

OHS # 35571

MESSAGE OF LOCHAR HARJO

Okmulkee

Dec. 6th, 1875

To the Hon. Houses Kings and Warriors
of the Muskokee Nation
In council Assembled

Friends and fellow citizens,

Having just been installed as the chief executive of the Muskokee Nation, and this being a very short session, I do not deem it necessary to make a lengthy message to you, but only alude and call your attention to such things as may seem to me for the best interests of the Muskokee people and Nation.

I would first congratulate you upon the present unity and harmony of the Muskokee people, who for many years have had their peace and harmony disturbed by divisions among them but at present I am happy to say they seem more united than for many years before. For these blessings and the prosperity our people now enjoy and for the abundant crops they have been blessed with the past year. We should return our greatfull thanks to that Holy being that Great spirit, who rules and governs all things.

Our educational interests require your greatest attention, owing to the change of officers in this department, and the removal of schools to different localities. The people seemed to

have lost the interest they had formerly taken in education. I speak of our people who are full Indian and whom of all others need educating the most. We should by all means in our power encourage Education, the diffusions of knowledge and religion among our people. The most prosperous and happy nations on the earth are those who are educated, enlightened, industrious, economical and who fear god and obey him. Educate the youth of both sexes to honesty industry and economy that the men may be good useful and prosperous citizens, the women that they may take their places in the house hold and culinary Departments and be helpmeet for man, and they should be encouraged more and more to use the spinning wheel and the loom. Portions of our soil and climate are well adapted to the growing of cotton, and raising of sheep -- these two will supply all the necessary material for the manufacture of fabrics suitable for clothing for both sexes for all seasons of the year -- and if raised more extensively would be a considerable source of income to our people -- this has been demonstrated by our people living around Eufaula on the north and south Canadian.

I would also urge upon our people through you the raising of cattle and hogs, and not to dispose of any if possible until they come to maturity. These increase rapidly and when properly attended to and cared for are another source of profit.

You should look well to the laws of the country. They are

the guide of the people and intended to protect all alike in person and property -- some may be oppressive others may bear more heavily upon one class of our citizens than another -if so- they should be repealed -- for instance the law enacted at your last october session, relative to the hire or employing of citizens of the United States. This law is not consistant with the advancement of our people. Therefore I recomend that you so modify it as to make it consistant with the advancement of our people. I would also recomend that your hon. body make such legislation as will authorize the executive to call upon the agent to remove all intruders from within the limits of our nation -- and I will call upon and shall expect all officers charged with the execution of the laws, to do it faithfully honestly and fearlessly.

Laws should be enacted requiring every financial officer to render a strict account Reporting every item, and requiring them to keep all certificates reports -- accounts and other papers made to them or sent to them and they to submit them to the officer or Department to which they report as their voucher -- for what they have done. Thus furnishing financial committees -- whose duty it is to report the condition of the finiances of the country to the National council, a guide to guide them in their Labors. Heavy penalties should be imposed upon all those who do not comply with these Laws.

Laws should also be enacted for the Punishment of fraud

corruption, and Malfeasance in office making them apply to all departments of the Government Executive, Judicial -- and Legislative.

The Executive clemency should never be used except in extreme cases -- appeals for Executive clemency should be accompanied by a petition of the court and jurors having tried the same, accompanied by all the proff in the case with all palliative circumstance relative thereto -- and then only when the public good seem to require it.

I would also call your attention to the public Debt and would recomend that you adopt some plan to releive the Nation of it as speedily as possible and consistent with the public good.

I have the Hon. to be

Your obedt. Servt.

LOCHAR HARJO

Principal Chief

M. N.

Wm Harrison)
PS.)