

FOREMAN, GRANT.

BALLENTINE REPORT.

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Grant Foreman,
Director S 149,
April 23, 1938.

Allentine report
The Cherokee Advocate
December 2, 1932
page 3, column 1.

Fort Gibson, Okla.
October 10, 1932.

Hon. C. J. Harris,
Principal Chief,
Cherokee Nation, Okla.

Sir: - Having made my report to you as Principal Chief, at the last regular session of the National Council, and in conformity to what I perceive to be my duties I again report to you the present condition, and what has transpired at the Old Military Reservation near Fort Gibson, Okla., during the past year, and which I have the honor to submit as Custodian of said reservation buildings thereon.

It is well known that the above named reservation was set aside by treaty stipulations for military purposes, and that whenever it was abandoned by the U. S. Government as a military post, the same reservation should revert to the Cherokee Nation. In accordance with this agreement this property reverted to the Cherokee Nation about three years ago, but no formal transfer of the property having been made at

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that time the Cherokee Nation was not out in possession until November 4, 1852.

On the 23, following December, an act was approved for a permanent custodian of the property, who was authorized and directed to report on or all of said buildings, and all rents accruing therefrom to be collected and turned over to the treasurer of the Cherokee Nation, with proper reports accompanying at certain stated periods.

It may be well to state that the act, providing for the protection of the property, while for Indian persons from settling on or taking anything away from said reservation; failed to provide a penalty for the violation of this act, and the result has been that a number of persons have not only cut and carried away valuable timber, but have made temporary claims upon said reservation. The consequence is that the Cherokee Nation has no remedy for such depredations, and violation of this law, until further legislation by the National Council.

(See letter to Principal Chief in regard to this matter.)

For the further information of the Principal Chief and

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Council I will state that two of the best houses on the reservation were occupied by intruders, to-wit: J. J. Plank and Jasper A. Plank who after four or five months of delay were ejected, the former by the U. S. authorities and the latter by the Cherokee authorities, consequently no rents accrued from these two buildings for that time. The remainder of the buildings have been rented mostly to transient tenants who stay only a short time. However, we have a few permanent tenants, consequently, from the present outlook, we believe that the revenue for the past eleven months will amount to something near \$300.00.

In conclusion I would respectfully recommend that you suggest to the National Council, the expediency of taking some permanent disposition of the property at its next regular session, whereby it can be leased or otherwise permanently (Sic) disposed of to the best interest of the Cherokee Nation.

Very respectfully yours,

J. H. MILLER,

Custodian (Sic) Military Reservation.