

## THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, October 23, 1902  
Volume 17, No. 27  
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

### BIOGRAPHY OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Hon. Green McCurtain was born November 28, 1848, in Sugar Loaf county, Choctaw Nation. The only education he secured was during two terms at a neighborhood school near old Skullyville, or what is now known as Oak Lodge. He was too young for service in the civil war, but came of a family of warriors. His two elder brothers, Edmond and Jack McCurtain, served with distinction in the confederate army, and both in turn served as governor or principal chief of the Choctaw Nation. In 1872 Green McCurtain was elected sheriff of Skullyville county. In 1875 and 1876 he represented Skullyville county in the general council. The latter year he was chosen speaker of the house of representatives; and in the same year he was elected school trustee which office he held for four years. In 1883 he was appointed district attorney, and was elected to that office in 1884. In 1889 he was elected to the office of treasurer of the Choctaw Nation and succeeded himself in 1891. By him the leased district funds were paid out pro rata, to the Choctaw Indians. In 1894 he was selected delegate to Washington to

represent the Choctaw Nation at the United States national capital, from which office he resigned in 1895. As a delegate he received a salary of \$5,000 per annum, and \$2,000 for expenses. In 1896 he was elected principal chief, and in 1898 succeeded himself. In 1902 he represented his people in Washington, as a delegate, and was one of the delegates who framed the supplementary agreement, which has recently passed in the Choctaw Nation. The amount of salary allowed as a delegate is mentioned for the purpose of showing that he resigned from an office paying \$7,000, and was elected to the office of chief, which pays only \$2,000 per annum.

The above biographical sketch of Gov. McCurtain we clip from the Ft. Smith Elevator, to which we would add. That Green McCurtain has for years been a strong faithful and true leader of his people is an acknowledged fact; but to our mind and many others he is to-day even a grander and greater man. During the late struggle at Tuskahoma he has shown more courage than ever before. Think of the patience and long suffering he endured knowing so well that he was elected by the people and that fraud and farce running so high handed to try to cheat him out of this gift of his people. What was it that gave Green McCurtain the courage to stand all this patiently until right could prevail? We say it was the spirit of God whom he strives to serve. Green McCurtain is very prominently identified with christian people and work. The friends of this man who know his determined nature, his dauntless spirit and fearless courage, wonder at his patience



and endurance exercised at Tuskahoma when Dukes and Hunter tried to defraud him out of his rights and honors given by the people. Then after all this outrage he is seated and declared chief, and then he makes no discrimination against his political opponents. The Hunter supporters take their places in both Senate and House, and in no case has Gov. McCurtain removed a man elected on the Hunter ticket. This we call a most magnanimous spirit and a characteristic of true greatness.

should be directed to a successful closing up of our affairs. to this end very few laws, in addition to those we already have are necessary. There are, however, conditions arising under Supplementary Agreement, recently ratified, which will probably necessitate laws proper to meet them, and in this connection I desire to refer to the reservation of coal and asphalt lands as provided in the Supplementary Agreement. It is provided in said agreement that the lands principally valuable for their coal and asphalt deposits, not to exceed 500,000 acres, shall be reserved from allotment and that the same shall be segregated within six months. This brings us to consider the manner of handling these lands during the interim between their segregation and sale. Under the present law no one can file upon said lands as allotments, and they cannot be held or used by citizen's having allotments, for 320 average acres is the limit of a citizen's holding. I recommend that you give this matter your earnest consideration and enact such laws as will best protect the interests of the nation.

The same condition exists with reference to the lands to be reserved for Mississippi Choctaws.

I would also call your attention to the matter of public highways along section lines, and would suggest that, inasmuch as the Choctaw people will be only a small proportion of the people who will use these public highways, you memorialize congress to pay the Choctaw people for the lands taken for that purpose.



## CITIZENSHIP MATTERS

One of the subjects of vital importance to the Choctaw people at this time is the citizenship question. Since my first inauguration as Principal Chief I have waged an uncompromising warfare upon those persons who have endeavored to foist themselves upon us as citizens, entitled to participate in the division of our common property. These people are aptly denominated "court citizens" and as such are known to the Choctaw people. It is, therefore, unnecessary for me to tell you who they are.

The Supplementary Agreement is complete in its provisions for the settlement of the claims of this class of people. It will not be necessary for council to legislate upon this subject, but as representatives of the people I desire to say to you and through you to the Choctaw people that it is the right and the duty of every citizen of the Choctaw nation to use their best efforts to aid the nation in its endeavor to defeat these people.

In the original trial of these cases many of our citizens were unwittingly imposed upon to the extent of making affidavits to what they believed to be one state of facts and which turned out to be another statement of facts which were false. These affidavits were used for the establishment of citizenship claims. This was most commonly practiced among full-bloods who did not understand the English language or the meaning of English words.

It should be remembered too by all our citizens that the success of each fraudulent citizenship claimant means to each man,

woman, and child of Choctaw citizenship and diminishing of their proportionate share of the tribal property. Hence, the necessity of being very cautious about making affidavits in citizenship cases; aside from the moral obligation attaching to the matter of making affidavits in citizenship cases, perjury must be carefully guarded against from a standpoint of the law. Perjury is a serious crime which is visited by the most severe punishment. I would therefore, counsel the Choctaw people to beware of persons seeking affidavits, lest they be misled to violate the law and thereby get into serious trouble.

#### CONCLUSION

While I might have more fully discussed the matters herein referred to, I do not think it would have been of any particular profit, as you are all men of affairs and thoroughly awake to the interests of our government. If, however, during the present session of council there should arise any matter of particular importance I will communicate to you my suggestions and recommendations by special message.

GREEN McCURTAIN,

Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation.



THE HOLDENVILLE TIMES

Holdenville, Ind. Ter.,  
Saturday, March 22, 1902  
Vol. 6 No. 25  
The Times Printing Co., Pubs.

CHOCTAW AND CHICKASAW CONVENTION

Atoka, I. T.,  
March 18.

There was a good representation from all parts of the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations in the court house here this morning at 10 o'clock when A. Telle called the convention to order.

The convention at once proceeded to elect permanent officers. A. Telle was elected permanent chairman, and Ben Hampton of Chickasha, permanent secretary.

The roll of the two nations was called by the counties. The chairman was authorized to appoint a committee of five on by-laws and rules. The following was appointed. W. H. Harrison, Joe P. Smith, J. N. Lear, F. N. Fulson and E. R. Cheadle.

The chair was also authorized to appoint at

its discretion a committee to draft a memorial to congress.

Chairman Telle announced the following members of the committee to draft a memorial: J. C. Fulson, Atoka; W. A. Durant, Durant; A. E. Perry, Coalgate; W. H. Harrison, Atoka; G. W. Harkins, Coalgate; Tom Overstreet, Skullyville county; H. P. W. Ward, Kiowa; L. C. Leflore, Caddo; J. H. Godfrey, Kiowa; R. O. Freeny, Caddo; Martin Charleston, Atoka; H. Colbert, Colbert; B. S. Smiser, Atoka. There are eleven fullbloods and six intermarried citizens on the committee.

The chairman called Charley Vincent to the chair and addressed the meeting. He said the meeting was for the purpose of getting a concensus of opinion on matters of importance to the Indian citizens of the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations. There were no personal motives behind it, but the ultimate hope of getting an expression of all the people as to the best manner of procedure. He spoke of the dark days of the Indian Territory of the past, and declared there are darker days ahead. He said the Indians have been deprived of their rights from time to time and their lands have slipped away from them foot by foot. Mr. Telle said that the Choctaws and Chickasaws are in a better position to defend their



rights and demand their dues than any other nation, because they hold their lands by patents direct from the United States government, a tribal title in fee simple. He said when he was a boy, many years ago, allotment was much discussed and was apparently near at hand, but it is now no nearer than then. He recited the first effort of the Dawes Commission to get a treaty with the Chickasaws and Choctaws, beginning in 1893, when the Chickasaw and Choctaw commissioners met with the Dawes Commission and other Indian commissions to protest against the treaty or a change of Indian affairs in the territory. They were told a protest would do no good, as the United States government would take charge of their affairs when the time came. In 1897 the Atoka agreement was made between the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians and the Dawes Commission, providing for winding up the affairs of tribes, allotment of lands, etc., and he declared they are no nearer allotment than then.

Mr. Telle said that the Chickasaws and Choctaws had proceeded to make their rolls and get ready for allotment while other nations in the territory refused to make rolls and treaty until forced into it later and have received and are receiving their allotments in the

nations. He believes the roll should be closed as soon as it is practicable, and allotment proceed. He read a letter from ex-Gov. McCurtain of the Choctaw nation, now a commissioner at Washington, in which Gov. McCurtain said: There are not much to be feared from the bills for a territorial form of government in the Indian Territory, but there is much to feared from raids on the invested funds of the two nations."

Mr. Telle opposed the rider to the Indian appropriation bill, providing for the allotment of 230 acres of land, regardless of value, to each Choctaw and Chickasaw citizen. He said that it was the sense of the Indians that the Atoka agreement be carried out to the letter, and that every citizen, man, woman or child, should receive the land or money to which they are entitled, and whatever the Atoka agreement says they should have should be given to them at once. The speaker said that at the last session of the Choctaw council passed an act authorizing sale of the coal and asphalt mines of the nation, but that the Indian did not wish to sell, as the revenues from these mines are growing greater every year.

The report of the committee on by-laws was then read. The report provides for an association to



be called the Choctaw-Chickasaw Defense association. Its purposes shall be to protect the interests of the Choctaw and Chickasaw citizens, expedite the closing of the tribal rolls, the allotment of lands and all townsite work. All bone fide citizens of the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations are to be eligible to membership. Necessary funds to carry out the work of the association are to be raised by private subscription.

## TWIN TERRITORIES

Muskogee, Ind. Ter.,  
November, 1902  
Vol. 4, No. 11  
MISS ORA V. EDDLEMAN, Editor

### CHOCTAW POLITICS

Although the days of Indian warfare are past and gone, the civilized tribes sometimes have disturbances that might end tragically were it not for the timely intervention of the United States government.

One of the times was only recently, in the Choctaw Nation, when there was dissatisfaction over the election of the Chief of the Choctaws. In many years there has not occurred an event in Indian Territory of such moment -- of such keen anxiety, of so great promise for real trouble and bloodshed, or of tragedy barely averted. With just a move, the angry mutterings of the dissatisfied parties might have changed to a storm of fiercest action and probable bloodshed. Stalwart men stood ready for any move on the part of the dissatisfied party. Seldom, if ever, has the old Council house at Tuskahoma, which so long has sheltered the peaceful councilors of the Choctaws, been the scene of so threatening a storm.



But, as a fierce, dark cloud that portends of thunder, lightning and drenching down-pour, is sometimes dispersed by a burst of sunshine, so the evil atmosphere that hung for days over the Choctaw Nation, particularly over Tuskahoma, the capital, was dispelled by Justice. Calmly the United States Indian Agent, under orders from the government, stepped in and authoritatively put an end to what might have been the worst disturbance Indian Territory has known since the "border days."

For more than a hundred years the Choctaws and Chickasaws have dwelt in harmony as neighboring tribes. Tradition has it that the two tribes originated from two brothers, and so well have they dwelt as neighbors, that it might be concluded that they originally sprung from one family.

Since they have been known to the white people they have always been considered peaceable and progressive Indians. For the last three quarters of a century the two tribes have occupied their lands west of the Mississippi River jointly, and no political disturbance has heretofore arisen to mar their peace and happiness. Now, just at the close of their tribal existence it seems that vital disturbances have

crept into their political machinery. All seemed to pass well enough until the proposition of the adoption of the Supplemental Treaty, when a difference of opinion arose in both tribes which caused heated canvassing on both sides of the question. It was hoped, however, that when the election was over and the result was announced concerning the adoption of the Supplemental treaty, peace would again prevail, but such it seems was not to be. The political election coming so closely upon the treaty election was, perhaps, the cause of the continuation of the strife.

In the Chickasaw Nation the election was severely contested for the Governor's position, but they listened to reason, and proceeded to decide their contest by the announcement of the actual condition of the ballots; thus ended the strife in the Chickasaw Nation, but not so with the Choctaws. The indications seemed to point to outside influence which might have had considerable bearing on the strong determination at what might be termed the "pull-backs" to carry their point at all hazards, even ignoring the popular vote of the people, and seemingly desirous of obtaining control of the tribe at any cost.

It had been hoped by the friends of the Indians



that the day for disturbances and demonstrations leading to tragedy had passed but it would seem that only the timely intervention of the troops of the United States government, under control of the Indian Agent's cool and deliberate action prevented the shedding of blood in the recent trouble.

At the assembly of the regular session of the Choctaw Council about the 6th of October at Tuska-homa, the factional trouble, so long anticipated, seemed almost inevitable. Both Hunter and McCurtain, the opposing candidates for governor, were on the ground early and took charge of their forces in person. They stood ready to contest every inch of the ground, so embittered were the feelings of the two factions over the alleged reports of a political chicanery circulated by both sides since the gubernatorial election. McCurtain claimed that he was legally elected, which Hunter disputed. In anticipation of trouble Marshall Hackett of the Central District, and Indian Agent Shoenfelt had assembled with their entire forces, mounted police, 16 police and 42 deputies and eight deputy marshals, to maintain order. Soon after Governor Dukes, the retiring executive, had called the session to order, a temporary organization was affected.

The trouble arose over the denied admission the Capitol of Choctaw citizens. Armed Light Horsemen patrolled the halls of the Capitol building and guarded the doors, and this aroused the indignation of those who wished to peaceably enter their Capitol building, and they appealed to the United States Indian Agent for the restoration of their privilege, assuring the agent, Mr. Shoenfelt, that they desired only to enter peaceably as Choctaw citizens. Mr. Shoenfelt saw the justice of their demands, and mounting the steps of the Capitol building spoke in as calm a tone as could be assumed in all the uproar, assuring them that he and the United States Marshal would see that peace was kept, and would make every possible effort to permit them to go into the building peaceably. The quiet manner of the Agent renewed the faith of the crowd in him. The Agent then conferred with the United States Marshal and G. W. Dukes, Principal Chief, urging them to allow the assembly of the Choctaw citizens who were clamoring for admittance. Failing to gain their co-operation, Mr. Shoenfelt was compelled to meet at the door a mob of angry men, perhaps 150 in all, who then made a rush for the Capitol doors, insisting upon admittance. It required the utmost tact and calmness to pacify them, but



the agent succeeded in so doing. At last the Principal Chief agreed to admit certain persons, -- five in number, who, he said, were either members or contested members of the legislature. They entered and in the afternoon of that day a regular legislative body was organized, and it appeared that there would be no further trouble.

On Tuesday morning, however, members were again turned away, and once more the infuriated men appealed to the Agent and United States Marshal. The latter refused to act on the suggestion of the Agent to disarm all within the building and allow the others to enter. It was evident a crisis had come, for the men had stood all they would stand without active resistance. The crowd of men was again held in hand by the Agent and the coolness of the leaders of the two factions. On account of the imminent danger, Green McCurtain asked that a company of soldiers be dispatched there at once, saying that it would not be easy to control the infuriated men much longer; that they were determined men, and were arming themselves, and that there would be trouble if they were barred out of their Capitol by an armed force. Mr. Shoenfelt urged both political factions to refrain from violence, and the announcement

that troops were sent for pacified them to an extent.

The arrival of two companies of United States soldiers had a wonderful effect. Under command of Major Starr the troops arrived and were lined up outside the inclosure in front of the Capitol building.

Marshal Hackett's force of deputies and United States policemen were on duty inside the inclosure, while inside the Council house Hunter's Light Horsemen were on guard. The McCurtain legislature, their friends and constituents, numbering perhaps two hundred persons, marched to the Council grounds, and waited at a convenient distance the result of the conference between Indian Agent Shoenfelt, Major Starr and Marshal Hackett. At the end of the conference Major Starr gave a hurried command to the soldiers to load their guns. At the head of his command he then entered the Capitol grounds, and after a few words of announcement, he caused to be disarmed all the men within and outside the building, including the United States Marshal and the Indian police. The Indian Agent then announced that any person could enter the building, provided he was unarmed, and all could go and come at will. Two sentries were placed on guard to see that none entered bearing weapons.



The McCurtain legislature entered the building first, and the senators, passing to the senate chamber, proceeded to business. In the house the Hunter members were in session. The Supreme Judges appeared with the ballots of the last election, and the vote for Principal Chief was counted, which showed a majority of 689 for McCurtain. In the presence of the House and Senate in joint session Mr. McCurtain was informed that he had been elected Chief of the Choctaw Nation, and the oath of office was administered to him. Later, Indian Agent Shoenfelt received advices from the Interior Department to the effect that Green McCurtain was officially recognized as Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation.

Thus, it is hoped, ends the trouble in the fair land of the Choctaws. A great sigh of relief is breathed by those who were present, for only they can realize the gravity of the affair. The very air was heavy with lurking trouble. It has been said that even had Major Starr and his two companies of colored infantry not arrived when they did, McCurtain would have been Governor, but he would have waded through blood to the Council house. The men on both sides were armed, and at a word from either leader, they would have fought like very devils. However, it is doubted that McCur-

tain would have allowed this. At any time during the affair a word from him would have set his men wild, yet that word was not spoken, although many times the rugged face of the old Indian twitched with anger at the outrage. Speaking afterwards of the affair, McCur-said, "I had no desire to be Governor if a drop of human blood was to be spilled."

A peculiar fact which surprised some observers is that neither side lost one man. From start to finish, every fellow, whether grim fullblood or wiry half-blood, stayed by and supported his leader -- an unusual order of things, for a political squabble!

Words of highest praise are being spoken of Indian Agent Shoenfelt. He has passed through a trying ordeal wisely and well, and it is due in a large measure to his calm management of the situation that an awful tragedy was averted. Through it all Mr. Shoenfelt maintained the calmness that characterizes him, the convincing tone that is his in all moments of peril, and which proves his ability to lead aright, in times when men are wild and easily stirred to desperate action.

Mr. Shoenfelt was appointed to the position of United States Indian Agent in 1898, since which time



he has proven one of the most valuable officials of  
the United States government in Indian Territory.

THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, June 5, 1902  
Vol. 9 No. 29  
W. G. D. Hinds )  
B. F. Jobe ) Proprietors

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN FOR GOVERNOR

Tuskahoma, I. T.

May 29.

Pursuant to a call of the chairman, Hon. Joseph Garland, a convention of the Tuskahoma party of San Bois county court house Wednesday, May 21, 1902, at 10 o'clock a. m. for the purpose of nominating candidates for county offices for selecting and instructing delegates to the national convention to be held on June 12, 1902, at Tuskahoma, Indian Territory, at which time and place a candidate for principal chief of the Choctaw nation and candidates for district attorney and district chief for the first district are to be nominated.

The result of the convention was the nominating of a full ticket and the expression and instruction of delegates concern the governorship



nomination.

Joel Garland and Frank Folson were candidates for the senatorial nomination. Mr. Garland was nominated on the first ballot.

Sim Colbert announced his candidacy for representative and he was nominated by acclamation, there being no opposition.

For county judge, Turner McGilberry received 86 votes to W. G. Garland's 38 and was declared nominated.

There were three candidates for the nomination for sheriff; Simon Johnson received 12 votes, Davis Garland 47 and B. J. Spring 73. Mr. Spring was nominated.

It required three ballots to determine the fight between Frank Robinson and Moton Carney for county ranger, Mr. Robinson winning by a margin of eight votes.

Three delegates to the national convention were then selected by the chairman, Joseph Garland, as follows: B. J. Spring, Geo. W. Scott and Jos. Garland. A resolution was unanimously passed instructing the delegates to vote "for the nomination of Green McCurtain for principal chief, first, last

and always."

The delegates were also instructed for  
W. H. Harrison, candidate for district attorney  
for the first district.



THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
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Norma E. Smiser, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Green McCurtain, after deceiving G. W. Dukes for three months, shows his hand this week and announces that he is a candidate for governor. To those who have been his friends and have relied on his honor as a gentlemen -- having heretofore believed in his integrity -- the news comes as a surprise. From the time the supplementary treaty was framed, McCurtain has masqueraded before the public in a veritable Joseph's coat of flattery and deception. McCurtain at Washington favored the treaty, and Dukes protested against the coal and townsite clauses which were manifestly unfair. McCurtain's whole object in the treaty was the coal clause and if it had remained he would not be a candidate for governor today. McCurtain at Washington was Duke's friend. He has been favored with a liberal share of the administrations patronage under absolute promise of his support in the campaign. The steal being killed and the action of Dukes endorsed by Congress, McCurtain violates all promises and is determined to be the next governor. He will probably fight the treaty, since his pet clause is gone, and the objectionable

features being eliminated -- Dukes will favor it.

In the event Dukes gets the nomination at Tuskahoma next Thursday, McCurtain will undoubtedly bolt his ticket. He has decided to become governor at any cost.

The people cannot stand for the chicanery of the coal companies servant, and should be enlightened as to the true state of affairs. The action of the joint committee on the treaty shows plainly who was protecting the people in Washington.

The Choctaws who have blindly followed McCurtain in the past are disappointed and are turning to Dukes in great numbers. The only newspaper in the nation that will support McCurtain is the Indian Citizen and that in the forlorn hope that the foreman of her back yard will be re-appointed townsite commissioner. We say "forlorn" because the Antlers member of the High Council is chasing the same will-o'-the-wisp under an absolute promise from the Supreme Dictator. Peace to his ashes.

But the gyrations of that sheet have put it beyond influence with the Indian, who is entitled to know the truth in regard to his last campaign and will not look for it in a man who betrays his friends or the paper which has become as a birchbark canoe in the Saragasso sea. -- Antlers American.

You have often heard the expression -- "'twas enough to make a dog laugh" Well, that was the first thought to come to mind after we finished reading the above from the pen of the Antlers American editor. Then, again, dear readers, "greenness"



will always crop out. The editor is new, green, in the management of the American -- he doesn't know any better, so we freely pardon and excuse all he says. For his special information we will make a few statements. You readers have also heard of the little bench-legged bull dog, setting upon his tail, and barking at the majestic locomotive as it, unconscious of its assailant, sped on its way. The Antlers American man attacking Gov. McCurtain in the above manner and style, makes us think of this little bull-dog and the result will be about the same.

For years Green McCurtain has been before his people, been elected to every place of honor and trust, and still the people cry "McCurtain for Chief." Granting (for sake of argufying)" that McCurtain be a Judas, he must be Judas No. III, because there was Judas No. I who betrayed his Savior, and Judas No. II, G. W. Dukes, who betrayed the policies of the Tuskahoma party and his people -- so we say the Antlers man made a mistake in numbering. Judas No. I hanged himself and Judas No. II hangs to his bottle, so you see there is a similarity -- in the hanging.

#### BASELY FALSE

The Antler's man also states that Governor McCurtain has deceived G. W. Dukes and posed as his friend. This Antlers editor must be ignorant of the open rupture at Council last fall, when Green McCurtain, chairman of the finance committee, found \$13,000

of fraudulent warrants and summoned G. W. Dukes before the committee to answer why such was, and then and there was a split between these two leaders. Up to that time McCurtain had been Duke's friend -- but for which friendship Dukes would never have been Chief on the Tuskahoma ticket. From letters dated last year, urging Gov. McCurtain to accept the nomination, we read from his pen that he would accept if his people continued to urge him to. The salvation of his people was in his accepting. Before going to Washington Gov. McCurtain had assured many of his friends that he would accept the nomination on June 12th. Maybe the Antler's man did not know this, and maybe there are still many things for him to learn in Choctaw politics.

The Antler's man says: "In the event that Dukes gets the nomination, etc" Yes, such would be the an "event" indeed; but coming events cast their shadows before, and all informed people, regardless of party, know McCurtain will carry the convention. We are sorry the Choctaw people could not choose a man after the fashion of the Antler's American man's ideal, but the people should have the choice. The Antler's man maybe doesn't know that the convention held during Council in October was overwhelmingly McCurtain and for peace sake and to give Gov. Dukes time to favor himself by withdrawing as a candidate. Gov. McCurtain advised a postponement of the convention. He then told Gov. Duke's there was no chance for him (Dukes) with the people.



#### AS TO THE CITIZEN

Our policy continues the same between campaigns as during campaigns -- we don't depend on campaign funds to get inspired to espouse a cause or support a man for office. We don't wait for the campaign committee to offer us \$50 to talk for a candidate, and we don't "fish" around for an offer. The editor's "foreman of her backyard" has served on the Tuskahoma campaign committee for several years, and therefore we know whereof we speak. The Indian Citizen chooses and supports the man of its choice, and does so from convictions of right and justice. We presume this is a new doctrine to the Antlers American brother -- try it, brother; 'tis the best way, for a good conscience and a free will are the result.

#### WITHOUT A DOUBT

Most certainly the Indian Citizen will support Gov. McCurtain and we "kinder" hope we will be the only paper to do so, for we are just selfish enough to want this honor all alone. Now, suppose the Citizen did support Gov. McCurtain because we wanted his favor, is there any wrong in same? Don't all people look out for self? Is not Gov. McCurtain a strong and good man to support -- his people seem to think so, as he has had every honor and place of trust within the gift of his people. So, granting all this brother says is so -- where is the wrong? But, brother, we must admit that the editor of the Citizen does not follow the ways of

"other folks" in this line. The stand the Citizen took when B. S. Smiser was sole editor we think deserved rewarding, and the same may have influenced Gov. McCurtain in making the appointment of townsite commissioner; but Gov. McCurtain stated to press representatives at the time he had chosen his man and he was of unquestionable character and reputation. The Citizen editor appreciates deeply rewards for faithful services rendered, but we despise "bought talk."

#### WITHOUT PROMISE

The Citizen editor has not directly or indirectly approached Gov. McCurtain for even a "foremanship in his back yard;" neither will we do so. That is all right brother, about the policy of the Citizen making it unpopular. Lord bless your soul, brother, if you had the paper to fold (by hand) and mail once a week, you would then say, you had -- prevaricated. If you can go in any section of the Choctaw Nation, and not find a good circulation of the Indian Citizen, we will send you a brass button. The editors on the Antlers American change so often that we have a hard time keeping up with them, and then they try to talk to and about the "Indian Citizen" -- "that's been a paper good and true for five and ten long years." 'Tis "enough to make a dog laugh," sure enough.



THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, June 5, 1902  
Volume 17, No. 7  
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Green McCurtain for Chief and the supplemental treaty seems to be the best in view for the Choctaw people. If Governor McCurtain favors you with the "way of the treaty," you will be with him if you are open to truth and conviction.

The Sans Bois county convention instructed its delegates for Green McCurtain for governor, to be voted for "first, last and all the time." Green McCurtain is a good, safe man.

The Herald is eminently correct in this statement and the Choctaw people are of this same opinion. They regard Governor McCurtain as their safest man to handle their affairs in this trying time and have, therefore, been clamoring for his election. He will be the nominee of the Tuskahoma party and as such nominee will poll at least two thirds of the votes in the nation. Mark the prediction.

The policy of the Indian Citizen has been uncompromisingly opposed to the supplemental treasury, but after a very full, free and detailed account from Governor McCurtain as to the fight,

struggle and all considerations leading up to the framing and signing of the treaty, we are now ready to say we cannot figure out any different course from the one taken by Governor McCurtain looking to the people's interests in a speedy settlement of tribal affairs. That Governor McCurtain was the strong and leading spirit in this everyone knows. The other commissioners had met at Muskogee, then at South McAlester, and there maneuvered and worked, but the treaty now before congress is not the one drafted at South McAlester.



THE SOUTH MCALESTER NEWS

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
Thursday, June 19, 1902  
Vol. 12                      No. 2  
Henry P. Robbins,      Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN AND G. W. DUKES

The harmony at the Tuskahoma Choctaw Convention last week was not of the pleasant brand good partisans take delight in. In fact there was a schism and two nominees were placed before the Nation. A seemingly impartial press dispatch to the Dallas News says:

"The convention of the Tukahoma party, which was held at the capital of the Choctaw Nation Thursday to nominate a candidate for governor, resulted in a split, and two candidates being placed in nomination. G. W. Dukes, the present incumbent; Green McCurtain, ex-governor, and T. W. Hunter, ex-speaker of the council, were contestants for the nomination. There were forty-six delegates in attendance. Atoka and Tobucksy counties were not fully represented, four delegates, all of whom favored Dukes, being absent, but they were represented by alternates. When Judge H. P. Ward of Kiowa, the national chairman, who was a McCurtain man, called the meeting to order he made a ruling that no alternate should be allowed to participate in the proceedings. A canvass of the delegates before the convention was called to order showed that twenty-five were for Dukes, counting the four alternates,

and that twenty-one were for McCurtain. When the chairman made the ruling excluding alternates from voting the adherents of Dukes, seeing that they would be beaten by one majority, entered a protest and withdrew from the convention, holding one of their own, at which Hunter received the nomination over Dukes by a small majority. McCurtain was nominated by the regular convention without opposition. "

#### A MCCURTAIN VIEW

But this statement did not strike B. S. Smiser, the acrobatic attache of the Indian Citizen, as a fair description, so he took his pen in hand and sent to the same paper the following representations:

" There have been many unreliable reports sent out from the convention held at Tuskahoma on the 12th instant. The facts are these: McCurtain went into the convention with ten counties out of the seventeen that are in the Choctaw Nation; the Dukes-Hunter factions together claimed the other seven. From the ten counties for McCurtain there were present twenty-three regular delegates; from the other seven there were fourteen. The Dukes-Hunter forces had at no time any possible show to nominate either of their men, and therefore began a wrangle at once, in an attempt to fill their own vacancies, and also those of McCurtain with Dukes-Hunter men. This, of course, was an impossibility, unless they had had fools for opponents, which fortunately for the Indians they did not have, and they, therefore, bolted the convention. At the bolters' convention held the evening of the 12th -- after they had bolted in the afternoon -- they had only eleven regular



delegates, as three of their fourteen counted as above, refused to go with them. Six of the eleven voted for Hunter and five for Dukes, and Hunter was declared the nominee. He was not the choice of the Dukes men, because they were running on a treaty platform and Hunter on an anti-treaty.

B. S. SMISER."

#### A HUNTER VIEW

But the editor of the Antlers American had anticipated Mr. Smiser and published in his paper a rather detailed statement of the alleged tyranny of the chair, which caused the schism.

Mr. Copping is a warm partisan of Hunter but shows judgment in paying more attention to details than Mr. Smiser in his ipse dixit communication above printed. The American says:

"The Tuskahoma convention is over, peace reigns and all is well. In all the history of the Choctaw nation there has never been a meeting which so clearly showed popular sentiment and the curb which is put upon it by the corporations which grow fat on chaotic conditions.

"It was evident at Tuskahoma on the morning of the 12th that Dukes had a majority of the delegates. It was known, however, that Henry Ward, the chairman, favored McCurtain and would make a fight at every possible opening. The convention was called to order at 10 o'clock and on motion of N. B. Ainsworth a committee was appointed to draft rules. Ainsworth, Ed. Wilson and George Scott were appointed.

On objection to the partisan nature of that committee the chairman explained that in his blissful ignorance he did not know whether that committee favored Dukes or McCurtain! Everyone west of Chicago knew who they were, but not the chairman.

"The chairman then decided he had the power to appoint delegates to fill out vacancies. Objections were ruled out and when a motion was made to nominate a new chairman, the motion was ruled out of order without a blush. On appeal a vote was taken which showed the McCurtain strength to be 21 votes. After the secretary had counted them and showed the figures to the chairman and that dignitary had cast his eagle eye over the Dukes crowd and found 24 votes he ruled out four of them without making an excuse. We have the credentials of two of them on file at this office. Without a word the delegation to a man left the floor. A demonstration of approval by the spectators followed them as they stepped out.

"The 21 faithful gathered round the sanctuary and 'lowed as how they had better eat the plum in spite of its mud covering. Dine Ainsworth in a flight of impassioned rhetoric, in which his obese front figured prominently, told how if McCurtain was elected he would be coal inspector, and sat down amid deafening applause and a sickening thud. Others followed, and finally McCurtain addressed the remainder in Choctaw, making the eloquent speech he is capable of, and eliciting applause.

"The 24 delegates met and decided that Tom Hunter should be



the next governor and nominated him for the place. Mr. Hunter addressed the delegation, pledged fidelity to the Indian and asked the support of all. Gov. Dukas made a strong speech in favor of Hunter, followed by patriotic speeches of the delegates. The fact that a majority of the delegates were in favor of Hunter, augurs well for his election. He will be strictly in the race and the people are with him."

#### BLUE COUNTY FOR HUNTER

Caddo, I. T.,

June 16, 1902

At the county convention of the Tuskahoma party of Blue county held Saturday, June 14th, after the county convention business was finished, a report of the delegates of Blue county sent to the national convention held at Tuskahoma on the 12th, was heard -- they reported that they refused to submit to the arbitrary ruling of the chairman of the national chairman of the convention, and withdrew therefrom, and nominated T. W. Hunter for principal chief. Those who withdrew represented eleven of the seventeen counties of the nation. This county convention endorsed their action, and unanimously approved T. W. Hunter as their candidate for principal chief; declaring him the regular nominee, and pledged their support to him in the national election.

W. A. DURANT, Chairman.

C. C. ROBINSON, Secretary.

THE HOLDENVILLE TIMES

Holdenville, Ind. Ter.,  
Saturday, June 21, 1902  
Vol. 6 No. 38  
The Times Printing Co., Pubs.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

There is a movement on foot to call a convention of the union party in the Choctaw nation and nominate Hon. T. W. Hunter, who was named last Thursday by a faction of the Tuskahoma party, for governor. Several influential union men have already declared for Hunter, and there is a strong probability that his candidacy will be endorsed by their convention, which will be called within a few weeks. McCurtain will run squarely on the supplemental treaty as his platform, while the Hunter campaign will be conducted on a platform that will take a liberal view of the treaty, yet opposing strongly some of the clauses that are held as objectionable. In this respect strong opposition will be presented to the coal land clauses. -- Muskogee Times.



THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
July 10, 1902  
Vol. 4 No. 1  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Last Thursday was a real Choctaw day at Atoka. Ex-Governor Green McCurtain candidate for principal chief, Dime Ainsworth, Silas Cole, W. A. Durant and Solomon Homer all Choctaws, made speeches. McCurtain and Cole spoke in Choctaw.

The main issue of the campaign seems to be the supplementary treaty, and the speeches of these gentlemen were in explanation of this treaty. The treaty was condemned by Cole, Durant and Homer, while it was indorsed by McCurtain and Ainsworth. It was estimated that there were between 3000 and 4000 people present. This campaign will probably be more stubbornly contested than any former campaign in the Choctaw Nation.

THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
July 17, 1902  
Vol. 4 No. 2  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

The Indian Citizen in the effort to elect McCurtain regardless of its former policies or convictions is hurting itself. The very fact that a few months ago when the anti-treaty convention convened at Atoka the Citizen representative was there and was loud in a denunciation of the terms of the treaty and that last week when the same convention met that the Citizen even refused to print the resolutions passed by that body when offered pay for so doing, shows how unstable the Citizen is. This paper talked for McCurtain before the convention and the treaty was made an issue, but when McCurtain came out in support of the treaty, we took up the side of Hunter as being nearer in accordance with our views on the question.



THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
July 24, 1902  
Vol. 4 No. 3  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN AND D. W. DUKES

The editress of the Indian Citizen has become desperate in her effort to elect McCurtain. She sees an open grave in the political cemetery awaiting the McCurtain Smiser corpse, which will be ready for burial in only a few more days. She is resorting to all sorts of methods to counteract the influence of the newspapers supporting Hunter, and says they are all bribed, or paid to support him. Now, we do not know about the other papers, but we are sure, if this paper is being paid, that the editress of the Citizen does not possess reliable information of the fact, although she positively makes the statement that the editor of this paper has been paid by the Hunter faction. One thing is certain and it is that no one holds in black and white, a proposition like this promise from the Citizen editress to Governor Dukes in a personal letter: "Should you continue Mr. Smiser's work I will retract my policy and be advised by you."

Now, after proposing to sell her own "influence" and failing, she suddenly discovers that it is a bad thing to do, and accuses other papers of being bought without any foundation whatever, for her assertions. Remember, "people who live in glass houses should not throw stones."



THE SOUTH MCALESTER NEWS

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
Thursday, July 24, 1902  
Vol. 12                      No. 7  
Henry P. Robbins,           Editor

AN AGREEMENT BY GREEN MCCURTAIN

The Ft. Smith Elevator contains a long interview with Green McCurtain on the supplemental agreement. After reviewing the history of agreements entered into by Congress with the two tribes Gov. McCurtain thus defends the provisions of the pending agreement:

AS TO ALLOTMENTS .

"I shall call attention briefly to a few of the main provisions of the agreement:

"It is provided that each citizen shall receive land equal in value to three hundred and twenty acres of average land. Those who take poor land will get a greater number of acres; and those who take rich land will get less in proportion to its value.

"Those who oppose the agreement are telling the people that if the agreement is defeated, and allotment proceeds under the Atoka agreement they will get five hundred and fifty acres each. This statement is worse than an absurdity. It is an insult to the intelligence of the Choctaw people. If the agreement is not ratified the secretary will arbitrarily close the rolls under the act of March 3, 1901, above referred to. Now let us see what the result would be. He would enroll

all unquestioned Choctaws and Chickasaws, and they number about 21,000. He would also enroll the 4,000 "court claimants," because they have final judgments which cannot be disturbed except under the provisions of this agreement. He would also reserve allotments for 5,000 Mississippi Choctaws. These three classes make a total of 30,000 allotments. We have approximately 11,000,000 acres of land. The reservations for townsites, schools, court houses, railroad, rights of way, station grounds and reservations for all other purposes approximate 1,000,000 acres. It will require 400,000 acres for Choctaw and Chickasaw freedmen. When these two amounts are deducted from the whole number of acres of land we have a balance of 9,600,000 acres of allottable land.

"By dividing 9,600,000 acres of land into 30,000, it will appear that the acreage of each allotment will be 320 acres, and that is the exact acreage fixed in the supplementary agreement.

"It will thus be seen that each unquestioned citizen will get three hundred and twenty acres of average land whether the agreement is ratified or not. The inquiry that naturally arises then is: What advantages will result from the ratification of the agreement? The answer is this: If the agreement is not ratified and the secretary arbitrarily closes the rolls "court claimants" will receive their land just like full-blood citizens, and there will be no hope of defeating them. If the agreement is ratified they will not be enrolled and not receive allotments of land; and there is a substantial hope of defeating their claims; and in that event the land they claim will be disposed of for the benefit of regular citizens. Without the



agreement we get land equal in value to three hundred and twenty acres of land, and give the "court claimants" their land just like ourselves. With the Agreement we get the same amount of land and a good fighting chance to win back the land claimed by them.

#### COAL AND ASPHALT.

"Notwithstanding the fact that the Choctaw council especially directed the commission to make some disposition of coal and asphalt, I at first doubted the wisdom of undertaking that at this time; but when I went to Washington and found that the government had its mind thoroughly made up to close up everything. I felt that we must act for our people while we had it in our power to protect their interests.

The provision for selling the coal and asphalt and dividing the money among the people, before our tribal government is abolished, was therefore drafted and agreed upon.

"Not only must we dispose of our coal and asphalt, in obedience to the demand of the government, but it is impossible to continue the present system longer than a few years. This agreement provides that the rolls shall be closed. Thereafter no children shall be enrolled as Choctaws. After the children who are now born grow beyond school age there will be no children to educate within the meaning of the Atoka agreement, and therefore no need for this fund for educational purposes. At that time our tribal governments will have passed out of existence, and we will have no organization for protecting our interests in the disposition of the coal and asphalt lands.

"We certainly thought that it was better to sell our coal and asphalt lands while we have a tribal government to protect our interests and divide the money among the people.

"If the present system should continue, it is, in my opinion practically certain that the yearly fund would, in a few years be merged into a state or territorial school fund raised by taxation. The Indian would not be exempt and would pay his proportion of the taxes; and at that same time his educational fund would be merged into the common fund, and he would be out voted in its management by more than ten to one.

"The agreement provides that the coal and asphalt lands should be sold at public auction; and that the sale shall be conducted by a commission of three on which the Choctaws and Chickasaws have a majority. This commission has power to reject any bid which it considers below the value of the land.

"In view of the fact that the action system is the most successful plan that has ever been devised for realizing the value of the thing sold, and in view of the further fact that our own Choctaw and Chickasaw commissioners have power to reject any bid which they consider below the value of the land, I feel that the sale will cause us to realize a fair value for our coal and asphalt lands, and be entirely satisfactory to the Choctaw and Chickasaw people.

"The money which is thus realized will be divided per capita among the people; and if it is prudently invested by each, it will



produce an annual income sufficient to educate our children and have the principal left when they are of age.

"There are many other provisions in the agreement which are of a special interest and benefit to our people, but it will be impossible to refer to each of them in detail. Chief among these are:

"Section 23 provides that when the Dawes Commission issues an allotment certificate, the same shall be conclusive evidence of the right of the allottee to the particular tract of land therein described; and the United States Indian Agent shall remove therefrom all persons objectionable to the allottee. This will give our people immediate possession of their allotments without expense and without the necessity of resorting to the courts.

"Section 27 provides in terms that "court claimants" shall not be enrolled and shall not receive allotments of lands or distribution of tribal property until after their cases have been retried, as provided in sections 31, 32 and 33.

"Section 67 provides that section 3 of the Curtis Act, in so far as it applies to the Choctaw and Chickasaws is repealed. This is the law which has given our people so much trouble and annoyance by allowing tenants to go into court and hold possession of our lands for an indefinite time under the claim that they have not received pay for their improvements.

"I understand that some are of the opinion that sections 31, 32 and 33, providing for the retrial of the "court claimant" citizen-

ship cases go into effect even if the agreement is rejected. In other words, it is stated that notwithstanding the rejection of the agreement these sections go into effect, and that we can get all the benefit of retrying the citizenship cases even if the agreement is voted down. This is not true; and we will not get any of the benefits of sections 31, 32 and 33 unless the agreement is ratified. It is true that there is a provision which states that these paragraphs shall go into effect immediately after the passage of the agreement by congress. No benefit can accrue and no cases can be retried however, unless they are appealed and carried into this court by the Choctaws and Chickasaws. Section 31 specifically provides, as to the trial of the law questions, that the same may be submitted to the court by a bill in equity within 90 days after this agreement becomes effective. Section 32 provides that the cases may be appealed to this court by the nations, for the purpose of having them retried on the facts within six months after this agreement is finally ratified. It will thus be seen that these cases can only be instituted within 90 days as to one class and within six months as to the other, after the agreement is ratified. If the agreement is not ratified neither of these time limits will begin to run, and the nations will therefore have no power of carrying the cases into court. The conclusion is that in order to make sections 31, 32 and 33 effective and to get a retrial of the citizenship cases it is necessary to ratify the agreement."



THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
July 24, 1902  
Vol. 4 No.3  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

We frankly admit that in March we said, "It is the general opinion among the Choctaw citizens in this locality that McCurtain will be the next governor of Choctaw Nation." We still say that at that time it was the opinion of many Choctaws, but we are glad to say that these same Choctaws have changed their opinions. At that time Tom Hunter had not been mentioned as a probable candidate. And at that time there had been no split in the Tuskahoma party. Circumstances and conditions change and with them change the minds of men. We spoke favorably of McCurtain and have never said anything against his public record, but we are in favor of Hunter because he is a young man of ability, energy and honesty, and is true in every way to his people.

THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
July 31, 1902  
Vol. 4 No. 4  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

EDITORIAL ON THOMAS W. HUNTER

The Choctaw election will be pulled off next Wednesday. From all over the Choctaw Nation comes the report that Thomas W. Hunter will be elected without doubt. Hunter is an energetic young man of ability, and the Choctaw people will do well to elect him regardless of their opinion on the supplementary agreement. If the agreement is ratified, Hunter is the man suited to execute its provisions, and if it is rejected and another is to be made, he is the best man available for that responsibility.



THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
July 31, 1902  
Vol. 4 No. 4  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

The Indian Citizen gave only three newspapers as being favorable to Mr. Hunter for governor of the Choctaw Nation. Among our exchanges we found at least seven or eight papers all published in the Choctaw Nation that are favorable to Hunter, and there are several that we have not seen, but it is reasonable to suppose that they are not supporting Green McCurtain or we would have heard of it. The Citizen is the only paper to support McCurtain and it is having its hands full.

STILWELL STANDARD

Stilwell, Ind. Ter.

Aug. 1, 1902

Vol. 2, No. 43

Augustus E. Ivey, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

There is a hot political campaign going on in the Choctaw nation between Green McCurtain and W. T. Hunter, rival candidates for chief --conducted almost as bad as white man fashion.



CHICKASAW ENTERPRISE

Pauls Valley, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.  
Thursday, August 14, 1902  
Vol. 16 No. 49  
Ollie S. Wilson, Editor

South McAlester, I, T.

August 11

Returns from every precinct in the Choctaw Nation show on their face Green McCurtain has a majority for Chief of 163 votes. There are two counties included in which the figures are disputed. The Hunter men here have relied on a telegram received early in the count that Red River county would go for him. The McCurtain people claim that their report of 188 majority from Red River county has been verified. The McCurtain people throw doubt on the Hunter majority of 100 in Jackson county, but like the Hunter people in the Red River case have no figures to combat returns.

The majorities by counties according to figures undisputed, except in the two counties mentioned, are: For Hunter, Blue, 168; Atoka, 166; Gaines, 25; Wade 47; Jackson, 100; Kiamitchi, 129; Eagle, 5; Wolf, 12.

For McCurtain, Tobucksy, 65; Sugar Loaf, 132;  
San Bois, 161; Scullyville, 67, Jacks Fork, 26; Ceder,  
51; Red River 186; Boktoklo, 55; Towson, 72. Hunter's  
majorities, 652; McCurtain's majorities, 815.



THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
August 14, 1902  
Volume 4 No. 6  
M. B. Hickman, Mgr.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

From present indications the Courier and many other papers were rather premature in their election news last week. It now looks as though McCurtain had been elected, although it will not be decided until the council convenes in October. Mr. Hunter has fought a good fight and has surprised many even though he is defeated, for McCurtain has been invincible for years, and the small majority by which he was elected this time goes to show that Hunter was a good campaigner and an adversary to be feared.

THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
August 14, 1902  
Volume 4 No. 6  
M. B. Hickman, Mgr.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

The election was very close and both sides are claiming a victory. Red River county is claimed by the McCurtain forces by a majority of 186, and it is claimed by the Hunter people by a majority of 20. The McCurtain majority is only 163 conceding him this disputed county, and if he lost it, gives Hunter the election by a small majority. We see that the organization for the purpose of fighting the treaty is very strong and the fight will be carried on regardless of this election. Parties prominent in Choctaw politics contend that the treaty will be rejected when it comes to a vote.



CHICKASAW ENTERPRISE

Pauls Valley, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.  
Thursday, August 14, 1902  
Vol. 16                      No. 49  
Ollie S. Wilson, Editor

ELECTION OF GREEN MC CURTAIN

The following telegram received Monday by our fellow townsman C. J. Grant, is its self explanatory:

South Mc Alester, I. T., Aug. 11, 1902. Hon. Calvin Grant, Pauls Valley, I. T. -- Complete returns received. Mc Curtain elected by good majority.

D. C. MC CURTAIN

THE WAPANUCKA PRESS

Wapanucka, Indian Territory  
Aug. 14, 1902  
Vol. 2 No. 14  
Editor's name not given.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Returns are in from every precinct in the Choctaw nation on their face Green McCurtain has a majority for Chief of 163 votes. There are two counties included in which the figures are disputed.

The majorities by counties according to figures undisputed, except in the two disputed counties mentioned, are: For Hunter, Blue 168; Atoka 166; Gaines 25; Wade 47. Jackson 100; Kiamita 129; Eagle 5; Wolf 12. For McCurtain -- Tobucksy 65. Sugar Doaf 132; San Boin 161; Scullyville 67; Jacks Fork 26; Cedar 51; Red River 186; Boktoklo 55 Towson 72. Hunter's majorities 672; McCurtains majorities 815.



THE SOUTH MCALESTER NEWS

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
Thursday, August 14, 1902  
Vol. 12            No. 10  
Henry P. Robbins,       Editor

ELECTION OF GREEN MCCURTAIN

The official returns from all the counties in the Choctaw nation are in and on their face they show the election of Green McCurtain by a majority of 102 over his opponent, T. W. Hunter.

For a while Thursday evening it looked like Hunter had been elected as he had a strong majority. McCurtain's local manager at that time admitted to a NEWS representative it would require the official count to determine the victory. But next day McCurtain stock soared high for Red River county, which had popularly been regarded as an even break, came in with 186 majority, insuring McCurtain's election.

The McCurtain forces have claimed a majority of 163, but that is based on a report that Hunter's majority in Jackson county was but 100, figures Mr. Hunter gave out Thursday. This morning Mr. Hunter said his Jackson majority was 161. This cuts the McCurtain majority on the face of the returns to 102.

There is a possibility of the count of votes by the council

in October modifying these returns but it does not appear probable that the general result will be affected.

The majority by counties are as follows:

MCURTAIN

Bok Toklo	.....	55
Tobucksy	.....	65
Jack's Fork	.....	26
Red River	.....	186
Skullyville	.....	67
SansBois	.....	161
Cedar	.....	51
Sugarloaf	.....	132
Towson	.....	72
Total	.....	<u>815</u>

HUNTER

Atoka	.....	166
Blue	.....	168
Jackson	.....	151
Wade	.....	47
Wolf	.....	12
Eagle	.....	5
Gaines	.....	25
Kiamitia	.....	129
Total	.....	<u>713</u>



THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, Aug. 14, 1902  
Vol. 17 No. 17  
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

LETTER OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Editor Citizen:

Through the columns of your paper I desire to tender thanks to my friends for the cordial support given me in the recent campaign for Principal Chief. And as a token of gratitude for the honor conferred upon me by a majority vote I promise that in the administration of the Principal Chief's office my success shall be the Choctaw people's success. Having been chosen as the next Principal Chief, by an unquestionable majority of the Choctaw people, I assure my friends that I will be on hand insisting upon my rights under said election.

GREEN McCURTAIN

Sans Bois, I. T.

Aug. 12, 1902

## SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, August 21, 1902  
Vol. 9 No. 40  
W. G. D. Hinds, Editorial

### EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Since the election of Green McCurtain it is considered certain that Mr. Hunter will not desire a continuation of office under the new administration and the secretaryship of the Choctaw Townsite Commission will be a position much sought. A man who is receiving much attention in this connection is Dr. H. C. Nash of Antlers. Dr. Nash is not seeking the office. No better man could be selected. He has worked hard for McCurtain's success; has always taken an active part in the nation's issues, and better still, possesses the ability and universal respect that the position demands. Mr. Hunter has made a most excellent secretary. He is tactful, resourceful and exceedingly popular; a man with a future, but if he is to step down and out a worthy successor would be Dr. Nash.



HOLDENVILLE TIMES

Holdenville, Ind. Ter.  
Saturday, Sept. 27, 1902  
Vol. 6, No. 51  
(Editor's name not given)

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN, (Oklahoma)

In an interesting letter to United States Attorney Horace Speed of this city, Governor-elect Green McCurtain of the Choctaw Indian nation, gives the following account of the naming of Oklahoma, and the correct meaning of the word. This will be interesting to the people of Oklahoma in that the subject has been discussed so frequently. Governor McCurtain says:

"Oklahoma word meaning red people; 'okla' for people and 'homma' for red. This word has been interpreted to mean various things by people who do not really know, and the public generally believe it to mean red land, red men, etc.

"Allen Wright, a full blood Choctaw, one of the framers of the treaty of 1836, suggested that portion of the treaty you refer to and intended at

the time that the organization mentioned should include not only the five civilized tribes but also the wild tribes as they became civilized, who were located on Indian territory.

"This proposed organization failed to materialize because the Cherokees and Choctaws could not agree as to membership, as to the number of members to which they should be entitled."



THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
October 2, 1902  
Vol. 4 No. 13  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Governor-elect Green McCurtain, of the Choctaw nation, has asked for police protection to keep down any possible disturbance on the gubernatorial inauguration on next Wednesday, Oct. 1, at Tuskahoma, capitol of the Choctaw nation. Indian Agent Shoenfelt with Indian police will be present, and Marshal Hackett, of the Central district, will also be present with several deputy marshals.

THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, October 2, 1902  
Vol. 9 No. 46  
U. S. Russell, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Green McCurtain, governor-elect of the Choctaw nation, is in the city on his way to Tushkahoma for the purpose of being inaugurated on Monday. Governor McCurtain said that there was a good deal of talk concerning trouble to be made by the Hunter faction, and there might be though where there was so much smoke there was very little fire usually. The Choctaw council would meet on Monday when the vote would be canvassed. The governor smiled when he was asked if he could read his title clear to the gubernational chair and replied that he was elected and would be installed if there was not a contest which he thought impossible.



THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, Oct. 9, 1902  
Vol. 9 No. 47  
U. S. Russell, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN AND HUNTER, ET AL

Tuskahoma.

THE McCURTAIN REPORT.

The Senate was organized on the sixth by electing Jas. Bower (a McCurtain man, of Sculleyville county), president. The entire Senate participated in the organization. The McCurtain faction organized the House on the same day, but not in the capitol building. All regularly elected members were present. R. J. Ward, of Scullyville county, was elected speaker. The McCurtain faction have a safe majority in the House. The Hunter faction, consisting of ten persons, met in the afternoon and organized the House by electing J. M. Hodge, of Atoka county, speaker. Six of these persons hold certificates issued by Silas Cole, who assumes to be Supreme Judge of the Third District



having been given the office by Dukes, who forcibly ejected Judge Wesley Anderson just before the election.

These certificates were not recognized by the senate. Gov. Dukes, without authority of law, declared the election in Tobuesky and Towson counties illegal and appointed from a different county and a different district. Only two of the above persons hold regular certificates. The senate then recognized the McCurtain faction as the regularly organized house and met with them in joint session and elected a sergeant-at-arms. Gov. Dukes' armed light-horsemen are in charge of the capitol building and are excluding McCurtain men holding proper certificates. It is openly charged by McCurtain men that Marshal Hackett is co-operating with Dukes.

#### ANOTHER ACCOUNT.

The following was sent from Tuskahoma by the staff correspondent of the Ft. Smith News-Record:

Tuskahoma, I. T., Oct. 7. -- The national council of the Choctaw Nation convened here yesterday morning under such circumstances that for a time it looked as if the factional trouble so long anticipated would come to a head before a temporary organization was really effected.



Both Hunter and McCurtain were on the grounds early and took charge of their forces in person. They stood ready to contest every inch of the ground, the feeling of the two factions was embittered over the alleged reports of political chicanery circulated by both sides since the gubernatorial election.

McCurtain's claim is that he was elected legally, which is disputed by the Hunter faction.

In anticipation of the trouble Marshal Hackett and Indian Agent Shoenfelt had assembled the entire force of mounted police, fifty-three strong, and eight deputy marshals to maintain order.

That they were needed was manifested early in the day when they promptly quelled what might have been serious disorder had it been allowed to continue.

Soon after Governor Dukes, the retiring executive, called the session to order at 10 o'clock, a temporary organization was effected and the committee on credentials began passing upon the certificates of the councilmen. The trouble began over two members-elect being denied admittance over alleged illegality in Tobusky county. The were both McCurtain men and McCurtain himself became infuriated



over the rejection of their credentials. He rushed from the capitol building and called upon his followers to see that he received justice.

A number of McCurtain adherents made a rush for the entrance. They were met by Marshal Hackett and the Indian police who, with Winchesters ready for firing, slowly forced the crowd back.

Indian Agent Shoenfelt mounted the steps and addressed the crowd.

"Gentlemen," he shouted, "I am here to preserve order. I have been requested by Governor Dukes to see that none but those holding certificates of election as members be admitted to the council. I am going to do my duty,"

Governor McCurtain addressed the Indian agent.

"If you can't see that I get justice why don't you take your troops off the ground?" he asked.

"The United States government has nothing to do with this tribal muddle except to preserve order responded Mr. Shoenfelt. "Marshall Hackett and myself will see that order is maintained as long as the council remains in session."

Mutterings of anger followed his speech but no further attempt to enter the building was made.



While the disorder was going on outside the two factions were fighting it out in the caucus room. The Hunter element proceeded with an election, the McCurtain faction refraining from voting. This ticket was elected:

John M. Hodges, speaker.

Logan Frazier, journalist.

Henry Alexander, recording secretary.

Solomon Nelson, doorkeeper.

A. Clay, interpreter.

A motion was made for an adjournment, and carried with a rush.

The McCurtain men remained in session and elected Robert Ward, of Scullyville, as speaker, and Willis Cooper, of Sans Bois, as journalist.

They remained in the room until after night-fall, ordering their supper brought to them, and refused to adjourn.

At a late hour Gov. Dukes entered the caucus room and ordered them to retire and threatened to forcibly eject them unless they yielded.

Seeing that Gov. Dukes was in earnest and that he was backed by the United States marshal, they made a motion to adjourn till 9 o'clock today for the purpose of electing a sergeant-at-arms, which



was carried.

The situation is a peculiar one. The upper house (the Senate) stands 7 for McCurtain to 5 for Hunter. The lower house is 11 for Hunter and 9 for McCurtain.

The Senate majority refuses to recognize the House majority and acts with the minority, which ties both factions in joint session.

So far it looks as though Hunter and his adherents have gained a slight advantage over McCurtain. Governor Dukes' sympathy is known to be with Hunter, and should he deliver his annual message to the Hunter faction it looks as though the Secretary of the Interior will have to recognize Hunter as the legal governor.

Gov. Dukes insists that his message must be delivered by Wednesday at the latest.

Besides the two members, nC. C. Choate, of the lower house, and Ellis Bohanon, of the Senate, whose certificates of election were declared void yesterday on technical grounds, the council will have to probe into the right of H. L. Washington, of Towson county, to occupy a seat in the Senate. His place is being contested by H. P. Jacobs. Will



Everidge, another McCurtain man, stands a good chance to lose his seat on technical grounds.

Both Hunter and McCurtain are holding silent caucuses and outlining the battle to be fought.

Marshall Hackett insured order last night disarming everybody not entitled to carry weapons. He seems, so far, to have firm control of the situation.

#### HACKETT AND SHOENFELT CAN NOT AGREE.

United States Marshal B. F. Hackett and Indian Agent Shoenfelt can't agree on a plan of conducting the siege. Marshall Hackett Monday made a short speech from the steps of the capitol building, and said as far as the United States government was concerned every man who so desired could enter the building peacefully. At the time the statement was made Dukes and his light horsemen occupied positions on the inside and would not permit anyone to enter who was not a Hunter man, or had undisputed credentials. Agent Shoenfelt yesterday wired to Washington asking the Interior Department for instructions. Marshal Hackett also wired the attorney general for instructions, and



it is thought that the two departments will confer and give their representatives the same instructions whereby they will work in conjunction.

#### INDIANS ARE ARMED.

Contrary to expectations, the officers did not disarm those present, and six-shooters are plentiful. For awhile Monday it looked as though the pistols would be brought into use. The slightest outbreak would have caused a riot.

#### JUDGE CHOATE UNSEATED.

Judge C. C. Choate, elected to the legislature from Tobucksy county, was in his seat when the organization was started. Gov. Dukes sent his light horsemen and by force drug the member from his seat and excluded him from the building. Dukes claims Choate had no commission and was not legally elected. The commission was refused Choate by Dukes several days ago.

Dr. Wright of Atoka was seated in place of Choate, although he represents another county. When McCurtain heard of the outrage he was at his boarding house. Immediately he started for the capitol building, his rugged face beaming with



determination. Following at his heels was a large crowd of men who support him through thick and thin. When the door of the legislative hall was reached McCurtain found Indian Agent Shoenfelt on guard. He demanded admission and Shoenfelt positively refused. For a minute the old Indian stood there trembling with indignation. A death-like silence prevailed, for all expected an outbreak. It would have required only a word from McCurtain to set his men wild. Suddenly turning on his heel McCurtain beckoned his men to go back, and they left the building.

Speaking afterwards of the incident McCurtain said he did not want to be governor if a drop of human blood was to be spilled.

#### HUNTER IS COOL

Tom Hunter is about the coolest man about the capitol building. He cautions his supporters to act conservatively, and says he will tolerate no violence to gain his desired seat as governor. He does not predict trouble.

#### EXPECT TROUBLE.

Deputy U. S. Marshal Tom Hackett, of Antlers, arrived in South McAlester this morning. He left



Tuskahoma last night. He says everything was very quiet when he left last night, but there is every indication that trouble will yet ensue. He denied that there was any friction between his brother, United States Marshal B. F. Hackett, and Indian Agent Shoenfelt, but admitted that they could not agree on the policy to be pursued by the government. He said the United States Marshal plainly told every one that he had no choice in the governorship matter, and was there to simply execute the law and keep order.

Mr. Hackett said that a second attempt to gain entrance to the capitol building was made by the McCurtain followers yesterday morning about 8:30. A large crowd of men, headed by Bob Ward, of Scullyville, and Joe Everidge, of Grant, made a rush for the building, but were stopped by Dukes' light horsemen, who denied them admittance. Shoenfelt and Marshal Hackett, with their corps, were present and told the men to desist to stop all violence. The McCurtain followers left the hall.

#### HUNTER'S SMOOTH TRICK.

It now developes that the secret meeting at Paris, Texas, a few weeks ago, attended by Hunter



men only, is responsible for the plan to secure control of the capitol building before McCurtain's forces arrived. Dukes was asked to send his light horsemen to Tuskahoma to take the building. He did so and when the Hunter forces commenced to arrive they were admitted. Dukes, as governor, had the power to control the capitol McCurtain was thus excluded from the building. The light horsemen were stationed at the doors to admit only those who favored Hunter. If the McCurtain men attempted to break in, their action would justify arrest by the United States Marshal and Indian Police.



CHICKASAW ENTERPRISE

Pauls Valley, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.  
Thursday, October 9, 1902  
Vol. 17 No. 5  
Ollie S. Wilson, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

Tuskahoma, I. T.

October 7, 1902

The Choctaw council met yesterday and the Hunter faction elected a chairman, when the council adjourned.

McCurtain attempted to enter the capitol but was refused admittance.

The McCurtain faction made an attempt to hold the capitol.

Dukes appointed Light Horsemen to oust the McCurtain people from the building, which was done.

Council is not in session today as the McCurtain men refuse to report.

Hunter's prospects are good.

Everything is quiet.



THE SOUTH MCALESTER NEWS

South McAlester, Ind. Ter.,  
Thursday, October 16, 1902  
Vol. 12                      No. 19  
Henry P. Robbins,              Editor

EDITORIAL ON ELECTION OF GREEN MCCURTAIN AND HUNTER

Tuskahoma, I. T.,

Oct. 12

Two companies of United States troops, the 21 Infantry, from Ft. Reno, composed of colored soldiers under command of Maj. Starr, arrived at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It was 3:50 when they arrived at the grounds where the Choctaw capitol building is situated. There was immediately a conference among Maj. Starr, Indian Agent Shoenfelt and Marshal Hackett. This conference was not overheard by the bystanders but your correspondent gets from what seems to be a reliable source that Agent Shoenfelt stated that there was a pretended chief there with armed men called Light Horse and that he had possession of the capitol building. He recommended that the troop be disarmed and that the building be thrown open to all who desired to enter.

STARR'S FIRST POSITION.

Your correspondent is informed that Maj. Starr replied to



this at first, in substance as follows:

"I am not here to settle any question of Indian law or facts. They must settle their own questions and we are here to keep the peace while they do it."

It is reported that Maj. Hackett spoke up and expressed his hearty accord with this view of the matter, under light of instructions received from the attorney general and also from the secretary of the interior.

Maj. Hackett subsequently withdrew from the conference and went over and talked to his deputies, explaining the attitude of Maj. Starr, as above set forth. Then there followed an extended conference between Shoenfelt and Starr. The substance of this conference is not known here. It seemed that Shoenfelt was arguing the matter, as he made many gestures by way of emphasis. Shortly afterwards Marshal Hackett joined them for a moment but he did not tarry.

While this was going on the soldiers were resting at will, having stacked arms, after marching up in company formation. Written requests were borne from Gov. Hunter asking for a conference with the Indian Agent and Maj. Starr, but these requests were denied.

#### STARR'S ATTITUDE CHANGES.

The attitude of Maj. Starr suffered a strange change after the conference with Indian Agent Shoenfelt. He ordered his men to fall in and squads were placed about the capitol building. They had



previously received the order to load their rifles. Maj. Starr then publicly proclaimed that all persons bearing arms must withdraw from the yards of the capitol building. The following colloquy then occurred:

Marshal Hackett -- "When you say all armed persons, do you mean to include my deputies?"

Maj. Starr -- "Major, with due respect and all courtesy to your position and authority I desire to say that I am here under proper instructions to keep the peace. I must demand your authority before I withdraw my men."

Starr -- "I don't recognize you."

Hackett -- "I am the United States marshal for the Central district of the Indian Territory. I am here acting under orders from the attorney general of the United States and with all respect due you, I insist on seeing your authority for overriding my instructions."

Starr -- "I recognize no man's right to call for my authority. All armed persons except my men must withdraw from these grounds or give up their arms."

Hackett -- "Major Starr and gentlemen, I want it distinctly understood that I do not recognize your authority to interrupt my discharge of duties here. But in view of your superior numbers I presume that you can do it."

Turning to his deputies Marshal Hackett then said, "Gentlemen, you may withdraw from the grounds."



### STARR PLAYS CROMWELL.

Maj. Starr then went to the door of the capitol building and found Wesley Durant, a Light Horseman, in charge. Durant tried to prevent the entrance of the army officer. Maj. Starr said, "What are you doing here?"

Durant -- "I am an officer in charge of the entrance."

Starr -- There are no officers here but my men and I demand admittance and your arms."

Durant -- "I will not admit you. I am instructed by my chief to admit no armed force or armed man, or mob, or person or persons calculated to disturb peace."

Starr repeated his demand and then took hold of the door-keeper, threatened his arrest if he did not get away, pushed him aside and with the assistance of his colored soldiers disarmed Durant and then proceeded to disarm everybody to the building, the principal chief's peace officers and the deputies of the sheriff of the county.

This took about half an hour and at its conclusion Maj. Starr went to the yard and proclaimed that all people, unarmed, could come and go freely. The Hunter council in the meanwhile kept peaceably at work. At the announcement the McCurtain council, which had for over three hours been standing outside the yard awaiting the execution of the plan, as it had been telegraphed to THE NEWS Saturday morning at 11 o'clock, proceeded to the capitol building in a body.



### LIVELY SCENE IN HOUSE.

The McCurtain council gained access to representative hall and endeavored to secure possession of the speaker's table and chair. They tore the table away from its place. The Hunter men promptly restored it to its place. In the melee some one struck Hodges, the Hunter speaker, in the face.

The noise was heard outside and one of the colored soldiers came and evidently thought that this did not constitute a disturbance of the peace, so he made no interference.

Then both councils tried to do business in the same house. The Hunter folks made the most racket. They made loud and eloquent, especially loud, speeches in Choctaw. It was their evident purpose to hold the floor until the hands of the clock pointed to midnight, when the last minute of grace would have expired. This would have been a period of six hours of oratory, but there were members who felt themselves equal to it.

The McCurtain people saw the game and they retired to the chamber of the supreme court and there they canvassed the vote. The vote had been retained by the supreme judges instead of having been turned over to the national secretary, as the constitution demands. They seemed to fear the national secretary, Solomon Homer, who is a Hunter man. In the count the big Hunter district, comprising Atoka, Blue, Jackson, Kamitia and Jack Fork counties, were thrown out. This left McCurtain a majority of 687 votes. He was sworn in.



and he was allowed by the Indian Agent and Maj. Starr to appoint and arm Light Horsemen. So, backed by the interior department, it seems that McCurtain will be Choctaw governor for two years.

#### HUNTER'S CONTENTION.

But the Hunter men do not think so. They point to numerous violations of the constitution which made the McCurtain forces rebels against the government. They call attention to the failure to deliver the ballots to the national secretary, to the counting of the votes in the wrong place and by the irregularly organized house. The Hunter men are bold in their claim that under the Indian laws if Hunter is not the legal governor that McCurtain is surely not and that Dukes would hold over.

The Hunter men freely charge that Shoenfelt was in open league with McCurtain, that messengers from Gov. Dukes found him behind closed doors with McCurtain and his lawyers, and that his stand throughout was to go beyond his instructions and try to settle the matter as he thought it should be settled, regardless of Indian laws and customs. The Hunter men do not outline any plan of campaign but they will carry the matter to a source above the Indian Agent, whom they charge with recklessly acting in direct opposition to precedents that he established himself in the Chickasaw nation.



THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, October 16, 1902  
Volume 17, No. 26  
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Tuskahoma, I. T.,

Oct. 12.

The expected has happened. The prediction of your correspondent as to the outcome of the struggle between the McCurtain and Hunter factions for supremacy has been fully justified by events which crowded fast upon each other yesterday afternoon.

At 2 o'clock two companies of soldiers from Ft. Reno, under command of Major Starr, arrived at the station and marched hurriedly across the country two miles westward to old Tuskahoma, the seat of government for the Choctaw Nation. Arriving at the council house the troops were lined up outside of the enclosure in front of the building. Marshal Hackett's force of deputies was on duty inside the enclosure while inside the council house Hunter's light horsemen were on guard. When the soldiers arrived the McCurtain legislature, accompanied by their friends and constituents, numbering perhaps 200 persons,



marched to the capitol grounds and awaited at convenient distance the result of the parley being held by Indian Agent Shoenfelt, Major Starr, and Marshall Hackett. What was said in this conference is, of course, unknown except to the three persons mentioned, but when Marshall Hackett was politely waived away by Major Starr and a hurried command given to the soldiers to load their guns it was evident a crisis had arrived and something would be done. At the head of his command Major Starr entered the gate of the capitol grounds and a detachment was placed on each of the four sides of the building. Addressing the crowd he announced that all armed persons must retire to the outside of the enclosure, or place their weapons on the outside. This order he said applied to the United States marshals, Indian Police, as well as to other persons. The order was willingly and promptly obeyed, except by the marshal and his deputies, who retired with evident reluctance. Having cleared the grounds of armed men, Major Starr, with several picked men, attempted to enter the council house. At the door he was met by a Hunter light horse man, who obstructed the way. The Major, in determined tones, said to him "Will you get out of the way, or shall I help you?" The obstructionist quickly decided that he did not need help and sullenly descended the steps and passed out of the grounds. Inside the building the work of disarming the lighthorsemen and members of the Hunter legislature lasted but a few minutes. The arms secured were quickly passed out of



the building, but many of the owners and wearers remained inside. After the guns, pistols and knives had been taken Major Starr appeared on the steps of the capitol and stated that any person could enter the building, provided he was unarmed, and that all were permitted to come and go at pleasure. Two sentries were placed on guard at the entrance to see that no one entered bearing weapons of any description. The first to enter the building were members of the McCurtain legislature. The senators passed to the senate chambers where finding no obstructions they at once proceeded to business. In the house the Hunter members were in session and when Speaker Ward of the McCurtain side demanded that Speaker Hodges of the Hunter faction vacate the speakers' chair, Hodges refused to do so, whereupon he was forcibly ejected, and Ward placed in the chair. Hodges secured a chair from the journalists table, and placing it beside Ward, proceeded to occupy it. The struggle caused intense feeling, but no blows were struck and the excitement soon subsided. The houses of both factions were then in session and both attempted to transact business by their respective clerks calling the roll of its members. The wrangle continued fully 30 minutes, when Supreme Judge appeared with the ballots of the last election, and a motion was carried to repair to the Supreme Judge's chambers and count the vote for the Principal Chief. Two hours were consumed in the count, after which Governor-elect McCurtain at his hotel was notified of his election. Accompanied by a



number of his friends Mr. McCurtain walked to the council house, and in the presence of members of the house and senate in joint session was informed by speaker Ward that he had been elected Principal Chief by a majority of 689, the vote in the nation standing 1,645 for McCurtain and 956 for Hunter. Chief Justice Garland then arose and administered the oath of office to the governor elect, after which the joint session dissolved, both houses adjourned till Monday morning and Governor McCurtain and his friends returned to their hotel.

When the McCurtain adherents left the council house the Hunter faction was still there, and it is not known to your correspondent how long they remained.

During the progress of the events recorded above the most intense excitement prevailed, but at no time was there the least inclination to resort to violence on the grounds.

Indian Agent Shoenfelt has shown great patriotism, wisdom and tact in the trying ordeal through which he has passed, and he is being heartily congratulated upon the manner in which he has handled the situation and secured for both factions unrestricted entrance to their national council chamber.

Tuskahoma, I. T.,

Oct.

Gov. McCurtain's light horse arrived at the council house this morning at sunrise, and when members of the legislature presented



themselves there with their certificates were admitted. The Governor's message was read at ten o'clock. Ex-Governor Dukes asked Indian Agent Shoenfelt this morning to recognize him as governor. His request was refused. Large numbers of Hunter adherents assembled at capitol at 9 o'clock, but made no demonstration. Two members of Hunter house went over to the McCurtain legislature.

Tuskahoma, I. T.,

Oct. 10.

Notwithstanding the fact that Gov. Dukes recognized the McCurtain senate as the legally organized senate, he on Wednesday morning, through a light horseman, ordered James Bower, president of the senate to the executive office and instructed him to convene the senate and co-operate with John M. Hodges as speaker of the lower house. These instructions were submitted to the senate in writing, and the senate determined by a unanimous vote to ignore John M. Hodges as speaker for the reason that they had already recognized R. J. Ward as speaker. Then Gov. Dukes appointed five men as senators who are favorable to Hunter.

Those men, acting as senators, at once co-operated with John H. Hodges as speaker of the Hunter house and met in joint session Thursday afternoon for the purpose of canvassing the vote for Principal Chief. These bodies then proceeded to count the vote for Principal Chief. There are 51 precincts in the Choctaw nation; they counted only one, that being Atoka in Atoka



county, and the envelope containing the vote of this precinct being open when presented was therefore illegal. Upon the result of the count of this one precinct they declared Hunter elected Principal Chief. He was then sworn in by Silas Cole, who assumes to be Supreme Judge of Third District by appointment of Gov. Dukes.

Immediately thereafter Hunter sent United States Marshal Hackett to McCurtain, inviting McCurtain to a conference with Hunter in Hackett's tent. Hackett's actions and surroundings have been such that McCurtain's friends considered it unsafe for McCurtain to accompany Hackett, and McCurtain so informed him. McCurtain further informed Hackett that if Hunter desired a conference with him he could come to the McCurtain hotel. Hackett, appearing anxious for such a conference, at once brought Hunter to the hotel, whereupon Hunter, conceding McCurtain as the legally elected governor, made overtures for a division of the patronage. McCurtain promptly declined to entertain any proposition. Hunter then requested a further conference on Friday morning, which request was promptly declined.

While Hackett, the United States Marshal, claims to be here only to preserve the peace it is evident that his sympathies are with Hunter and Dukes and that he is using his official position to further the interests of Hunter. His sympathies are reflected in his actions, and his actions are so biased that they are freely commented on by both citizens and non-citizens.



THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, October 16, 1902.  
Vol. 9 No. 47  
U. S. Russell, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN ET AL

Tuskahoma, I. T.

Oct. 10.

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While Hackett, the United States marshal, claims to be here only to preserve the peace it is evident that his sympathies are with Hunter and Dukes and that he is using his official position to further the interests of Hunter. His sympathies are reflected in his actions, and his actions are so biased that they are freely commented on by both citizens.

The official vote for Principal Chief has not yet been counted, because the legally organized house and senate cannot peaceably enter the capitol building, having been continuously refused admission by Dukes' light horsemen, supported by Hackett. Troops are expected today.

W. A. Durant was this morning appointed national delegate and was confirmed by the Hunter senate. He is now en route to Washington.

Gov. Dukes' message was read before a joint



session of the Hunter legislature this afternoon.

Tuskahoma; Oct. 11. -- The situation this morning remains the same as yesterday at the seats of the two governments. The McCurtain legislature meets at the hotel every morning, and, after prayer, adjourns for the day. The Hunter government is in possession of the capitol building, and performs its functions there.

Two companies of the federal army will be here this afternoon, in response to the request of Indian Agent Shoenfelt. After they arrive, it is understood that the Dukes Light Horsemen will be relieved from duty, and all persons holding certificates of election will be permitted to enter the capitol building for the purpose of organization. The official count will then be made and the result declared. It is admitted on both sides here that the official count will show McCurtain's election.

McCurtain's hopes hang on the official count of the votes cast, while Hunter's reliance now is upon the count already made by his legislature of just one precinct, that being Atoka, in Atoka County, which gave him a majority of



164.

This being the last day, under the Choctaw law, for settling governorship matters, the question will be finally determined before 12 o'clock. Everything is quiet, and no serious outbreak is expected.

Tuskahoma, I. T., Oct. 10. -- Special to the News Record -- Thomas W. Hunter, is governor of the Choctaw Nation.

Green McCurtain, is also governor of the Choctaw Nation.

Mr. Hunter was sworn in last evening, following the canvass of the votes by the council, the result showing a small majority against ex-Governor McCurtain.

The Senate confirmed the appointment of Hon. W. A. Durant as delegate to Washington, Governor Dukes having appointed him October 1.

The crisis in affairs was brought about yesterday afternoon by the posting of the following notice:

"General council of the Choctaw Nation, October term, 1902: Therefore notice is hereby given that all persons holding certificates of election who do not present same to the undersigned



speaker by 2 o'clock, October 9, 1902, their respective counties will be reported to the principal chief as being without representation, to be acted upon according to Section 11, Page 20, Constitution of Choctaw Nation, Durant's code.

"John M. Hodge, Representative Hall, October 9, 1902."

According to this notice to delinquent councilors, Governor Dukes declared the seates of all absentees in both the senate and council vacant and appointed others to the vacated seats. The deposed members went to the McCurtain hotel and selected men to fill vacancies caused by the absence of the Hunter men and proceeded to organize both branches of council, and the nation has two governors and two councils at noon today.

Everything is peaceful here. Marshall Hackett's forces were reinforced yesterday afternoon by fifteen deputies, and ten more arrived last night.

Ex-Governor Dukes was confined to his bed all yesterday afternoon by fever.

Tuskahoma, I. T., Oct. 12. -- The expected has happened. The prediction of your correspondent



as to the outcome of the struggle between the McCurtain and Hunter factions for supremacy has been fully justified by events which crowded fast upon each other yesterday afternoon.

At 2 o'clock two companies of soldiers from Ft. Reno, under command of Major Starr, arrived at the station and marched hurriedly across the country two miles westward to old Tuskahoma, the seat of government for the Choctaw Nation. Arriving at the council house the troops were lined up outside the enclosure in front of the building. Marshal Hackett's force of deputies was on duty inside the enclosure, while inside the council house Hunter's light horsemen were on guard. When the soldiers arrived the McCurtain legislature, accompanied by their friends and constituents, numbering perhaps 200 persons, marched to the capitol grounds and awaited at convenient distance the result of the parley being held by Indian Agent Shoenfelt, Major Starr and Marshal Hackett. What was said in this conference is, of course, unknown except to the three persons mentioned, but when Marshal Hackett was politely waived away by Major Starr and a hurried command given to the



soldiers to load their guns it was evident a crisis had arrived and something would be done. At the head of his command Major Starr entered the gate of the capitol grounds and a detachment was placed on each of the four sides of the building. Addressing the crowd he announced that all armed persons must retire to the outside of the enclosure, or place their weapons on the outside. This order he said applied to the United States marshals, Indian Police, as well as to other persons. The order was willingly and promptly obeyed, except by the marshal and his deputies, who retired with evident reluctance. Having cleared the grounds of armed men, Major Starr, with several picked men, attempted to enter the council house. At the door he was met by a Hunter light horseman, who obstructed the way. The Major, in determined tones, said to him, "Will you get out of the way, or shall I help you?" The obstructionist quickly decided that he did not need help and sullenly descended the steps and passed out of the grounds. Inside the building the work of disarming the light horsemen and members of the Hunter legislature lasted but a few minutes. The arms secured were quickly passed out of the building, but many of the owners



and wearers remained inside. After the guns, pistols and knives had been taken, Major Starr appeared on the steps of the capitol and stated that any person could enter the building, provided he was unarmed, and that all were permitted to come and go at pleasure. Two sentries were placed on guard at the entrance to see that no one entered bearing weapons of any description. The first to enter the building were members of the McCurtain legislature. The senators passed to the senate chamber, where finding no obstructions, they at once proceeded to business. In the house the Hunter members were in session and when Speaker Ward of the McCurtain side demanded that Speaker Hodges of the Hunter faction vacate the speaker's chair, Hodges refused to do so, whereupon he was forcibly ejected, and Ward placed in the chair by his friends. Hodges secured a chair from the journalists' table, and, placing it beside Ward, proceeded to occupy it. The struggle caused intense feeling, but no blows were struck and the excitement soon subsided. The houses of both factions were then in session and both attempted to transact business by their respective clerks calling the roll of its members. The wrangle continued



fully 30 minutes, when the Supreme Judge appeared with the ballots of the last election, and a motion was carried to repair to the Supreme Judges' chambers and count the vote for Principal Chief. Two hours were consumed in the count, after which Governor-elect McCurtain at his hotel was notified of his election. Accompanied by a number of his friends Mr. McCurtain walked to the council house, and in the presence of members of the house and senate in joint session was informed by Speaker Ward that he had been elected Principal Chief by a majority of 689, the vote in the nation standing 1,645 for McCurtain and 956 for Hunter. Chief Justice Garland then arose and administered the oath of office to the govern-elect, after which the joint session dissolved, both houses adjourned till Monday morning, and Governor McCurtain and his friends returned to their hotel.

When the McCurtain adherents left the council house the Hunter faction was still there, and it is not known to your correspondent how long they remained.

During the progress of the events recorded above the most intense excitement prevailed, but at no time was there the least inclination to resort



to violence on the grounds.

Indian Agent Shoenfelt has shown great patriotism, wisdom and tact in the trying ordeal through which he has passed, and he is being heartily congratulated upon the manner in which he has handled the situation and secured for both factions unrestricted entrance to their national council chamber.

LATER.

Tuskahoma, I. T., Oct. 13. -- Gov. McCurtain's light horse arrived at the council house this morning at sunrise, and when members of the legislature presented themselves there with their certificates were admitted. The Governor's message was read at ten o'clock. Ex-Governor Dukes asked Indian Agent Shoenfelt this morning to recognize him as governor. His request was refused. Large numbers of Hunter adherents assembled at the capitol at 9 o'clock, but made no demonstration. Two members of Hunter house went over to the McCurtain legislature.

Tuskahoma, I. T., Oct. 13. -- The following is a list of national light-horsemen, regular and special, appointed by Gov. McCurtain today:

Ed. S. Bowman, captain; J. W. White, Russ



Vance, Emerson Benton, Simeon Jocole, Sim Harrison, Sam Stephens, Joe Wesley, James Frazier, Solomon Spring, Adam Ishomer, Henry Willis, Turner Everedge, Sim Bohanon, Harrison Nohaya, Isaac Tompson, Jefferson George, Alfred Nokase, Paul Stevens, Alle Metubbie, Jesse Christy, Rufus Winlock, Allen McCurtain, Jonas Thompson, John Riddle, Loring Hancock, Willis Wiley.

The roster of the house shows the following members present today:

R. J. Ward of Skullyville county, Morris Carney of Sugar Loaf, Sim Colbert of San Bois, C. C. Choate of Tobucksy, Goodman McKinzie of Cedar, Stephens Walkins of Nashoba, G. L. Washington of Towson, Madison Jefferson of Boktucklo, I. W. Fishka of Red River, Williamson Mamby of Eagle, and L. D. Vaughan of Wade. Officers -- R. J. Ward, speaker; Peter W. Hudson of Eagle, journalist; Willis Cooper of Gaines, recording secretary; Edmond Pusley of Gaines, doorkeeper; Louie M. Leflore of Red River, sergeant-at-arms.

In the senate were:

James Bower of Skullyville, Peter Conser of Sugar Loaf, Jackson James of Gaines and Tobucksy,



Joel Garland of San Bois, Daniel Webster of Red River and Boktucklo. Timothy J. Cephos of Tomson, Dallas Christie of Eagle and Wolf, Thomas L. Griggs of Kiamichi, Martin Charleston of Atoka, Ellis Bohanon of Jacksfork, Abner B. Pusley of Blue. Officers -- James Bower, president; Alex Williams, interpreter; Jonas Taylor, journalist, Jo W. Conser, recording secretary.

The **feature** of today was the message of the governor which was read before a joint session of the senate and house by the governor's son, D. C. McCurtain, of South McAlester.

#### COUNCIL CHAT.

The governor's message was read in English and interpreted in Choctaw. Close attention was paid by the members and every word seemed to be carefully weighed. Several Choctaw women were present and appeared to be no less interested in the proceedings than the men.

Martin Charleston of Atoka and Adam Pusley of Blue, who affiliated with the Hunter senate, appeared this morning and asked admission, which was granted, not merely upon their certificates, but after an examination of the returns which showed



their election.

To P. S. Lester, the governor's efficient and accommodating private secretary, your correspondent has been placed under many obligations for courtesies shown him.

Capt. I. S. Lowry, of Ft. Smith, is among the prominent out of-the-nation people present. He is a warm personal friend of Governor McCurtain.

Owing to irregularities the vote of three precincts was not included in the official count for principal chief. The returns of Durant precinct in Jacksfork county were not accompanied by certificates of the election judges as the law requires. The Caddo returns had been opened and those of Atoka precinct were not presented, they being in the hands of the Hunter faction. It was upon the count of the vote of this precinct that Hunter was declared elected. Had there been no irregularities and all the votes cast in the election had been counted it is said that McCurtain's majority would have been close to 200.

Ex-Governor Dukes sought an audience with Indian Agent Shoenfelt this morning and demanded of that official that the McCurtain government be



overthrown and that he (Dukes) be recognized as governor pending the adjustment of the Hunter contention. Shoenfelt informed Dukes that he was not in the recognizing business and could do nothing for him. Dukes turned away greatly disappointed and returned to his headquarters. The ludicrousness of Duke's request can be appreciated when it is known that he had delivered his message to the Hunter legislature and had affiliated with the Hunter senate, having been elected senator at the last election.

When the Hunter government was overthrown and left the council house the officers carried with them the seal and important papers and books belonging to the nation. Whether they will give these up when requested is a mooted question. If they are relinquished without trouble everything will move smoothly at the Choctaw capitol as there now appears nothing else upon which to base a cause for a disturbance of any kind.



# THE HOLDENVILLE TIMES

Holdenville, Ind. Ter.,  
Saturday, October 18, 1902  
Vol. 6 No. 15  
The Times Printing Co., Pubs.

## EDITORIAL ON GREEN MCCURTAIN

For more than a week the contending factions at the Choctaw capital were at daggers points over the seating of Hunter or McCurtain for governor. The Hunter men were supported by the outgoing administration and got possession of the capitol and apparently had things their way. Indian sheriffs, U. S. Indian police and deputy marshals were there in force and managed to keep the factions unarmed and active trouble smothered. But at last the United States government sent a company of soldiers there and forced peace.

At 2 o'clock Monday afternoon Major Starr arrived at Tuskahoma from Ft. Reno with two companies of federal soldiers and proceeded to reduce the governorship embroglio to order. The Hunter faction was disarmed and dislodged from the capitol. Supreme



Judge Garland proceeded to conduct an official count, after which Governor-elect McCurtain was notified of his election.

Accompanied by a number of his friends, Mr. McCurtain walked to the council house, and in the presence of members of the house and senate in joint session was informed by Speaker Ward that he had been elected principal chief by a majority of 689, the vote of the nation standing 1,645 for McCurtain and 956 for Hunter. Chief Justice Garland then arose and administered the oath of office to the governor-elect, after which the joint session dissolved, both houses adjourning till Monday morning, and Governor McCurtain and his friends returned to their hotel.



THE COALGATE COURIER

Coalgate, Indian Territory  
October 16, 1902  
Vol. 4 No. 15  
Stevens & Hickman, Publishers

ELECTION OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Tuskahoma, I. T.

October 12c

Two companies of United States troops, the 21 infantry, from Ft. Reno, composed of colored soldiers under command of Maj. Starr, arrived at 2 o'clock yesterday afternoon. It was 8:50 when they arrived at the grounds where the Choctaw capitol building is situated. There was immediately a conference among Maj. Starr, Indian Agent Shoenfelt and Marshal Hackett. This conference was not overheard by the bystanders but your correspondent gets from what seems to be a reliable source that Agent Shoenfelt stated that there was a pretended chief there with armed men called Light Horse and that he had possession of the capitol building. He recommended that the troops be disarmed and that the doors be thrown open to all who desired to enter.



The attitude of Maj. Starr suffered a strange change after the conference with Indian Agent Shoenfelt. He ordered his men to fall in and squads were placed about the capitol building. They had previously received orders to load their rifles. Maj. Starr then proclaimed publicly that all persons bearing arms must withdraw from the yards of the capitol building.

The McCurtain council gained access to representative hall and endeavored to secure possession of the speaker's table and chair. They tore the table away from its place. The Hunter men promptly restored it to its place. In the melee some one struck Hodges, the Hunter speaker in the face. The noise was heard outside and one of the colored soldiers came but evidently thought that this did not constitute a disturbance of the peace, so he made no interference.

Then both councils tried to do business in the same house. The Hunter folks made the most racket. They made loud and eloquent, especially loud, speeches in Choctaw. It was their evident purpose to hold the floor until the hands of the clock pointed to midnight, when the last minute of grace would expire. This would have been a period of six hours of oratory but there were members who felt themselves equal to it.



The McCurtain people saw the game and they retired to the chamber of the supreme court and there they canvassed the vote. The vote had been retained by the supreme judges instead of having been turned over to the national secretary, as the constitution demands. They seemed to fear the national secretary, Soloman Homer, who is a Hunter man. In the count the big Hunter district comprising Atoka, Blue, Jackson, Kianitia and Jack Fork counties were thrown out. This left McCurtain a majority of 687 votes. He was sworn in and allowed by the Indian Agent to appoint and arm Light Horsemen. So backed by the interior department, it seems that McCurtain will be Choctaw governor for two years.

But Hunter men do not think so. They point to numerous violations of the constitution which made the McCurtain forces rebel against the government. They call attention to the failure to deliver the ballots to the national secretary, to the counting of the votes in the wrong place and by the irregularly organized house. The Hunter men are bold in their claim that under the Indian laws if Hunter is not the legal governor that McCurtain is surely not and that Dukes would hold over.



THE INDIAN JOURNAL

Eufaula, Indian Territory  
Friday, Oct. 17, 1902  
Number 41, 27th year  
Alex Posey, Editor

GREEN MCCURTAIN IS GOVERNOR

It was Thomas Jefferson who once gave speech to a thought that the judiciary might sometime overpower the other arms of government, but the experience at Tuskahoma last Saturday was a diametrical opposition to this dictum of the immortal Jefferson, for when Major Starr surperceded the marshals of the Central district, Mars overwhelmed the blind goddess, and the embodiment of the law was compelled to stand from under.

Green McCurtain was sworn in as governor of the Choctaw nation. He had about 600 votes more than Hunter when the votes were counted legally. From all accounts had Major Starr and his two companies of colored infantry not arrived at Tuskahoma when they did, McCurtain would have been governor, but he would have waded through blood to the council house.

Hunter's men were armed and so was McCurtain's, but Green McCurtain had within pistol call two men to Hunter's one and they would have fought like devils.



It was fortunate that outside of the fight for the Chairman's table, in which nothing but fists were used, that the affair passed off as it did.

The council house was cleared, and then all those who had business therein were permitted to go but without arrest.

Then there was a fight of forty minutes, but the McCurtain men came out victorious, even after throwing out two counties which the Hunter people claimed were fraudulent.

The conspiracy, it is said, to seat Hunter, or at least to keep McCurtain from being governor, was hatched at Paris, Texas. Report says that some prominent Ft. Smith politicians were in the conspiracy and there is talk of an investigation. The report on the streets here yesterday which, however lacked confirmation, was that Inspector Zevely had been ordered to Tuskahoma to investigate. If this report is true, there will be an investigation which it is said will unearth a conspiracy which began with the first opposition of the supplemental treaty.



INDIAN REPUBLICAN

Tulsa, Ind. Ter.  
October 17, 1902  
Vol. 11 No. 29-506  
Blakey & Smith, Editors

EDITORIAL ON GREEN MC CURTAIN

It was Thomas Jefferson who once gave speech to the thought that the judiciary might some time overpower the other arms of government, but the experience at Tuskahoma last Saturday was in diametrical opposition to this dictum of the immortal Jefferson, for when Major Starr superseded the marshal of the central district Mars overwhelmed the blind goddess, and the embodiment of the law was compelled to stand from under.

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## THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, October 23, 1902  
Volume 17, No. 27  
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

### BIOGRAPHY OF GREEN McCURTAIN

Hon. Green McCurtain was born November 28, 1848, in Sugar Loaf county, Choctaw Nation. The only education he secured was during two terms at a neighborhood school near old Skullyville, or what is now known as Oak Lodge. He was too young for service in the civil war, but came of a family of warriors. His two elder brothers, Edmond and Jack McCurtain, served with distinction in the confederate army, and both in turn served as governor or principal chief of the Choctaw Nation. In 1872 Green McCurtain was elected sheriff of Skullyville county. In 1875 and 1876 he represented Skullyville county in the general council. The latter year he was chosen speaker of the house of representatives; and in the same year he was elected school trustee which office he held for four years. In 1883 he was appointed district attorney, and was elected to that office in 1884. In 1889 he was elected to the office of treasurer of the Choctaw Nation and succeeded himself in 1891. By him the leased district funds were paid out pro rata, to the Choctaw Indians. In 1894 he was selected delegate to Washington to



represent the Choctaw Nation at the United States national capital, from which office he resigned in 1895. As a delegate he received a salary of \$5,000 per annum, and \$2,000 for expenses. In 1896 he was elected principal chief, and in 1898 succeeded himself. In 1902 he represented his people in Washington, as a delegate, and was one of the delegates who framed the supplementary agreement, which has recently passed in the Choctaw Nation. The amount of salary allowed as a delegate is mentioned for the purpose of showing that he resigned from an office paying \$7,000, and was elected to the office of chief, which pays only \$2,000 per annum.

The above biographical sketch of Gov. McCurtain we clip from the Ft. Smith Elevator, to which we would add. That Green McCurtain has for years been a strong faithful and true leader of his people is an acknowledged fact; but to our mind and many others he is to-day even a grander and greater man. During the late struggle at Muskogee he has shown more courage than ever before. Think of the patience and long suffering he endured knowing so well that he was elected by the people and that fraud and force running so high handed to try to cheat him out of this gift of his people. What was it that gave Green McCurtain the courage to stand all this patiently until right could prevail? We say it was the spirit of God whom he strives to serve. Green McCurtain is very prominently identified with christian people and work. The friends of this man who know his determined nature, his dauntless spirit and fearless courage, wonder at his patience



and endurance exercised at Tuskahoma when Dukes and Hunter tried to defraud him out of his rights and honors given by the people. Then after all this outrage he is seated and declared chief, and then he makes no discrimination against his political opponents. The Hunter supporters take their places in both Senate and House, and in no case has Gov. McCurtain removed a man elected on the Hunter ticket. This we call a most magnanimous spirit and a characteristic of true greatness.



THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, October 23, 1902  
Vol. 9 No. 48  
U. S. Russell, Editor

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

The Indian scrap is now over.

Gov. Green McCurtain is the recognized governor of the Choctaw nation, and as such is recognized by the federal government. The Hunter faction derived little consolation from the sudden turn of affairs, as their charges were not sustained, nor their appeals fruitful.

Col. J. Blair Shoenfelt Saturday received the following telegram from Secretary Hitchcock of the Interior Department:

"Washington, Oct. 18, Shoenfelt, Indian Agent and Acting Indian Inspector, Muskogee, I. T. -- Replying to your telegram of the 16th inst., I am, upon careful consideration of all information received, clearly of the opinion that McCurtain should be recognized as governor of the Choctaw nation. In the dealings of the



department and its offices with that nation in  
executing and administering the laws relative to  
the Choctaws, you will act accordingly."



THE WAPANUCKA PRESS

Wapanucka, Indian Territory  
Oct. 23, 1902  
Vol. 2 No. 24  
Arch K. McGill, Proprietors

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN

Tuskahoma:

Two companies of soldiers from El Reno, under command of Major Starr, arrived at the station and marched hurriedly across the country two miles westward to old Tuskahoma, the seat of government for the Choctaw nation. Arriving at the council house the troops were lined up outside the enclosure in front of the building. Marshal Hackett's force of deputies was on duty inside the enclosure, while inside the council house Hunter's light horsemen were on guard. When the soldiers arrived the McCurtain legislature, accompanied by their friends and constituents, numbering perhaps 200 persons, marched to the capitol grounds and awaited at a convenient distance the result of the parley being held by Indian Agent Shoenfelt, Major Starr and Marshal Hackett. What was said in this



conference is, of course, unknown except to the three persons mentioned, but when Marshal Hackett was politely waived away by Major Starr and a hurried command given to the soldiers to load their guns it was evident a crisis had arrived and something would be done. At the head of his command Major Starr entered the gate of the capitol grounds and a detachment was placed on each of the four sides of the building. Addressing the crowd he announced that all armed persons must retire to the outside of the enclosure, or place their weapons on the outside. This order he said applied to the United States marshals, and Indian police, as well as to other persons. The order was willingly and promptly obeyed, except by the marshals and his deputies, who retired with evident reluctance. Having cleared the ground of armed men, Major Starr, with several picked men, attempted to enter the council house. At the door he was met by a Hunter light horseman, who obstructed the way. The major, in determined tones, said to him, "Will you get out of the way, or shall I help you?" The obstructionist quickly decided that he did not need help and sullenly descended the steps and passed out of the grounds. Inside the building the work of disarming the light horsemen and members



of the Hunter legislature lasted but a few minutes. The arms secured were quickly passed out of the building, but many of the owners and wearers remained inside. After the guns, pistols and knives had been taken, Major Starr appeared on the steps of the capitol and stated that any person could enter the building, provided he was unarmed, and that all were permitted to come and go at pleasure. Two sentries were placed on guard at the entrance to see that no one entered bearing weapons of any description. The first to enter the building were members of the McCurtain legislature. The senators passed to the senate chamber, where, finding no obstructions, they at once proceeded to business. In the house the Hunter members were in session and when Speaker Ward of the McCurtain side demanded that Speakers Hodges, of the Hunter faction vacate the speaker's chair. Hodges refused to do so, whereupon he was forcibly ejected, and Ward placed in the chair by his friends. Hodges secured a chair from the journalists' table, and placing it beside Ward, proceeded to occupy it. The struggle caused intense feeling, but no blows were struck and the excitement soon subsided. The houses of both factions were then in session and both



attempted to do business by their respective clerks calling the roll of its members. The wrangle continued for fully thirty minutes, when the supreme judge appeared with the ballots of the last election, and a motion was carried to repair to the supreme judge's chambers and count the votes for principal chief. Two hours were consumed in the count after which Governor-elect McCurtain at his hotel was notified of his election. Accompanied by a number of his friends, Mr. McCurtain walked to the council house, and in the presence of members of both houses was notified of his election.

The returns of the election as announced showed McCurtain's majority for principal chief to have been 689, the vote in the nation standing 1,645 for McCurtain and 956 for Hunter. Chief Justice Garland then arose and administered the oath of office to the governor after which the joint session dissolved. Both houses adjourned until next week and Governor McCurtain and friends returned to the hotel.



THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.,  
October 24, 1902  
Vol. 15 No. 44  
W. H. Walker, Editor

EDITORIAL ON APPOINTMENT  
OF B. S. SMISER BY GREEN McCURTAIN

South McAlester:

B. S. Smiser, former member of the Choctaw Townsite Commission, presented himself with a commission signed by Green McCurtain, principal chief of the Choctaw nation, as successor to T. W. Hunter, secretary of the commission and late opponent of McCurtain in the race for chief. Chairman Sterrett, of the commission will wait for instructions from the interior department before recognizing Smiser as his successor. The selection of the Choctaw member of the commission rests entirely with the chief. There seems to be no doubt that McCurtain will be recognized by the interior department as the chief. In the first suit appealed by the unsuccessful court claimants the court ordered service made on Green McCurtain, thus recognizing him as chief.



## TAHLEQUAH ARROW

Tahlequah, Indian Territory  
Saturday, Oct. 25, 1902  
Sixteenth Year      No. 7  
Waddie Hudson      Editor & Owner

### GREEN M'CURTAIN IS SEATED

The Choctaw Council is now Peacefully at Work --  
Order Restored by the Arrival of Federal  
Troops.

After a week of bitter strife at Tuskahoma, the Choctaw capital, the contest between Green McCurtain and Thomas W. Hunter for governorship has been settled. The Hunter men were supported by the outgoing administration and got possession of the capitol and apparently had things their way. Sheriffs, U. S. Indian police and deputy marshals were there in force and managed to keep the factions unarmed and active trouble smothered. But at last the United States government sent a company of soldiers there and forced peace. The Hunter faction was disarmed and dislodged from the capitol. Supreme Judge Garland proceeded to conduct an official count, after which Governor - elect McCurtain was notified of his election by a majority of 689 votes.

Soon after McCurtain was put in charge, Hunter issued the following proclamation:

Office of Principal Chief,  
Choctaw Nation,  
Tuskahoma, Oct. 16, 1902

"Whereas, on October 11, 1902, one Green McCurtain was, by a mob of men, illegally declared principal chief of the Choctaw nation, said mob having been admitted to the capitol building by



soldiers of the United States in command of one Major Starr, and

"Whereas, said United States soldiery dethroned, deposed, disarmed and removed, and disabled and prevented from performing their respective duties the chief executive, his lighthorsemen and staff, the general council, of which the house of representatives was at the time in session; and

"Whereas, it is said that said Green McCurtain is professing to perform the duties of principal chief of this nation, therefore

"I, T. W. Hunter, the duly elected and qualified principal chief of the Choctaw nation, as proclaimed in joint session of the general council on October 9, 1902, proclaim to the people of this nation, and to all people, that said Green McCurtain is not the duly elected and qualified principal chief; that he has no right to bind said nation in any liability, nor to transact any business as such principal chief; that he has not the great seal of said nation, nor any legal authority whatever to in any way affect the real rights of the Choctaw nation, and his every such act is and will be illegal and void, and will be contested, and his present illegal,



insurrectionary and rebellious assumption of authority will be contested before all proper tribunals and authorities as rapidly as practically possible.

"Given under my hand as such principal chief, this the fifteenth day of October, in the year of our Lord, one thousand, nine hundred and two."

The secretary of the interior last Saturday wired Indian Agent Shoenfelt that McCurtain would be recognized as the chief executive of the tribe and that the government in executing and administering laws would act accordingly. This will leave McCurtain in absolute control and the further talk of contest, which is said to be confined to a few irrational and irresponsible Choctaws, will be of no avail.



THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Thursday, November 13, 1902  
Vol. 9 No. 51  
U. S. Russell, Editor

MEETING CALLED BY GREEN McCURTAIN

Green McCurtain, governor of the Choctaw nation, has issued a call for a meeting of the chiefs of the five tribes and delegates from each tribe to be held at Eufaula the 28th of this month.

The meeting is an echo of the two calls previously issued by General Porter of this city, for the purpose of getting on foot an organized movement to hold intact the territory of the five tribes and getting it admitted as a state at the dissolution of the tribal governments in 1906. Both the other meetings were failures from lack of attendance and Porter passed it up. McCurtain agreed to issue a call and it is understood that delegates have been elected to attend from the Creek, Seminole and Choctaw nations.



THE SOUTH McALESTER CAPITAL

South McAlester, I. T.  
Vol. 10 No. 1  
Thursday, November 27, 1902  
U. S. Russell, Editor

PROCLAMATION BY GREEN McCURTAIN

The following proclamation bearing the official seal of the Choctaw Nation has been issued:

PROCLAMATION.

To All to Whom these Presents Shall Come,  
Greeting.

Know Ye That: Whereas, the interests of the Choctaw Nation and people demand that public matters of grave importance be considered without delay by the General Council of the Choctaw Nation; and

Whereas, many months will elapse before the convening of the next regular session of council,

Now, Therefore, I, Green McCurtain, Principal Chief of the Choctaw Nation, by virtue of the power and authority vested in me by the constitution and laws of the Choctaw, do hereby issue this my



proclamation convening the General Council of the Choctaw Nation in extraordinary session, at Tushkahoma, the capital of the Choctaw Nation, on the second Monday in December, the same being the eighth day of December, 1902, for the purpose of considering such matters and taking such steps, by legislation or otherwise, as the best interests of the Choctaw Nation and people demand.

Upon the convening of council I will say before it by message such matters as in my judgment demand consideration and action at this time, together with my recommendations relative thereto.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed the Great Seal of the Choctaw Nation, on this the twentieth day of November, 1902.

(Seal)

GREEN McCURTAIN,  
Principal Chief,  
Choctaw Nation.

Attest:

P. S. Lester,  
Private Secretary.



HOLDENVILLE TIMES

Holdenville, Ind. Ter.

Nov. 8, 1902

Vol. 6 No. 18

The Times Printing Co, Publishers.

EDITORIAL ON GREEN McCURTAIN, ET AL

The last of the week Hon. Amos McIntosh of Senora was in Holdenville and called on the Times. He was returning from Tishomingo, where he and Judge Jno. R. Goat visited the Chickasaw council in behalf of the move for a representative Indian council or convention, a move put on foot by Gen. Porter and the Creeks. He says that the Chickasaw council is alive to the propriety and force of such a convention and passed a resolution that the Chickasaws shall take part in it and providing for the appointment of three delegates besides the chief to such convention. He thinks that all of the tribes will send delegations duly accredited by their councils, and that the meeting to convene in response to Gov. McCurtain's call will be attended by legal representatives of all the tribes, and will have great force in the Creek tribe and his opinions are worthy of attention. He is close to Chief Porter and to



the fullblood Indian people alike. He was one of the commissioners on the part of the Creeks to negotiate the supplemental agreement, is now speaker of the house of warriors and is, withal, a liberal, progressive man, who would love to see the Indian Territory bloom.



THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, Indian Territory  
Thursday, December 11, 1902  
Volume 17, No. 34.  
Norma E. Smiser, Editor

MESSAGE OF GREEN McCURTAIN

To the Senate and House of Representatives of the Choctaw  
Nation, in Extraordinary Session Assembled:

Gentlemen:

In view of the fact that the great work of distributing this vast estate among the individual owners is just ahead of us, and in order that I might have the sincere co-operation of the legislative branch of our government, to the end that the problems that are now crowding upon us may be speedily adjusted, is sufficient reason, to my mind, for assembling you in extraordinary session.

In the segregation of coal lands, the Honorable Secretary of the Interior is authorized, under the Supplementary agreement, as follow:

"Within six months after the final ratification of this agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall ascertain, so far as may be practicable, what lands are principally valuable because



of their deposits of coal or asphalt, including therein all land which at the time of ratification of this agreement shall be covered by then existing coal or asphalt leases, and within that time he shall, by a written order, segregate and reserve from allotment all of said lands. Such a segregation and reservation shall conform to the subdivisions of the government survey, as nearly as may be, and the total segregation and reservation shall not exceed 500,000 acres."

After much serious reflection, I am led to the conclusion that great caution should be exercised in the segregation of coal lands. The wholesale segregation of land that shows surface indication of coal, where perhaps there is no coal of a commercial value, ought to meet your most serious objection. Lands that are more valuable for agriculture and grazing purposes, than the coal that may be found thereunder, ought not to be segregated; and where there is no doubt as to the commercial value of the coal the land should not be segregated. Especially should this be true around the larger cities in the Choctaw Nation, where land is being used by citizens for agricultural purposes. I would suggest that your honorable body memorialize the Honorable Secretary of the Interior to exhaust every expedient to ascertain the exact zone of all coal that may be commercially valuable, in order that the allottable land may be diminished to any greater extent than may be found necessary, to carry out the terms of said agreement.

Second: In the matter of the selection of allotments,



by the more ignorant class of our people, I am thoroughly convinced that some legislation is absolutely necessary, in order that they may be properly cared for in the distribution of the lands. While I feel sure that the executive department of your government will receive the earnest co-operation of the Honorable Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, as yet no assurance has been given that the necessary field force will be furnished, whose duty it shall be to assist this class of allottees to discover, point out and name the various sections and quarter-sections which they desire to allot. In order to alleviate, in a measure, the hardships entailed on those who live in the more remote parts of the nation, and cannot, by reason of the distance, reach the land office, as at present located, it might be the part of wisdom for council to memorialize the Honorable Commission to the Five Civilized Tribes, to establish, at some central point along the line of the Saint Louis & San Francisco railroad, a branch land office, for the benefit of those who will find it difficult, if not impossible, to go the great distance that must be now traveled in order to allot their lands. The vast area of the Choctaw Nation, the poverty and ignorance of many of its citizens will appeal with great force to those who have the governmental supervision of these matters. These details ought to receive the immediate attention of council, and I suggest that some measure should be adopted that will amply protect these people. I am not unmindful of the fact that, whatever safeguard we may throw around these



unfortunates, their weakness will be taken advantage of by the cupidity of others, and their last inheritance will finally be swept from them. It is our duty, however, to use every means in our power to shield them, as far as possible, against the distress and suffering that will follow the footsteps of a change in our land tenure.

Third: I herewith transmit, for your consideration, the report of Honorable S. W. Peel, in reference to legal services rendered in behalf of the Choctaw Nation, in the suit instituted by the Pike heirs before the Court of Claims at Washington, D. C. Said report is accompanied by a copy of a contract entered into by the delegate of the Choctaw Nation, J. Dyer, under the act of council creating the office of delegate, on page 339, Durant Code; Section 5, of said act reads as follows:

"That said delegate is authorized and empowered to employ such attorney or attorneys as he may deem advisable, and by and with the advise and consent of the principal chief, on requisition drawn by said delegate and countersigned by the principal chief, on the treasurer of the Choctaw Nation, to disburse and expend not more than two thousand (\$2,000) dollars per annum in payment of such attorney or attorneys so employed by said delegate."

In view of the fact that the delegate had at his disposal the above amount of money to employ counsel, it might be well that you investigate the matter, and take such action as you consider just to all parties concerned..



Fourth: I desire to commend, to your favorable consideration, the services rendered by Honorable Wesley Anderson, who did much to aid your commission, while at Washington last winter, in securing favorable action, by the Interior Department of the United States, on the Supplementary agreement recently ratified. Mr. Anderson's valuable aid and assistance was given at a time when it was sorely needed, and had much to do with securing the favorable terms contained in said agreement. For these services Mr. Anderson has not been renumerated, and I therefore recommend that council take such action as will compensate him for said work, done in behalf of the Choctaw Nation.

Fifth: It is estimated that there has accumulated, in the sub-treasury of the United States, the sum of five hundred thousand (\$500,000) dollars, in money, belonging to the Choctaw and Chickasaws, as a result of the sale of town lots in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Under section 34, of the Atoka agreement it is provided as follows:

"The money paid into the United States Treasury, from the sale of all town lots, shall be for the benefit of the members of the Choctaw and Chickasaw tribes, freedmen excepted, and at the end of the year from the ratification of this agreement, and at the end of each year thereafter, the funds so accumulated shall be divided and paid to the Choctaws and Chickasaws, freedmen excepted, each member of the two tribes to receive an equal portion thereof."



The per capita payment from this amount, to the Choctaws and Chickasaws, would be small, after the Honorable Secretary of the Interior deducts therefrom the amount that may be due the court claimants, in the event of the successful adjudication of their rights in the citizenship court. I am inclined, therefore, to leave this matter to your good judgment, and trust, in the event you think best that you will take such action as will enable every citizen to get the full benefit of these small amounts due them through this source.

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion, I feel that it is our paramount duty to exercise every energy in our power to effect an early settlement of various outstanding claims against the Choctaw Nation, to the end that the moneys yet to be divided among the individuals may not be diminished to any further extent than necessary. In conformity with this opinion, I will submit, by special message, such other matters as may be brought to my attention during the present extra session of council.

Respectfully submitted,

GREEN McCURTAIN,

Principal Chief, Choctaw Nation.



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EDITORIAL ON GIFT TO GREEN MCCURTAIN

Yesterday Messrs. Mansfield, McMurray & Cornish, attorneys for the Choctaw nation, expressed a most elaborate Christmas present to Governor Green McCurtain of the Choctaw nation. Knowing that the old Indian is fond of firearms, the attorneys ordered him a costly hammerless bouble-barrel shotgun of the latest pattern. The weapon was packed in a silver-trimmed leather case with a name-plate bearing the Governor's name, and also that of the donors.