge J. P. Conner**, and Simon **Lewis**. No speeches were made opposing the measure.

After the Indians had made their seeches **Capt. McKennon**, of the Dawes commission spoke to **them on** the part of the **United Sttes** and for the first time in any such a meeting the utterances of the representatives of the **Government** were received with rousing cheers by the **Indians**.

resolution **was** adopted **requesting** the national

council of the Choctaw nation to appoint a commission with power to treat with the Dawes commission **independ-**
ently of the other nations, the agreement between the two commissions to be submitted to the voters for ratification.

We herewith give the preamble and resolution,
to-wit:

Whereas; we, the citizens of the Choctaw nation, **regardless of** party affiliation, in convention assembled at Hartshorne, I. T., July 11, **1895, realizing** the danger which surrounds us affecting our tribal government and the tenure of our lands; and feeling that we have no interest in common with the other three nations, viz: the Seminoles, Creeks and Cherokees, as we have more at stake, having everything to lose and nothing to gain, **and** believing that whatever is done in this line should be done at once, and

Whereas; the change contemplated affects the great mass of our people, the poor and uneducated, whose rights it is our duty to protect and promote, as they are becoming poorer and more dependent each year, and

Whereas; the United States courts in the Indian Territory are gradually encroaching upon and depriving our courts of their jurisdiction, making it impossible

to properly enforce our laws, and

Whereas, we have evidence to believe that the congress is taking steps to make radical changes affecting our government and the holdings of our lands, and

Whereas; we believe that if we recognize the steps taken by the Government on this line, that the Government is preparing to sectionize this country to settle this **question** for us, in which case we are confident **that such** settlement will **be** detrimental to our future welfare, and

Whereas; we believe that in case of the dissolution of our tribal relations, being **the** party most interested, we should have complete **control of** the division of our possessions, and

Whereas, we are **informed by** the commissioners and also by other parties in authority at Washington that if we take **this** question up of our own free will then we will have the authority to dictate terms to the United States Government, and it will accept them, which we **are confident would be to** the best **interest of** all our people; therefore **be it**

Resolved by **this** convention; that we hereby memorialize the general council in regular session October, 1895, to enact a law creating a commission to confer with the Dawes commission and that whatever terms be agreed

upon by the commission shall be submitted by the council to the people to be voted on.

GREEN McCURTAIN, Chairman.

E. N. WRIGHT, secretary,
and others.

FAIRLAND NEWS

Fairland, Indian Territory
Friday, July 26, 1895
Vol. 3 No. 43
W. A. Keel, Editor

A RESOLUTION APPROVED BY GRANT McCURTAIN

Following are resolutions passed by citizens of the Choctaw Nation in convention assembled at South McAlester, I. T., July 12, 1895:

WHEREAS, We, the citizens of the Choctaw Nation, regardless of party affiliations, in convention assembled at Hartshorne, I. T., July 10, 1895, realizing the danger which surrounds us affecting our tribal government and the tenure of our lands and feeling that we have no interest in common with the other three Nations, viz: The Creeks, Cherokees, and Seminoles, as we have more at stake, having everything to lose and nothing to gain, and believing that whatever is done in this line should be done at once, and,

WHEREAS, the change contemplated affects the great mass of our people, the poor and uneducated,

whose rights it is our duty to protect and promote, that class of our people who are becoming poorer and more dependent each year, and,

WHEREAS, the U. S. Courts in the Indian Territory are gradually encroaching on and depriving our courts of their jurisdiction making it impossible to properly enforce our laws, and,

WHEREAS, We have evidence to believe that the . S. congress is taking steps to make radical changes affecting our government and the holdings of our lands, and,

WHEREAS, We believe that if we refuse to recognize the steps taken by the government on this line; that the government is preparing, in sectionizing this country, to settle this question for us, in which case we are confident that such settlement will be detrimental to our future welfare, and,

HEREAS, we believe that in case of dissolution of our tribal relations, being the party most interested, we should have the complete control of the division of our possessions, and,

WHEREAS, We are informed by the Commissioners and also by other parties in authority at Washington

that if we take this question up of our own free will then we will have the authority to dictate terms to the U. S. government, and it will accept them which we are confident would be to the best interest of our people. Therefore, be it

RESOLVED by this convention that we hereby memorialize the General Council in regular session, October 1895, to enact a law creating a Commission to confer with the Dawes Commission and whatever terms be agreed upon by the Commissioner shall be submitted by the council to the people to be voted on.

GREEN McCURTAIN,
Chairman.

E. WRIGHT,
Sec'y.