

Executive Office,

MUSKOGEE NATION.

P. PORTER, PRINCIPAL CHIEF.

Muscogee, I. T., May 1, 1900.

Friend Grayson,-

Your letter of April 27th is to hand.

I received your letter referred to a few days before I left Washington, and made some inquiry in reference to the books you spoke of, but was not there long enough to have them ordered, and as yet have not found where they are to be obtained. I think they would be of interest and will continue my efforts to secure them.

In regard to the status of the Creek treaty, I do not consider it as entirely hopeless. I believe that it will be ratified by Congress with some amendments, but not such as will change the principle contained in the treaty as a whole. As the treaty now stands there are many provisions that lack clearness and may be improved on. I have written an answer to the Secretary's objections to the treaty, and believe that the interests in the present conditions will have much weight in influencing Congress to take immediate action. No agreement will be acceptable to the Creek people, nor will have any chance of ratification, that does not grant a fee simple

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title to the members of the tribe in their allotments. Leases alleged to have been made by corporations for the mining of coal and other mineral, and for boring for oil and gas, purporting to have been authorized under the provisions of the Creek law, and who are now claiming vested rights, have interposed the greatest difficulty in securing a final settlement of the question of allotment and disposition of our lands. I cannot but believe that this difficulty will be overcome, and that a just and equitable allotment and disposition of the Creek lands and all other interests will be secured, even if not at the present session of Congress. At any rate, I shall maintain the policy of distribution of our lands established by the Creeks, and never consent to any allotment that does not give a fee simple title to the individual member of the tribe, and that all their lands be allotted to them, and that the disposition be upon the principle of equality in value. Also that the same principle obtain in the matter of town sites.

I will be pleased to see you if it is convenient for you to come up in a few days, and to talk with you fully upon the matter, and shall be pleased to hear your views in regard to the situation.

Very respectfully,

P. Porter