

THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.,  
May 29, 1896  
Vol. 9 No. 27  
W. H. Walker, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF TUSKAHOMA PARTY  
NOMINATING GREEN McCURTAIN

Pursuant to call, twenty-five delegates representing the Tuskahoma party of the Choctaw nation, met in convention at Atoka yesterday for the purpose of nominating a candidate for chief.

After organizing the convention and adopting a platform, Hon. Green McCurtain was placed in nomination for principal chief by Hon. E. N. Wright, of Atoka, and elected by acclamation.

The platform adopted by the convention was as follows:

First.-- We organize ourselves in to a party politic to be known as the Tuskahoma party, and adopt as our principles;

First.-- Just right and protection to all citizens of the Choctaw Nation by blood, intermarriage or adoption.

Second.-- We believe in order that justice may

be done, steps should be taken for the division of our lands among citizens of the Choctaw Nation, and in such division intermarried citizens should share equally with the Choctaw citizens by blood, and each Choctaw freedman or each of his or her descendants shall be entitled to forty acres each and we guarantee the enactment of such laws as will vest in each citizen of the Choctaw nation a fee simple title to his or her proportionate share of the lands of the Choctaw people.

Third.-- We guarantee the enactment of such laws as will fully protect the intermarried citizens of the Choctaw nation in all their property rights, in lands annuities and monies which may be received by the Choctaw nation and all other possessions as are now or may hereafter be enjoyed by the Choctaw citizens by blood.

Fourth.-- We guarantee to place our schools and financial system in a more healthy condition thereby allowing our citizens, both by blood and adoption to derive the benefits justly due them through these channels.

Fifth.-- We shall endeavor to protect all our rights against any legislation which is liable to be contrary to our interests.

Sixth.-- We favor the perpetuity of our govern-

ment until such time as our people are prepared to meet  
a change.

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, October 8, 1896  
Vol. 11                      No. 23  
B. S. Smiser,            )  
Norma E. Smiser,        ) Editors

MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

To the Members of the Senate  
and House of Representatives

Gentlemen:

Being called by the votes of my people to the office of Principal Chief of the Choctaw nation, I enter upon its varied and arduous duties with many misgivings as to my abilities, or qualifications for such an office and this especially, as I never sought nor desired the nomination and only made the race at the earnest solicitations of many friends. But having assumed these duties and responsibilities, I shall not shrink from their performance.

All will bear me witness that I had made up my mind to retire from politics when I resigned the office of delegate. And I only reconsidered that step

when I saw that the interests of my people were jeopardized by outside enmity and internal dissensions. Then public welfare became paramount to that personal ease and comfort found only in retirement. Moreover our country is passing through a crisis. Vexed questions are upon us, and they must have an immediate solution.

The congress of the United States has, for the past two or three years, enacted laws which can be interpreted in no other way than that our tenure of land in common is distasteful to them. And there is another equally clear interpretation of the intent of these laws, and that is that our tribal government must become broader and that we must take certain steps towards becoming one of the many States of that great government.

If we are wise we will meet our friends and hear their wishes and also make known to them our real convictions and what we are willing to do in the premises.

This should be done in the proper spirit. We should treat the U. S. as our friend. It will not do to say they are absolutely wrong and we are right in all things. If they can show us better roads, in which as a nation we must travel, let us walk therein.

If they can show us features in our government which can be remedied for the common good of all the people let us be men enough to accept them.

But I say to you here and to all the world, that I love my country and its present government. And while I shall be willing to some changes which I believe will be for the best interests of my people; still if the radical wing of those who are seeking these changes prevail and they shall undertake to blot us out as a nation at one blow I shall in no wise be a party to such an outrage.

Political advancement by us now will be accepted by honorable men; our political obliteration can be born only of dishonor. I do not think it right or justice to sacrifice all the right and privileges guaranteed to us, for the purpose of submitting to demands to appease the "boomers" and "intruders" in our midst.

While I am willing to submit to some of the changes asked of us yet I think the rights of one people should be paramount to the interests of "lease holders" and "intruders," and rather than submit to see my people suffer that the "boomers" may be protected I would prefer sacrificing all my interests and share

the burdens of my people.

I believe that we should allot our lands yet, in the event we agree to such allotment that the U. S. government shall guarantee us that each individual shall be placed in full and complete possession of his holdings, no matter what counter claims "intruders" or "boomers" may have. I am desirous that the mass of our people shall be protected and all legislation we may enact should tend to that end.

It is preferable that we, who are able, should make some sacrifices, than that the uneducated and poorer class should suffer.

There will be many matters of vast importance that will come before you, at this session of council for your consideration; but the most urgent business should be to so legislate that we may have immediate relief from the grave difficulties that now surround us.

Our first duty should be to secure to our people their homes and the perpetuation of the government of their fore-fathers.

To hold our present form of government it is necessary that we should agree to a change in the holdings of our lands, or in other words to individualize our lands.

By individualizing I mean to divide up our lands equally among ourselves. Just how this is to be done as to do justice to the greatest number of our people, will be for you to say. I suggest two ways for your consideration:

1st. To divide all our lands into three classes, to-wit: Bottom land, up-land and mountain land and then let each individual take his proportionate share of each class.

2nd. To put a money valuation on each class of land and let each individual take the amount due him according to its money value, having regard to the aggregate value of all the land.

I am inclined to think that the latter suggestion is the more practicable.

Whatever is done with the coal lands, I suggest that the nations interest in the royalty be retained, as this is our main hope for our schools.

In such division I think our white citizens, who have married in accordance with our laws should share equally with us. And all white women who have legally married Choctaws by blood should be entitled to an equal division with us. And to preclude the possibility of our lands reverting to persons who are

not citizens of the nation, in cases where inter-married citizens receive their land, in event of their death this land should be heired only by their Choctaw children.

I do not contend that treaty stipulations require such a division, although there are certain clauses in the treaty with the U. S. that may be construed to mean this. And if we refuse to accord to the inter-married citizens this right it will lead to endless litigation.

Our marriage laws compel white men to pay \$100 for a marriage license, to sworn allegiance to the U. S. and swear allegiance to our government. Hence it is a natural inference, if such acquirements are demanded, we intend to give them certain privileges in return; and it is but common justice they should share equally with us in our possessions. And aside from these considerations such a division would insure harmony among all classes of our citizens and would enable us to work together to check the inroads of "boomers" and "intruders".

At this critical time of our existence harmony among all classes of our citizens is very essential.

I favor giving to each freedman citizen under

our laws and treaties 40 acres of land to be selected in the same manner as we do. I favor giving every freedman, decendant of the freedmen who were residents of our country in 1865, his full forty acres of land.

It may be technical law to say a son or daughter does not inherit his or her parents citizenship; but it surely is not justice.

Having adopted them let us carry out our pledges in good faith. I am anxious personally to do this because I am aware that the freedmen as a whole, voted against us and will in the future vote against us; still we must do right in spite of their lack of gratitude.

We adopted them. We gave them free schools. We gave them their Academy and we agreed to give them 40 acres of land when a division takes place. But for all that history shows that these freedmen as a whole voted against us.

To effect this division of our lands it is necessary that we appoint commissioners to confer with the Dawes commission.

It is the wish of the U. S. government that we should change the manner in which our lands are held and make certain changes in our present form of

government. And for the purpose of prevailing upon the five civilized tribes to accept this change a commission was created, of which Senator Dawes is chairman, to treat with us.

While it is true the U. S. government is dissatisfied with the manner in which we hold our lands and has appointed the commission to induce us to consent to a change, yet it is not specified when this change shall be made.

Hence it necessarily follows that it is in a degree optional with us as to how and when this change must be effected.

As we know the wants of our people much better than the Dawes Commission, we are more competent to judge why this change shall be made. We know the peculiar nature of the mass of our people. It makes no difference how opposed they may be, they will never lay their grievances before a stranger and will never explain the difficulties by which they are surrounded. They will only confess their troubles to their own people and own race. Therefore we should take the proper interest in their welfare and seek the right remedy for their troubles.

While the allotment of our lands would be

acceptable, I do not advocate a change in our form of government, because our people are not prepared for it. A great majority of our people are not competent to assume the responsibilities that would fall to their lot as citizens of the United States. To thrust this change upon them would be their ruin. We must have time to educate them up to this change and prepare them to become useful and intelligent citizens. And I feel assured that if we allot our lands the U. S. government will permit us to retain our present form of government until such time as we think necessary to prepare our people to cope with their white brothers in the struggle for existence.

And to show that we are striving to build our people up, I call attention of outsiders to the fact that we have four Academies, two for girls and two for boys, each with a capacity of 100 students. We have two Academies exclusively for orphans, with a capacity of 75 students each. And one Academy for negroes exclusively, with a capacity of 60 scholars. At all of these Academies everything is furnished free of charge to the students, except transportation and even this is furnished to the orphans.

I suggest the creation of a commission on the

part of the Choctaw nation to confer with the Dawes commission on this and kindred issues.

#### SCHOOLS

Your attention should be given to the condition of our schools. Our school system is good if properly managed. But for the past three years our schools have been so badly conducted that their efficiency is seriously impaired. This mismanagement of our schools has caused universal dissatisfaction and measures should be taken at once to remedy this evil. We can never hope to have a successful government without an efficient school system. Education is the back bone of every well conducted government . It gives life and vigor to all its branches. It raises our men from ignorance and want to a higher, useful and more prosperous life. This ought to be a time for preparation. We must soon cope in the struggle for existence with a cultured, enlightened and progressive people. Now is the only time we have to equip ourselves for the struggle while the management of our schools is in our hand. The country is advancing in civilization and industry and we must move with the current. We cannot sit quietly and supinely hold our own. We will be swept onward by the current of progress. No reasonable or sensible

man should permit himself to be so biased by party interests as to set aside the claims of truth and justice.

#### FINANCES

The state of our finances should also receive your careful attention. For the first time in many years the expenditures of our government have exceeded our revenues. As a consequence our national warrants have depreciated in value and are now selling at a considerable discount.

To those acquainted with our sources of income it is inconceivable how this state of affairs should exist, unless it is caused by mismanagement, or neglect of those officers who controlled our revenues. The nations credit and financial standing should be maintained.

We do not meet here, it should be remembered, to work for self interest or corporation, or any set of men, but for the interest of our people. I am desirous that my administration of public affairs should prove beneficial to my country. To be successful I must have your hearty co-operation. Unaided your Chief can accomplish but little; but with your help and sympathy we shall be able to accomplish a great deal.

We should then write and work for the public good. Cast aside party feeling and affiliations and work together for the welfare of our people. We should not influence legislation for selfish motives, or personal aggrandizement. An appeal has been made to us by our people and now I appeal to you in their behalf to avoid all such legislation. If we refuse to respect such appeals we do not deserve to exist any longer as a government. Let patriotism rise above self interest and be actuated only by a desire to elevate the condition of our people.

The greatest pleasure I have in occupying the executive chair is the satisfaction of knowing that I now in a position to prove to my people the interest I have in their welfare.

I feel that the task I have undertaken is very great. But there is One who will aid me in all my undertakings and will smooth down .... I shall seek Divine assistance for no government can hope to be successful in which the Supreme Being is ignored.

I shall at a future time call your attention to other matters in a special message.

GREEN McCURTAIN

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, October 15, 1896  
Volume 11, No. 25  
B. S. Smiser, ) Editor  
Norma E. Smiser, )

EDITORIAL ON THE MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Governor McCurtain's message published in full in last weeks issue of the Citizen, was entirely in line with the platform of the Tuskahoma party as adopted at the general convention held in Atoka the first of this year, and on which Governor McCurtain made the race for Principal Chief. An equal division of lands, just rights to all classes of citizens, whether Indian, white or black, better management of the school system and a perpetuation of our government as long as possible, were the principal features of the platform and the recommendations found in the Principal Chief's message on these lines carry out to a letter his platform pledges. This will inspire confidence at once in his administration, which will tend greatly to its success. He should exercise the greatest care in the selection of men for the different appointive offices, that he will be called on to fill. Men of sterling integrity, who will be scrupulously honest in the handling of the nation's moneys, should be selected to fill ~~these~~ positions where the finances of the nation are involved. This is the only way in which the nations treasury can be saved from its frequent embarrassed conditions. We trust the new governor will exercise the greatest care along these lines.

CLAREMORE PROGRESS

Claremore, Indian Territory  
March 7, 1896  
Volume 4, No. 6  
Editor's name not given

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Ex-Governor Green McCurtain, of the Choctaw Nation, who has just returned from Washington, when asked for his views as to the probable action of Congress, to a newspaper reported last Tuesday he said:

"I fear a radical change is impending, but it will not, in my judgment, come during Grover Cleveland's administration. He has always shown himself to be our friend, and as long as he is in the executive chair I do not fear any legislation that will ride rough shod over our rights."

"Are you opposed to allotment?"

"I am not fighting allotment, because I believe it is sure to come, but I am strongly opposed to any sudden change in our tribal government. The change ought to be gradual and only come after due notice so that the ignorant among our race could be educated up to the habits of self-reliance and prepare themselves

for a change in their civil status."

"How many years' notice would you suggest as reasonable?"

"At least ten. I think that would give all a chance to prepare for the new condition of affairs."

"How about your courts?"

"I am willing for the United States Government to at once take charge of our courts and reform our system of jurisprudence, complaint having been made that our courts are a farce. The five nations will only be too glad to be relieved of the expense."

SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, July 4, 1896.  
Vol. 2. No. 84.  
W. G. D. Hinds, Editor.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Hon. Green McCurtain the acknowledged leader of the Choctaws was at the Grand Avenue Hotel last Saturday. That distinguished gentleman was here in response to an invitation of Gen. Armstrong of the Dawes Commission to discuss the most advisable means to secure an expression from the Choctaws on the question of allotment and more particularly the adjustment of the townsites and coal interest. After their conference Mr. McCurtain was seen by a HERALD reporter. He was questioned with reference to his views on the outlook. He stated that he had reached the point when he viewed with alarm the thickening dangers that threaten the property rights of the Choctaw people. That his people have failed to comprehend the dark prospect of an unfriendly Congress. He for one had done everything in his power to avert disaster by treating with the Commission,

thereby naming the terms of the agreement in a manner most agreeable. He was unalterably opposed to the piecemeal legislation. The townsites and coal interest should be adjusted along with the allotment of lands. That the Indian was more capable of determining that which suited him best, than Congress, and it is his duty to act. He was impressed that the day of reckoning was near at hand. The duty of the Choctaw -- being true to himself -- is to face the issue. Matters are growing worse daily. We as a people can not hope to stem the tide of public opinion, it matters not how righteous our cause may be. The die is cast in spite of any wish or opinion that I may entertain or have to the contrary. I feel almost like saying that if the Choctaws refuse to treat with the Commission, that I personally propose to go after everything in sight."

Mr. McCurtain stated before leaving for his home that the Choctaws would have a meeting at Hartshorne on July 10th to discuss the question and that the Commission would be invited to attend.

SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
August 13, 1896  
Volume 3 No. 38  
Hinds & Jobe Editors

MANIFESTO OF GREEN McCURTAIN

San Bois, I. T.,

Aug.8.

Now that the election is over I wish to say to my friends that I do not want any unfair advantages taken in counting the returns, or manipulating the poll books.

I say this because I have just learned that there is an effort on foot to defeat the will of the people by making way with the returns from counties in which I am ahead.

I wish to say to my friends and others, that if I am fairly defeated, I do not want the office, nor will I take it. But, if I receive a majority of the votes, I intend to have the office at all hazards.

The will of the people shall not be overruled by fraud and rascality.

GREEN McCURTAIN.

SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
October 8, 1896  
Volume 3 No. 46  
Hinds & Jobe Editors

INTERVIEW WITH GREEN McCURTAIN

Green McCurtain is quoted as expressing his opinion on the townsite question in the following:

"There are many towns scattered through the Indian Territory largely populated by whites. Let these townsites be divided up into lots of equal size and leased to those desiring to build, and then at the expiration of the term mentioned let these be sold to the highest bidder. In this way I think the townsite matter can be settled in a just manner. As far as the white intruders who are now in the Territory, I do not believe that there is anything in the talk that the government can or will put them out. However, they should be made to pay for the land they use, and should, on the other hand, be compensated for the improvements they have put on the land, but in the settlement between the government and the Indians let those improvements be paid for the government."

THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.

Thursday, September 17, 1896

Vol. 9 No. 43

W. H. Walker, Editor

ELECTION OF GREEN MCCURTAIN

Washington D. C.

September 5

The result of the recent election in the Choctaw nation unquestionable means more to the people of Kansas, Missouri and the other states surrounding that section than almost any happening in recent years.

The election was held primarily to decide who should be principal chief of the nation, but the point of greatest interest to the American people is that the man who has been elected by a plurality of 160 is openly committed to the policy of allotment, to which the Dawes Indian commission has for several years been trying to bring the Indian tribes to consent. Nor is that all. Two years ago the now successful candidate, Green McCurtain, who is everywhere regarded as the great leader among his people, stood virtually

in this country and Europe, and is a keen observer of men and affairs. He is reputed to be the wealthiest

alone, in all the Choctaw nation, for allotment. His best friends turned against him, his enemies reviled and slandered him, and set on foot plots to kill him, and the common people declared that he was betraying them into the hands of the white men.

#### OTHER INDIANS WILL FOLLOW

The adoption of the policy of allotment by the Choctaws means a complete change in the present conditions of the great Indian Territory and is a vastly important step toward the final solution of the Indian question, for now that the Choctaws have declared for allotment, there is no reason to doubt that their neighbors and allies, the Chickasaws, as well as the Creeks and Seminoles, will follow, leaving only the Cherokee nation to hold out for a greater or less period of time. It may be said here that among the five civilized tribes, the Choctaws, Cherokees, Seminoles, Creeks and Chickasaws, there is great and bitter rivalry among the two first tribes as to which shall assume the leadership in thought and action.

In his home in the San Bois mountains even now Chief McCurtain is regarded by faithful friends against assassination. He has traveled extensively in this country and Europe, and is a keen observer of men and affairs. He is reputed to be the wealthiest

man in the Choctaw nation, being worth over a quarter of a million dollars, most of which he has made in the cattle business. He appreciates the value of education, though he had no opportunities in that line when he was a boy, and his sons and daughters have been finely educated.

#### THE NEW CHIEF'S POLICY

In a recent interview the new chief said "I have been elected chief of this nation on a platform of allotment. I shall in time take my seat and do my best to carry out my ideas. The situation is just this: It has come to a point where the Indian must take a decided step forward, or forever be swallowed up and lose his identity. The present state of affairs cannot be allowed to exist much longer. The government will not tolerate it. And you cannot blame the government. What then? The Indian must calmly face the situation, determine what course is best for him and follow that course to the end. I do not believe it would be a wise policy for the government to establish a territorial government over the Indians at the present time. It will take time to educate him up to this. To thrust upon him at the present time a territorial government, with

its attendant burdens of citizenship and taxation, would be to impose upon him burdens that he is not prepared to sustain at present. It will take time to educate him up, to these things, and, for the present at least, the government should recognize this and wait for the development of the Indian to meet the requirements that a territorial government would bring with it.

#### NOT READY FOR CITIZENSHIP

"Under the present form of tribal government, it cannot be denied that the Indian has made vast progress, and there are still further possibilities in that direction. But to-day the Choctaw Indian -- and what I say applies equally to the other tribes -- is not prepared to have a state or territorial government. This is the case for two reasons. In the first instance, if you put a territorial government, let us say, over the Indian, it will result in the red man's being out voted by the white occupants of the territory, and a set of men being placed over him to govern him, in whose selection he has had practically no choice. That will lead to trouble. In the second place, the vast majority of the Indians understand nothing about

grades, according to the necessities and desirability

-- first, second and third. This will give enough taxation, and to undertake to levy taxes upon them to support such a government would inevitably lead to trouble. The younger class of Indians now growing up, who are receiving good educations, can understand these things, but the full-blood Indians, who can scarcely speak a word of English, and know little or nothing about the laws and requirements of civilization, do not. To successfully establish such a government over them they must be educated up to it.

#### PROPOSED PLAN OF ALLOTMENT

"What would be your plan of government, then, in connection with the policy of allotment, which it is proposed to carry out?"

"Let me explain first what is meant by allotment -- very few people comprehend the meaning of the term. At present all the lands of the nation are held in common by the tribe. An Indian who has the money can go to work and fence off as much land as he pleases, and there is nothing to hinder him from such a course. In this way the wealthier and more powerful members of the tribe trespass on the rights of the weaker. Under allotment it is proposed to divide all the lands held by the tribes into three grades, according to the choiceness and desirability

-- first, second and third. This will give enough to allow each man, woman and child in the nation 670 acres, besides giving the freedmen in the nation forty acres apiece. Let the Indian understand that this is his to do what he pleases with, except to lease it for a longer period than five years at a time, and the title of the land to remain in the Choctaw nation for a period of years, so that the Indian cannot sell it or dispose of it until he is amply able to protect his own interests in the matter. At the end of the stipulated term let a patent in fee issue from the Choctaw nation to each allottee or his legal descendants.

#### TOWNSITES AND INTRUDERS

"There are many towns now scattered through the Indian Territory largely populated by whites. Let these townsites be divided up into lots of equal size, and leased to those desiring to build, and then at the expiration of the term above mentioned let these be sold to the highest bidder. In this way I think the townsite matter can be settled in a just manner. As far as the white intruders who are already in the territory, I do not believe that there is anything in the talk that the government can or will put them out. However they should be

made to pay for the land they use, and should, on the other hand, be recompensed for the improvements they have put on the land, but in the settlement between the government and the Indians, let these improvements be paid for by the government."

#### ELECTION OF GREEN MCURTAIN

Washington D. C.

September 5

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SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
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Hinds & Jobe Editors

INAUGURATION OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Tuskahoma, I. T.,

Oct. 8.

(Special to the DAILY CAPITAL)

Green McCurtain, late candidate of the Tuskahoma party for principal chief, was inaugurated here yesterday. The incident was without any attempt at violence on the part of the full-bloods. The official count gave him a plurality over Jackson of 210 votes. Upon the completion of the count he was sworn in and entered upon the duties of the office.

Green McCurtain is now chief of the Choctaws. He would hardly come up to the popular idea of an Indian chief, for he lives in a comfortable house instead of a wigwam, he wears clothes of a fashionable cut instead of a blanket and leggins, and his speech

shows that he is a well educated man of broad views and much refinement. As a matter of fact Chief McCurtain would be a leader of men in almost any community, and it is not at all surprising that he has come to the front in the territory. He is said to be among the wealthiest men in the Choctaw nation, having accumulated a fortune of over \$125,000 in the cattle business.

Physically, as well as mentally, he is a model leader, for he stands two or three inches over six feet and is of heavy build. His swarthy face indicates determination in every line, and is this quality of character which has led him to brave the fury of his people.

Chief McCurtain has for several years been a supporter of the allotment policy by which the authorities at Washington have hoped to finally settle the troublesome Indian question for good and all. At first he stood almost alone, but gradually he drew followers to his side, although the majority of his people, even those who had been his warm personal friends, accused him of being a traitor. The trouble was that they did not understand the ways and methods of civilization, and they did not realize that it would soon become impracticable to hold all their land in common as they had done for years before.

At the recent election the majority of the Choctaws were undoubtedly opposed to the allotment scheme, but they were so anxious to defeat McCurtain and his policy that they were not content to put up one man against him. So they selected three candidates. Those in favor of allotment rallied under the McCurtain banner and when the votes were counted it was found that he had been elected by a narrow margin.

Chief McCurtain is not a full-blood himself, but is what is known in the territory as a "three-quarters blood," his grandfather, from whom he gets his name, having been a Scotchman. In intelligence he is head and shoulders above the rest of his tribe. He has a good education and has traveled extensively, not only in this country but in Europe. He understands better than most of his fellow tribesmen what is best for the Choctaws, and there is no doubt that he has the best interests of the nation at heart.

SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
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Hinds & Jobe Editors

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Gov. McCurtain's message has the ring of an able state paper and the tone of one who is deeply interested in the welfare of his nation and his people.

THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.  
Thursday, Oct. 22, 1896  
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W. H. Walker, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

We present on our first page, Gov. McCurtain's first message to the Choctaw council. It is an able state paper, showing Mr. McCurtain to be fully competent to cope with the great questions confronting his people. We are sorry to see that it at times degenerates into the political Indian harangue, holding up that old bug-bear, the so-called "boomers" and "intruders" who are anxious to rob the poor red man. This is used only to keep alive the bitter prejudice of the uninformed full bloods against the whites, and a man of McCurtain's ability should be broad enough enough in his views to attempt to allay, rather than augment, this class feeling, knowing, as he does, that it is a foregone conclusion that the two races must be thrown in continual contact with each other and that it would be better that they should meet each other in friendliness.

Mr McCurtain puts up the same plea for delay that has been heard for the past eight years. The same talk of non-preparation that has been heard in answer to every suggestion of advancement. This plea is natural, unavailing. We find no fault with the Indian for hesitancy in surrendering the laws and traditions of his people, as these are to him sacred with hosts of memories of past greatness. But progress is inexorable. As the tepee has given place to the comfortable mansion, the chase has been given up for the tame pursuits of agriculture and commerce, the buck-skin garb for the dress of civilization, so must antiquated laws and customs give place to those in keeping with changed conditions.

Nor is the plea for continuance indefinitely of tribal governments logical, even from the language of the message that we print. The gentleman confesses the inefficiency of the system in the same breath that he asks its continuance. He tells us that their schools have been but poorly managed, yet asks that the same state of affairs continue. He tells us that mismanagement has almost wrecked the finances of the government, yet wants the same conditions to continue as long as the United States government will

permit. Acknowledging the weakness of the vessel, he yet would have his people stick to it, preferring to try the efficacy of a patch here and there in the effort to keep the old hull afloat rather than exchange for an uptodate boat, large enough and strong enough to safely and securely convey to prosperous shores all classes of people in the country.

That the Indian policy the line is to fight inch by inch the tide of progress is evident. It is their well defined intention to give here a little and there a little to the demands of the times, but only so much as they must, always hoping that in this way they may continue the present state of affairs indefinitely. But it will not avail. The tide has grown too strong. Public opinion, both in and out of the territory, is against great delay in the changes insisted upon here and these dilatory measures will be of small weight in staying the onward march of destiny.

Once allotment has come, the Indians themselves will be the first to clamor for a change in government. Given individual possession of his share of tribal lands and moneys, each Indian will feel at once the necessity of making as light as possible the burden

of supporting the government. He will at once feel in his own personal expenses the tax he now pays from the tribal funds and when it becomes an individual matter of dollars and cents, but few would be willing to keep up five costly governments, when one can be run over the entire Territory at a less cost. This matter of governmental expense will also wreck the hopes of a few speculative souls who hope through prejudice and unreasoning greed to have two states made of the territory by nature designed for one.

SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
October 22, 1896  
Volume 3 No. 48  
Hinds & Jobe Editors

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

The message of Governor Green McCurtain to the Choctaw legislature last week was an able paper. Gov. McCurtain takes a just and sensible view of the rights to be accorded the inter-married white citizens in the Choctaw country, advocating a fair and equal division in all things. His suggestions on this line and with reference to other matter, if followed by the Legislature, will bring about a much better feeling and a more satisfactory condition in the Choctaw Nation.  
-- Checatah Enquirer.

**MUSKOGEE MORNING TIMES**

Muskogee, Indian Territory  
Sunday, December 6, 1896.  
Vol. 1. No. 83.  
Carl C. Bishop, Editor.

**EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN**

Governor Green McCurtain has issued a brief address to the citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations in which he says: "The commissioners of the Choctaw Nation authorized to attempt negotiations with the Dawes commission have agreed in a preliminary meeting held at South McAlester to make this call upon all Choctaw and Chickasaw citizens who have any wishes or plans as to the best method of dividing our lands among the people disposing of the coal and minerals, the questions of townsites and other questions to please reduce them to writing and send them to the commissioners.

THE INDIAN CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Ind. Ter.  
Vol. 15, No. 7  
Oct. 15, 1896  
D. M. Marrs, Editor

EDITORIAL ON MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

In Governor Green McCurtain's message to the Choctaw council he submits the following plan for allotment of Choctaw land:

Our first duty should be to secure to our people their homes and the perpetuation of the government of their forefathers.

To hold our present form of government it is necessary that we should agree to a change in the holdings of our lands, or in other words, to individualize our lands.

By individualizing, I mean to divide up our lands equally among ourselves. Just how this is to be done so as to do justice to the greatest number of our people, will be for you to say. I suggest two ways for your consideration.

1st. To divide all our land into three classes, to-wit: Bottom land, up-land and mountain

land, and then let each individual take his proportionate share of each class.

2nd. To put a money valuation on each class of land and let each individual take the amount due him according to its money value, having regard to the aggregate value of all the land.

I am inclined to think that the latter suggestion is the more practicable.

Whatever is done with coal lands, I suggest that the nation's interest in royalties be retained, as this is our main hope for our schools.

In each division I think our white citizens, who have married in accordance with our laws should share equally with us. And all white women who have legally married Choctaws by blood, should be entitled to an equal division with us. And to preclude the possibility of our lands reverting to persons who are not citizens of the nation, in cases where inter-married citizens receive their land, in event of their death this land should be heired only by their Choctaw children.

I do not contend that treaty stipulations require such a division, although there are clauses in the treaty with the United States that may be construed to mean this. And if we refuse to accord

to the intermarried citizens this right it will lead to endless litigation. *anxious personally to do th* Our marriage laws compel white men to pay \$100 for marriage license, to forswear allegiance to the United States and swear all allegiance to our government. Hence it is a natural inference if such requirements are demanded we intend to give them certain privileges in return; and it is but common justice they should share equally with us in our possessions. And aside from these considerations such a division would insure harmony among all classes of our citizens and would enable us to work together to check the inroads of boomers and intruders. *was commission.*

At this critical time of our existence harmony among all classes of our citizens is essential.

I favor giving each freedman citizen under our laws and treaties forty acres of land to be selected in the same manner as we do. I favor giving every freedman descendant of freedmen who were residents of our country in 1865 his full forty acres of land.

It may be technical law to say a son or daughter does not inherit his or her parent's citizenship or property, but it surely is not justice.

Having adopted them let us carry out our pledges in good faith. I am anxious personally to do this because I am aware that the freedmen as a whole voted against us and will in the future vote against us; still we must do right in spite of their lack of gratitude.

We adopted them. We gave to them free schools; we gave them their academy, and we agreed to give them forty actes of land when a division takes place. But for all that, history shows that the freedmen as a whole voted against us.

To effect this division of our lands it is necessary that we appoint commissioners to confer with the Dawes commission.

It is necessary that we should agree to a change in the holdings of our lands, or in other words, to individualize our lands.

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