

INSTRUCTIONS OF THE COMMITTEE APPOINTED TO CONFER WITH THE  
UNITED STATES SENATE COMMITTEE.

BE IT RESOLVED by the National Council of the Muskogee Nation, that,

WHEREAS, A resolution was adopted by the National Council and approved Oct. 19, 1906, in the following words, to-wit:-  
"Be it resolved by the National Council of the Muskogee Nation, That there be and ~~is~~ hereby created a Committee on the part of the Muskogee or Creek Nation to be composed of the Principal Chief, the President of the House of Kings, The Speaker of the House of Warriors and two members of the House of Kings to be appointed by the President thereof, and three members of the House of Warriors, to be appointed by the Speaker thereof, : whose duty shall be to meet and confer with the members of the Indian Committee of the Congress of the United States, who are to visit the Indian Territory and to present to said Committee such grievances or propositions as the National Council may provide or direct by Resolution."

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That,

WHEREAS, In pursuance of said resolution, a Committee has been created consisting of P. Porter, Principal Chief, James Smith, President of the House of Kings, Alec Davis, Speaker of the House of Warriors, Samuel J. Haynes, and George Cosar, members of the House of Kings, and E. B. Childers, J. H. Land, and J. C. Johnson, members of the House of Warriors, Therefore,

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That said Committee on the part of the Muskogee or Creek Nation are hereby directed to meet with the sub-committee of the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs of the United States to represent the Creek people and present their views and wishes with regard to the manner in which the Department of the Interior is carrying into effect the provisions of the original and supplemental agreements relative to the allotment and distribution of the lands of the Creek Nation, especially with

respect to the following phases of the work.

FIRST-- THE ISSUANCE OF DEEDS.

The agreement provides that all deeds to allotments shall be delivered to the Allottees by the Principal Chief. This provision should be strictly complied with.

With the discontinuance of the Courts and the modification of the legislative function of the Council, there is left but one Department of our Government unimpaired, which is the Executive Department, and in order that no question may arise hereafter, as to the validity of deeds, or the authority for the issuance and delivery thereof, and to the end that the great financial and landed interest of our people may be brought to an orderly and satisfactory settlement we should insist upon a full recognition of the Authority and integrity of the Executive Department.

SECOND--MINORS AND INCOMPETENTS.

It was the understanding of the Creek people when the agreement was ratified that the parents of minors or the nearest blood relatives of orphans should act as the legal as well as the natural guardian of such minors without being required to give bond or to account for their actions therein. They had lived under and practiced that system of unwritten law during their entire history without scandal or need for innovation. The question of guardianship, of bonds, and accounting, fall most heavily upon the full blood element of our country. The requirement of attorney's services, court costs, premium on bonds, notaries' fee, etc. consume the greater portion of rents derived from minor's allotments.

Lands cannot be sold during the minority of the allottees and the income from rents on the average allotment will but meagerly support ~~the~~ minors. It is absolutely necessary that this matter be taken into serious consideration and that Congress be requested to enact a special law recognizing the right of parents to act as the legal as well as natural guardian of their children, unhampered and unencumbered by the usual requirements.

THIRD--THE SALE OF LANDS.

The matter of greatest concern to our people at this time is the devising of some plan or system by which our people will receive the greatest benefit from the sale of their lands.

A large number of our citizens are possessed of lands beyond their portion, by inheritance from deceased relatives, or by original allotment. The absolute restriction upon the sale of the allotment of a portion of our citizens and the complicated machinery imposed upon the sale of lands of others, have operated to the discouragement of honest and bona fide purchasers, and have created a rich harvest for irresponsible lessees, and unscrupulous grafters who have acquired possessory rights to allotments by the payment of nominal rentals and by a system of sub-leasing, which are entangling the lands of our people in such a mesh of legal complications <sup>as</sup> ~~that~~ will take years to unravel.

We should insist upon the enactment of a just and comprehensive law by which ready sales can be effected and the highest price secured to our citizens.

FOURTH--APPRAISEMENT OF IMPROVEMENTS.

The Agreement provides that citizens who own improvements on lands in excess of their proportionate share should be paid for such improvements at an appraised valuation, or else should receive rent on such excess holding in lieu of the value of such improvements. The delay in making appraisements of such improvements is resulting in a great deal of loss annually to a number of our citizens, and we should insist that the appraisement should be completed at once, and that all such matters should be speedily and finally adjusted.

FIFTH--FINAL SETTLEMENT.

The roll of citizenship should be closed and finally completed at as early a date as possible, in order that a full and final distribution and settlement of the land and money interests of the Nation may be effected before the organization of the new state of Oklahoma, and the merging of the Creek people into the

common citizenship of the New State.

SIXTH--REIMBURSEMENT OF MONEY.

The Agreement with the government provides that no monies shall be paid out of the Creek funds without an appropriation by the National Council and that all allotment of lands and distribution of monies and the winding up of affairs of the Creek people shall be accomplished without any expense to the Creek people, but on the contrary Tens of Thousands of Dollars of Creek Funds have been expended under the direction of the Interior Department without the appropriation of the Creek Council and in violation of the terms of the Creek Agreement. The Committee should insist upon a full accounting and reimbursement to the Nation of all Creek Funds expended without authority of law and all expenditures incurred by the Creek Nation incident to the issuance of deeds to allotments and town lots and for a keeping of records of the same.

The Committee is further authorized and directed to present and insist upon such other matters and remedial legislation as may appeal to them during their conference with the said Senate Committee with a view of arriving at a satisfactory understanding and settlement of all matters and things as will conduce to the betterment of the conditions of the Creek people and the fair and just settlement and termination of the relations subsisting between the Creek Nation and the United States.

Adopted Nov. 2, 1906.

After striking out all of section three (3).

Sam Grayson,  
Clerk.

Sam J. Haynes,  
President, House of Kings.

Concurred in Nov. 3, 1906.

Mildred Childers,  
Clerk.

Alex Davis,  
Speaker, House of Warriors.

P. Porter,  
Principal Chief.