

Wm Gardner
Letter against
McCurtain

A Personal Letter To The Choctaw Voters!

Two Hundred Thousand Dollars Lost To The Choctaw Nation—A Statement of The Amounts Lost to The Choctaw Nation, Through Stealages and Fraud in The Collection or Payment of Royalties.

During Green McCurtain's Administration.

The report of the Treasurer of the Choctaw Nation, for the fiscal year ending October, 1, 1897, showed that there had been turned in to the National Treasury, on account of royalty on coal mined in the Nation, to the time of closing the Treasurer's books.....\$78,225.72

During the above named term, the amount turned in by the Inspectors on the four railroads running through the Choctaw Nation, to-wit the M. K. & T. Ry. the C. O. & G. Ry., the St. L. & S. F. and the K. C. P. & G. Ry., amounted to 16,787.48

The amount turned in by the collectors in the three districts of the Choctaw Nation, to-wit the First, Second and Third, amounted to the sum of..... 11,460.97

Making a total of royalty from all sources of....., \$106,474.17

When it is calculated that the amount collected by all the Inspectors on all the railroads in the Choctaw Nation is the royalty that would be due on one car of lumber per day, for each of the railroads for the term named, without counting the railroad ties used by the Companies and shipped out of the

Nation besides all dutiable material shipped, the merest novice can see at a glance that the gigantic frauds being perpetrated on the Nation, would bankrupt the richest Territory on the globe.

Therefore some of the honest people of the Nation, conceived the idea of employing a special agent to remedy, if possible, this enormous and crying evil. To this end a bill was passed at the last Council, employing S. Guerrier to collect back royalty and to investigate the collections of royalty generally. The bill was passed, and signed by Chief McCurtain and it seemed that there was a prospect of a businesslike and systematic collection of the amounts due the Choctaw Nation. An enormous amount of preliminary work was done by way of collecting statistics from the various railroads, a work of great difficulty, to which some of the railroads responded while others have failed and refused to furnish the Choctaw Special Agent with the required figures. The first railroad to respond was the Choctaw, Oklahoma and Gulf Railway Company; which company cheerfully furnished all information asked for.

Later the M. K. & T. Ry., after considerable correspondence furnished the required figures. The St. L. & S. F. Ry. Co., and the K.

C. P. & G. Ry. Co., have failed or refused to furnish figures asked for.

The figures given below are exact in some instances and estimated in others and the Choctaw Special Agent S. Guerrier, has the original documents and figures to prove the accuracy of the statements made in the cases of the railroads who have furnished statistics and sufficient data to prove to any one who will examine the same, the substantial accuracy of the statements made, which statements are guaranteed to be within the truth.

Amount of royalty due the Choctaw Nation on account of shipments on the M. K. & T. Ry., as shown by the railroad company's books, from December 1, 1895 to September 30, 1897..... \$60,386.86

Amount paid in to the Treasury by S. E. Lewis collector..... 10,153.52

Shortage on the M. K. & T. alone..... \$50,233.34

The above does not include the royalties from mine timbers and as the Southwestern Coal & Improvement Co., and some other Coal mines have refused to give figures they cannot be stated exactly.

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Amount of royalty due the Choctaw Nation, on account of shipments on the Choctaw, Oklahoma & Gulf Railway as shown by the

Company's books from August 1, 1896, to September 30, 1897, \$24,787.40

Amount paid in by A. Telle, Inspector for the above period..... 3,246.77

Shortage on the C. O. & G. Ry., alone.....\$21,540.63

to which sum should added the royalty on mine timbers.

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On the St. L. & S. F. Railway, as has been said, the railroad company refuse to furnish statistics and therefore an accurate statement cannot be given. It is well known however, that the lumber business on this road has been very large and that lumber men have grown wealthy on lumber shipped from the Choctaw Nation which lumber has been practically stolen from the Choctaw Nation, either by the parties shipping such lumber the collectors of the Nation or both.

W. G. Kayser, the Inspector for the above railroad and the collector for the Choctaw Nation of the revenues therefrom reports for the term commencing August 1, 1896 and ending October, 1. 1897, the sum of \$10,050.28.

The most moderate estimate that can be placed on the shipments on the St. L. & S. F. Ry., during the term named would be \$50,000.00 and no doubt twice that amount

would be nearer the truth, showing a shortage of upward of \$40,000.00.

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On the K. C. P. & G. Ry., the amount turned in by E. S. Bowman for the term from August 1, 1896. to Oct., 1, 1897, was the pitiful sum of \$1080.00.

This was a new railroad, using in its construction a large amount of ties and other material; large saw-mill plants and planing mills have been erected along the line and vast quantities of lumber and other material shipped out. The railroad company will not furnish the figures but doubtless the deficiency on royalty from this source would amount to at least \$40,000.00.

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At the time of the investigations it was found that there were but five saw-mills having contracts with the Choctaw Nation, while doubtless there were scores doing business without the authority of the law. These offenders were many of them brought to justice caused to pay up thier indebtedness and made to take out contracts in the future. When these offenders were brought to justice by S. Guerrier, the U. S. Commissioners, in some of the divisions of the Choctaw Nation were prompt to act and punish and much credit is due to Mr. Allen Wright for his prompt

and impartial administration of justice in this regard.

Owing to the immense and unforeseen amount of labor in checking up the shipments on the railroads, and also the obstructions placed in the way of further collections by Chief McCurtain who has by his actions prevented the recovery, for the present, of the amounts wrongfully withheld from the Choctaw Nation, it has been impossible to ascertain the shortages in the collection of the royalty in three districts of the Choctaw Nation, but to anyone in the least conversant with the vast business now being conducted, with the large introduction of taxable merchandise; with the saw mills denuding and destroying forever the valuable timber in the Nation; the stone being quarried; the posts, piling, logs and timber being cut; the valuable walnut which may be daily seen at any depot; and all the wealth of this Nation, the pitiful sum of \$11,460.97, collected would be comical if it were not disastrous. The most moderate estimates place the shortage at \$30,000.00.

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To sum up then the total loss to the Choctaw Nation for the terms mentioned and from royalties alone we have the following;

Shortage on the M. K. & T. Ry. \$50,000.00

Shortage on the C. O. and G. Ry. 21,000.00
Shortage on the St. L. and S. F. Ry. 40,000.00
Shortage on the K. C. and P. G. Ry. 40,000.00
Shortage on the three districts 30,000.00
Total shortage not including Coal \$181,000.00

Many of the smaller Coal Companies have been paying little or no royalty and much has been done to compel payment in the future; much more would have been done but for the obstruction of Chief McCurtain and his supporters, in the honest collection of royalties. A shortage of \$20,000.00 would not represent the real shortage on Coal royalties, but this amount would make a grand total shortage of over \$200,000.00.

How Chief McCurtain and his administration have stopped the good work of collecting this back royalty with their reasons therefor will be told in another article.

Will the Choctaw people submit to the stealage of their timber, the impoverishment of their exchequer, the closing of their schools for want of the funds stolen from them, and support, in the future, those who are responsible FOR THE WHOLESALE FRAUDS AND THEFTS ?

JOSIAH GARDNER,
Chairman Union Party Executive
Committee, Choctaw Nation.

That \$200,000.00 Shortage!

How Principal Chief Green McCurtain and His Administration Stopped the Collection of Back Royalties, With Some of Their Reasons Therefor.

Article No. 2.

The annual loss to the Choctaw Nation for several years past has been a sum in excess of \$200,000.00 and perhaps a great deal more. Details of this shortage have been previously published, and the fact that a large shortage existed was well known to the McCurtain administration at the meeting of the last council. In order to remedy this state of things, some of the citizens of the Choctaw Nation conceived the idea of employing a special agent and attorney for the investigation and collection of these back royalties, and in accordance therewith on November 9, 1897, a bill was passed employing S. Guerrier for this purpose and this bill was duly signed by Green McCurtain, who also gave the special agent a letter authorizing him to investi-

gate books and accounts.

Whether, in view of the subsequent action taken by Chief McCurtain, he was desirous of honestly assisting and attempting to collect these sums due the Choctaw Nation, and whether his subsequent action was the result of a change of policy, weakness in combating unscrupulous officials, or because of conflicting self interests must be decided by those who read the remainder of this article.

At the outset the special agent addressed letters to all the collectors and inspectors in the Choctaw Nation, soliciting their co-operation and promising his assistance to them in the legitimate performance of their duties, in the hope that these officials would see that an honest administration of the affairs

of the Choctaw Nation would result in an enormously increased revenue, be beneficial to all parties concerned, and reflect credit on the administration generally, to these approaches on the part of the agent, some of the collectors responded while others failed to do so; why these collectors should continue either to defraud the Choctaw Nation out of its just rights or be a party thereto, when under the law an honest collection of the royalties due said nation would apparently result to their pecuniary advantages individually, is one of the mysteries that this Choctaw people will have to solve.

Having what seemed to be the co-operation of the principal chief and his administration generally, the special agent made application to the various rail-roads companies and other individuals for statements of business done. The result of this has been published in another article.

The next step was to secure the co-operation of the Interior Department, and to this end, after sufficient statistics had been secured, the special agent laid the whole matter before the U. S. Indian Agent Col. Wisdom. Col. Wisdom whose long experience with the Indian affairs enabled him at once to

understand the character of frauds that had been perpetrated, the difficulties of the situation, and the proper remedy, at once accorded to the special agent all the assistance that lay in his power; Indian policemen were instructed to make seizures of property where the royalty had been unpaid, and also to secure the payments of back royalties due from the owners of such property; and at this point it seemed that a systematic, business like method was to be pursued in the future collection of the Choctaw royalties. (It would be proper to state here, that throughout all the investigations up to the present time, Col.

Wisdom has endeavored honestly and fairly, so far as his authority extended, to assist the special agent in perfecting a system that should result in the proper collection of the sums due the Choctaw Nation.)

In further pursuance of the system of collection, the special agent consulted with the National Agent Hon. W. H. Harrison who also pledge his assistance to the special agent and issued a circular to all concerned that he would refuse the issuance of new contracts for cutting timber to all parties until proper payment for back royalties had been made.

Fortified with this apparent sup-

port, the special agent employed a number of assistants to visit the various districts of the Choctaw Nation, and to wait on the various railroads and other companies, and soon had evidence at hand showing to some extent the amounts that had been wrongfully withheld from the nation.

The first transaction which appeared to demand instant attention was a shortage of from \$30,000.00 and \$40,000.00 on back royalties on railroad ties used by the M. K. & T. Ry., and as this transaction was of great magnitude and importance and covers a great amount of detail it will be made the subject of a special article.

Acting on the information furnished by the special agent, Col. Wisdom immediately issued orders to the Indian policemen to seize all the ties along the M. K. & T. right of way and to hold the same subject to the payment not only of the royalties on these particular ties but of the back royalties due by contractors who had handled these ties in the past.

This action immediately provoked a storm of opposition from the parties who had been directly interested in the production of these ties or collection of the royalties due thereon. It is sufficient to say

at this time in this connection, that from this point an organized effort was made to resist the efforts of those concerned in the honest collection of royalties, and to bend every energy to continue the loose and dishonest methods by which the nation had in the past been defrauded of its royalties. In this effort several disgraceful scenes occurred, which will more particularly be described hereafter. Suffice it to say that from this time the Principal Chief Green McCurtain, deferred to the wishes and desires of those, whose policy it is to continue the loose and dishonest system which has been practiced. At this point, sufficient statistics had been collected to disclose the fact that on the St. Louis & San Francisco Railway, the Choctaw Nation had been defrauded of an amount which might be reasonably estimated at 90 per cent of the royalty due. Seizures were made on this road, collections of amounts due the Nation, which but for the action taken would have been lost forever were made, and remittances sent to the Treasurer of the Choctaw Nation as provided by law. This action aroused the intense opposition of those who fattened and became rich

on the money stolen from the Choctaw Nation, and swelled the torrent of abuse against the special agent and those endeavoring to recover the stolen money and from this time it may be said that Chief McCurtain capitulated and went over to the enemy. Charges were made and investigation demanded of the action of the special agent to all of which Col. Wisdom and the special agent promptly responded and dates were set for such investigations to be had, but when the critical time approached Chief McCurtain and his adherents had some ready excuses to avoid such investigations, of which failure to respond to their own demands for investigation a detailed and particular account will be given hereafter.

In the article heretofore published, a statement has been made of the shortage on royalties on the C. O. & G. Railway and a particular instance will now be given. The amount turned in by A. Telle, for the term from August 1, 1896, to Sept. 30, 1897, was \$3,246.77. The T. M. Richardson Lumber Co. one company doing business on said railway, furnished to the special agent S. Guerrier a detailed statement from their books show-

ing that they alone paid during that term the sum of \$3839.38 to the said A. Telle; the Choctaw Oklahoma & Gulf railway, who it has been said were the first to cheerfully furnish statistics to the agent, rendered a statement showing that during the above term named, the aforesaid company shipped 578 cars of lumber and 45 cars of cordwood, a moderate estimate of the royalties due for these shipments under the laws of the Choctaw Nation would be something in excess of \$8000, showing a shortage of the lumber company mentioned and the exact figures of the railroad company of some \$5000. At the time that these figures were completed the National agent, Hon. W. H. Harrison, requested of Special Agent that he be furnished assistance by the Indian policemen and other assistance in investigating a certain portion of the Indian Territory, containing the richest part of pine timber in the Choctaw Nation, the region referred to being the same as that in regard to which a bill was attempted to be passed at the last Choctaw Council, disposing for nominal sums the richest and finest body of pine in the Nation. This as is well known is in the southeastern part of the Nation, and it would seem with apparent

design of a combination to despoil the Nation of its remaining valuable timber, a railroad has been cunningly constructed, not passing through this timber as it might have done under the charter granted, but running parallel contiguous to the eastern boundary of the Choctaw Nation, and along this railroad large saw mills have been built with the obvious intention of drawing their supplies from that valuable timber, but remaining and maintaining their existence in the State of Arkansas.

To these points, then, Hon. W. H. Harrison, the National Agent, two gentlemen representing the special agent, and the Indian policemen repaired together. It was seen and discovered that an attempt was being made to override the expressed wishes of the Choctaw Council and by issuing contracts to the spoilers of the National timber, accomplish the purpose which the council in its wisdom had attempted to defeat. Protests were immediately made by the representatives of the special agent, and an appeal to the National Agent, W. H. Harrison, to stand by his promise—that he would not in the first place issue any new contracts until the back royalties had been settled up, and in second place to

refuse such contracts as would give these timber concerns a monopoly of the national timber at nominal cost. A further protest was made that no new contract should be issued until they had paid up their back royalties, and a detailed account was handed to the said lumber company of their indebtedness by Col. J. C. Hodges, (who had at that time been employed by the Chickasaw Nation to collect its portion of the royalties, and who also represented S. Guerrier on the part of the Choctaw Nation) and an appeal made by him to the National Agent Harrison, to refuse to issue a contract to the said Richardson Lumber Company until they paid up their past debts, and at this point the whole scheme became apparent. Mr. Harrison admitted to Col. Hodges in the presence of witnesses that he had been ordered by principal chief, Green McCurtain to issue the said contracts in any case.

It was at first the intention to confine this whole deal to one lumber concern, but other companies had scented the rich spoil, broke in to the combination, and demanded a share in the results, contracts were accordingly issued. The sharers in this steal, with impudence un-

Facts Were Too Hot For McCurtain.

Statement showing Chief McCurtain's Demand For An Investigation of the Appointment of S. Guerrier as Special Agent and Attorney for the Choctaw Nation, with Account of His Withdrawal and Failure to Attend Investigation, When The Date Had Fixed by the U. S. Indian Agent, Wisdom

Article No. 3.

When it became apparent that an honest collection of back royalties and a sytematic attempt to place the collection of the revenues of the Choctaw Nation on a business-like basis was not in conformity with the desires and tended to frustrate the schemes of the present administration, great pressure was brought to bear on Chief McCurtain, to interfere and prevent the collection of such revenues for the benefit of the Choctaw people generally. Thereupon a number of persons interested in the production of timber and ties along the lines of the various railroads together with the collectors and inspectors appointed under the present administration prevailed upon Chief McCurtain to appoint a day to meet S. Guerrier, and investigate his actions. On the day appointed, Chief McCurtain and with his adherents met at S. Guerrier's office, at which meeting the parties directly interested admitted the substantial accuracy of the special agent's figures. After

considerable heated discussion Chief McCurtain assured S. Guerrier that he was pursuing the proper course and should be allowed to continue. Notwithstanding these assurances, Chief McCurtain made application to Washington and in various other ways attempted to impede the progress of further collections, and on January 28, 1898, Chief McCurtain wrote to the U. S. Indian Agent Wisdom, to the effect that the bill employing S. Guerrier had been passed by fraud and double dealing—that the nation had been imposed upon and gulled into this business; and that the manner in which Guerrier had secured his contract was not honorable and offered to prove by certain interested parties that Guerrier had procured his bill by bribery and fraud. In answer to this letter, Col. Wisdom immediately appointed the first Monday in March, 1898, and notified S. Guerrier and Chief McCurtain to meet the Indian Agent in South McAlester on that day with all necessary evidence in support of the charges he had made. S. Guerrier immediately approved the action of the Indian Agent and stated that such investigation should be had and the matter sifted to the bottom, and further demanded that instead of vague and uncertain

charges that Chief McCurtain be required to furnish prior to such meeting a specific account of the matters and thing which were charged against S. Guerrier. At this point in the affairs, on February 19, 1898, Chief McCurtain wrote a letter to Col. Wisdom, a copy of which follows:

Executive Office,
Choctaw Nation,
Green McCurtain, Prinp. Chief
San Bois, I. T., Feb., 19, '98
Hon. D. M. Wisdom,
U. S. Indian Agent,
Muscogee, I. T.

Dear Sir;

I am advised by our attorney at Washington, that the Commissioner of Indian affairs has refused to approve the contract of Mr. Guerrier with the Choctaw Nation on the ground that it is unlimited. Under the circumstances I do not see the necessity of having the investigation that I requested, of the manner in which Mr. Guerrier secured his contract. Kindly advise me in regard to the matter.

Yours truly,

Green McCurtain.

To which letter Col. Wisdom replied as follows:

Dep't of the Interior,
Union Agency, Muscogee, I. T.

Feb., 24, 1898, 1897.

Hon. Green McCurtain,
Gov. Choctaw Nation,
San Bois. I. T.
Sir;

Yours of February 19, 1898, has been recieved in which you state that the Attorney of the Choctaw Nation at Washington had advised you that the Commissioner of Indian affairs has refused to approve the contract of Mr. Guerrier with the Chottaw Nation, on the ground that it was unlimited: and, under the circumstances you do not see the necessity of having the investigation of the manner in which Mr. Guerrier secured his contract, and you further ask me to kindly advise you in regard to the matter.

I will state, first, that, in my opinion, the contract with Mr. Guerrier does not require the approval of the department.

Secondly, I believe that it would be good policy to let Mr. Guerrier to continue to collect royalties due and unpaid before October 1, 1897, but in no manner interfere with the royalty which has accrued since that date, and I have advised Mr. Guerrier and I may say have directed Mr. Guerrier not to collect any royalties due the Choctaw Nation, on lumbe, timber, cross-ties, etc., cut and stored since October 1,

The line of demarkation between Mr. Guerrier and regular collectors of the Choctaw Nation is easily drawn, and I do not see why there should be any conflict in the collection of royalties. I understand Mr. Guerrier has collected and turned over to you Treasurer considerable monies collected on the Choctaw Nation's back royalties, and it is my purpose to see that he accounts under the law for every dollar that he collects under his contract. He has so I am informed a good and sufficient bond, approved by yourself, on which he can be sued in the United States Court for any delinquency on his part, and, as a non-citizen, if he should fail to account for any of the monies that may come into his hands as royalties, he would be liable to prosecution for embezzlement,

You have therefore two ways of bringing him to a settlement in the event it becomes necessary, and I do not think—as a man of sense and honor—he would be fool enough to attempt to swindle the Choctaw Nation. If however you desire to nullify the contract between Guerrier and the Choctaw Nation, I suppose you could convene the National Council and re-

and the law under which he was appointed.

My only object—as I have written you heretofore—is to protect the Choctaw Nation from being despoiled of its timber, and I have a right to protect the timber of the Choctaw Nation from destruction because the United States has a reversionary interest in the lands of the Choctaw Nation, and the interest of the United States attaches when the Indian title is extinguished, and you will readily understand that as much of the Choctaw land is poor that when its forests of timber are destroyed, the land will be of little value, and the interests of the United States reduced to that extent.

I would also advise you to require your collectors of revenue to be vigilant and to instruct them to report the names of all parties who cut timber unlawfully in the Choctaw Nation and who operate in the Choctaw Nation without a contract. If such parties are reported to the United States District Attorney, they are liable to both fine and imprisonment under Chapter 240, page 588, Act of June 4, 1888, Vol 1, supplement to the Revised Statutes of the United States, second edition.

I am pleased that you think proper to discontinue the investigation

as to the manner in which Mr. Guerrier received his appointment and, now that the duties of Mr. Guerrier and the other collectors seems to be clearly marked and understood, I trust harmony and good feeling may be restored all along the line and that a united effort will be made to protect your people and their timbered interests against the vandals, thieves and sharks who have so long preyed upon the same and have almost impoverished your nation, closing up its schools and greatly impeded good government on every side of the question.

D. M. Wisdom,

U. S. Indian Agent.

It will thus be seen the Chief Green McCurtain avoided the investigation, and his reasons therefore must be judged in the light of his acts in connection with this matter. S. Guerrier, the special agent, then demanded either a full investigation of all the matters connected with his appointment and actions taken thereunder or else a complete retraction and withdrawal of all charges against him, but notwithstanding his most strenuous efforts he has been unable to obtain either. It is gratifying to know the stand U. S. Agent, Wisdom has taken in this matter, and his deter-

mination so far as he is able to stand between the people of the Choctaw Nation and those whom he so well described as the vandals, thieves and sharks who have so long preyed upon the timber interests of the Choctaw Nation. So well does Col Wisdom understand the situation that when Chief McCurtain requested an investigation and the date was set, he (Col. Wisdom) notified Chief McCurtain if he would bring along with him one honest man he would have his photograph taken and kept in the archives of the Interior Department as a curiosity. Thus began and thus ended the investigation of the royalty matters, since which time the special agent unsupported by the administration has not been able to make collections as he had done up to this time, and the sums which had begun to be paid into the treasury and which would have continued until they amounted to a large sum ceased to be paid. The vandals, thieves and sharks quickly taking

advantage of the support rendered them by the present administration and the Choctaw people are now left to face this question:

Will the Choctaw People at the coming elections return to office the vandals, thieves and sharks who are despoiling the Nation of valuable timber, depriving the nation of just revenues causing the schools to be closed and the Choctaw youth to remain uneducated, bankrupting the treasury, incurring enormous debts to be a burden to future generations of the Choctaw People, and leaving future Administrations and councils without the necessary means for protecting their interests?

JOSIAH GARDNER,
Chairman Union Party Executive
Committee, Choctaw Nation,

McCurtain Knows!

Ask Him!

What Became Of The Balance of The Leased District Money ?

Article No. 4.

When the principal chief, Green ment, were allowed the princely
McCurtain, was treasurer of the sum of 30 per cent in all, one act
Choctaw Nation, the proceeds of providing for 25 per cent, which
the amount collected by the Choctaw Nation and known as the "leased district money," came into his hands. The total amount received from the United States government was \$2,206,987.50. Under laws passed by the Choctaw Council, the amount of compensation to be paid the parties who had in hand the establishment of the claim against the United States, govern-

ment, were allowed the princely sum of 30 per cent in all, one act providing for 25 per cent, which sail act may be found on page 48, law number 14, in copy of the session laws published at Atoka in 1890, the said act having been passed December 24, 1889. at a special session of the Choctaw Council; sometime after the passage of the act allowing 25 per cent, a further act was passed allowing an additional 5 per cent, making as has been said a total compensation of

30 per cent, for the parties who had undertaken the collection of this sum. It would seem that this allowance was sufficient to satisfy the most exorbitant, and that the Choctaw people should receive the full balance due them. This however was too great an opportunity to be lost by those who now claim to be the best guardians of the Choctaw interests, and there is a sum in excess of \$100,000 remaining unaccounted for of this fund. Following is a copy of the condition of this fund:

To Amount recieved from U. S.	
Government.....	\$2,206,987.50
Paid delegation of 1889...	551,746.87
	<u>1,655,240.62</u>
Paid D. M. Ross and Co.,	75,000.00
	<u>1,580,240.62</u>
Paid J. C. Orrick	66,209.62
Net Amount received....	\$1,514,030.00

Of this amount McCurtain paid out \$103 per capita to

13720 names	\$1,413,260.00
Paid D. W. Hodges...	15,000.00
" T. D. Ainsworth	15,500.00
Treasurer's fee.....	17,500.00
Paid expenses.....	17,582.00
Balance on hand.....	35,188.00
Total	\$1,514,030.00

Of the balance above reported the following amounts have to be set aside to pay orphans at Wheelock and Armstrong;

At Wheelock	\$4,326.00
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At Armstrong	6,386.00
Total	\$10,712.00

Also there must be reserved to pay 66 persons on the roll not paid.....\$6,798.00

There are also 57 persons (including those who are doubtful) who failed to register.....\$5,871.00

Total yet to be paid \$23,381.00

R. B. Coleman and family still contend for their share of the L. D. fund.

Balance left after paying all claimants (not including the R. B. Coleman family-) \$11,807.00

In this statement, the first item which is marked "A" the amount paid to the delegation of 1889, was \$551,746.87, is the 25 per cent allowed by law, and the further sum of 5 per cent should amount to \$110,349.37, but instead of this sum being paid out the following sums were paid;

D. M. Ross and assoc'ts	\$75,000.00
John C. Orrick.....	66,209.62
D. W. Hodges.....	15,000.00
T. D. Ainsworth.....	15,500.00
Treasurer's fee.....	17,500.00
Expenses	<u>17,582.00</u>

Making a total of \$206,791.62

Or a sum unlawfully paid out of over

\$110,349.37

Or to put the matter in another shape we will take the original sum

\$2,206,987.50 and deduct therefrom the compensation 30 per cent or \$662,096.25 which would leave \$1,544,891.25. The above account shows first that 13720 persons were paid at \$103 each amounting to \$1,413,260.00; that at Wheelock and Armstrong, there were 104 boys and girls to be paid \$103 each, amounting to \$10,712.00; and these 66 persons on roll not paid, 57 who failed to register and the Coleman family and we have \$13,960 at each \$103, amounting to \$1,437,780.00 which being deducted from \$1,544,891.25 will leave a sum amounting to \$107,111.25. And that is preceding the assumption that the 104

boys and girls, the 66 persons on the roll not paid, and the 57 persons who failed to register have been fully paid, all of which no account has been rendered to the Choctaw Nation. It will be seen that there remains unaccounted for at least the sum of \$100,000, and therefore it would not be inappropriate to ask Chief McCurtain before he solicits the votes of the Choctaw people what became of this \$100,000 or more.

Will you return to office those who, withhold from the Choctaws such vast sums of money?

JOSIAH GARDNER,
Chairman Executive Committee,
Union Party.

CONSIDER WELL. . .

The Statements made in this pamphlet. They are all absolute facts, or they are at least within the truth in every instance and if any McCurtain man disputes them, tell them that the party whose name is signed to them is responsible and come and we will convince him

That the Facts Are Worse Than
These Statements.

And will also show him many things that we have not time to publish. Vote for Jones and everything the Indian owns will be equally divided between all of our citizens.