

THE FORT GIBSON POST

Fort Gibson, Indian Territory
Thursday, December 1, 1898
Volume 9, No. 4
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DAWES-CREEK TREATY

Chief Isparhecher of the Creek nation was in Muscogee the other day, and in an interview with a correspondent of a St. Louis paper regarding the recent defeat of the Dawes-Creek treaty by the Creek people, he is quoted as saying that it was not because he was opposed to treating with the United States that he did all he could to defeat the Dawes-Creek treaty at the election, but because he did not think the treaty as framed afforded sufficient protection to those of his people who really needed protection. He expressed himself as being perfectly willing and anxious to try and induce his people to agree upon a treaty with the United States looking to the abolition of the Creek tribal government, provided the United States would agree to limit the holdings of the Creek freedmen to 40 acres of land per head.

At the close of the civil war, the United States compelled the Creek Indians to give each negro in the Creek nation, and to such others as had resided there and would return within one year after the ratification of the treaty, an equal interest in the

lands and moneys of the Creek Indians.

This, the old chief contended, was an outrage on the Creek people and compelled them to give the negroes and their descendants at least one -third of the lands and moneys of the Creek nation, and that before he will consent to his people ratifying a treaty, the United States must make reparation for this wrong. The position taken by Isparhecher regarding the Creek freedmen has been whispered about for some time, but the old chief is the first one who has been bold enough to make it one of the conditions of a treaty.

Chief Isparhecher and many others of the Creek Indians fought in the United States army during the war and they cannot get over the fact that they fought to free the negroes and were in turn compelled to give them at least one-third of their interest in the Creek lands and moneys. He will no doubt make a proposition to the Dawes commission to frame another treaty.