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EDITORIAL ON APPROPRIATION OF MONEY

Washington, Jan. 3

The Secretary of the Interior today received a telegram from Agent Wisdom, of the Creek nation, stating that that tribe had called a council to appropriate money with which to pay legal fees in the hope of stopping the reorganization of the Indian Territory. Secretary Bliss replied to this message as follows:

"I have been advised that the chief of the Creek nation has called a council to appropriate money to pay lawyers to prevent the new law giving to United States courts jurisdiction over the territory from going into effect, to have it repealed. Attention is called to the fact that this law became operative January 1, and with it provision was made that no act of a tribal council would be valid unless approved by the president. I am convinced that there is no possibility of securing the repeal of the act, and therefore, consider that the action of

the council would be a useless expenditure of time and money; and I would not recommend the president to approve it, but on the contrary would recommend that he disapprove it."

This message is very significant of the intention of the government to tolerate no further nonsense in the Indian Territory. This is the first evidence of the manner in which tribal enactments will prove of no avail. It is a safe prediction that the frequent trips of the Indians and their representatives to Washington for the purpose of opposing reforms are at an end. If money is appropriated by the Indians for the purpose, their ordinances will be disapproved promptly in Washington, and the councils soon will find it a waste of time to assemble. It can be seen from the prompt response of Secretary Bliss that the work of reform already is on in the Indian Territory.

The Republic correspondent was informed this evening that a letter had been received by one of the Cherokee full bloods now in Washington, in which dire threats of resistance to the new law were made by certain hot heads in the Territory. This letter was said to be from Wat Star, in the Cherokee nation, to the effect that he proposed to go right along holding his tribal court as though no new order had been established. It is said that the Cherokee delegates here wrote to Star to go ahead and they had \$20,000 which they

would spend in support of his resistance to the federal authorities, It was also said that a letter was received here from Isparhecher, chief of the Creeks, saying that he would pay no attention whatever to the new law; would call his council together for legislation and cared nothing about the approval of the president.

The Republic correspondent asked a prominent official of the administration what would be done in such a case. He said that no importance attached to such threats.

"It is not worth while taking these expressions seriously," however -- and there need be no misunderstanding about it in the Territory -- that the Government proposes to enforce the new law to the letter, Of course, we shall not exaggerate threats of men resisting the great power of the Government with \$200,000 and that sort of nonsense; but it will be well for these tribesmen to note the new law and observe it carefully. They will get into quick trouble if they attempt any foolishness with it."