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W. H. Walker, Editor

EDITORIAL ON PROCLAMATION BY ISPARHECHER

Muskogee, I. T.,

Feb. 12.

Chief Isparhecher of the Creek nation, has issued a proclamation dealing with the recent action of the secretary of the interior forbidding the appropriation by the Creek council of money to pay attorneys to resist the operation of the recent act of congress abolishing the tribal courts and conferring complete jurisdiction on the United States courts.

"I see in the public prints much surmising concerning myself. Some think I have retired to my country home to saw wood, others that I have accepted the inevitable without a further struggle, and still others say that I am planning either war or a general exit with my people to Mexico. None of these surmises disturb me in the least, for I do not regard them any more than the idle, passing winds. Yet, inasmuch as my silence seems to annoy some people,

I will give the public my views of the situation as I now see it. The United States government has by its late acts of congress abrogated the treaties heretofore made with the Indians of the Indian Territory, disregarding their wishes and ignoring their treaty rights. I feel that this is an assumption of power unauthorized by the organic laws of the American union, and simply a declaration of war, which would be resisted as such if such treatment were attempted against the similar rights of any nation other than the weak, defenseless tribes of the Indian Territory. In other words, it is a challenge of power without affording the Indian any weapon of defense. The Indian is simply a target to stand up and be shot down. This is not fair. Let the Indian have an equal show, and if he then proves himself an unequal match, his defeat cannot be charged to unfairness. It has ever been the boast of Americans, that above all things they loved fair play -- equal right to the humblest of citizens at all times, but I ask in all candor, is such the fact regarding the Indian at this time? Is it fair that the Creeks shall be denied the use of their money to use as they please? Are they not free born, and entitled to the exercise of the rights guaranteed to a free people? Yet we, the Creeks, are denied the use of the means necessary to protect our rights in the courts of the United States. Thus it seems that we, the Creeks, have no rights of self-control and are to be dealt with as little children only."