

Washington, D. C., May 14, 1908.

On the subject of the equalization of the allotments of land made to the citizens of the Creek Nation as provided in agreement, we here state that it is the earnest wish of the Creek people that it be effected as soon as possible, and the undersigned were duly delegated and instructed by the Creek National Council to call attention to the subject and urge an early settlement.

At the time of the signing of the agreement with the Government, the citizenship of the Creek Nation, from former enumerations for purposes of per capita payments of money, was ascertained and generally understood to number not exceeding 15000 souls; so that the provision to distribute to each citizen land and money to the value of \$1040.00 was a perfectly feasible one and was so understood.

The Government, however, exercising the authority of official arbiter in questions of right to citizenship in the nation, prepared a final roll that numbered some thousands more than had ever previously been enrolled. This, together with the enrollment of infants born after the rolls were practically closed, augmented the number of our citizens to where it seemed that the resources of the nation fell short for the purposes of equalization stipulated in our agreement with the Government.

The Interior Department made an appraisal of all the allotments, and practically all the allottees have been officially notified, and from these notices of appraisal each

is fully informed of the amounts, if any, that is yet due in land, money, or both, to make his allotment equal in value to the standard allotment of \$1040.00, and it is these balances varying in amounts of from less than \$100.00 to more than \$400.00 that the individual citizen is insisting should be paid to him in settlement as soon as possible.

The Creek delegation on the 13th of January last, suggested to the Secretary of the Interior that, inasmuch as the resources of the nation were inadequate for the purpose of equalization of allotments as provided in agreement, the available funds of the nation, in the absence of a better plan, be used in a per capita distribution to the citizens.

The delegation had hoped that this proposed departure from the terms of the agreement would necessarily open up discussion and result probably in the formulating by the Department of some plan for an early settlement of this feature of Creek affairs, which would so vary from the provisions of the agreement as possibly to require reference back to the Creek Council for its approval. Owing perhaps, however, to the fear of anticipating pending legislation by Congress looking to the closing of the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes, we have as yet failed to receive response from the Department. We understand that a plan for arbitrarily reducing the value of a standard allotment of \$1040.00 fixed in our agreement with the Government to \$800.00, and effecting a settlement on that basis, is entertained by some of the officials of the Government.

After, however, the value of a standard allotment had by mutual agreement been fixed, and the citizen informed of the appraised value of his allotment from which he has calculated the exact balance due him under the said agreement, any change so radical, as above indicated, from the original plan, it would seem ought not to be made without the consent of the National Council, which body has been by Congress continued with right to act authoritatively in questions pertaining to the final close of Creek affairs.

Respectfully,

Moly Tiger

Princl. Chief Creek Nation

G.W. Grayson }
Sam'l J. Haynes } *Creek Delegates*