

1135.04

ISPARHECHER TO NATIONAL COUNCIL

COO

Okmulgee, Ind. Ter. Oct. 19.  
1899

To the National Council

Gentlemen:

I submit, herewith, the within claim for \$17.20 in favor of Amos Gray, the same being for woods and fuel furnished the session of two Councils, for which your favorable consideration is solicited

Very respectfully

Isparhecher

Prin. Chief. M.N.

THE DAILY CHIEFTAIN

Vinita, Cherokee Nation, I. T.  
Saturday, Dec. 17, 1898  
Vol. 1, No. 66  
D. M. Marrs, Editor

MESSAGE OF ISPARHECHER

"To the National Council:

"Gentlemen:

During your last session matters of public importance necessitated my absence during the last days of council, but, having rejected the proposed agreement with the United States, I fully expected you to formulate some plan or policy to be adopted and pursued by the nation in its future efforts to preserve our national interests. This was not done, however, and the conditions at present are such as compelled me to hasten to convene you in extraordinary session in order that you may take such action as will clearly indicate your plans for the future.

"Three of our brother tribes, as you are aware, have negotiated terms with the United States and are endeavoring as best they can to adapt themselves to the workings of the new order of things while the trend of public opinion and affairs all tend to show that the tribes of the Indian Territory must at as early a day as possible shape their affairs in the line indicated by the Indian policy of the United States.

"From all of our past actions it is very clear that the Creeks are bitterly opposed to breaking up the relations subsisting under former treaties with the United States and the conditions growing out of them; but while this is so, it is equally clear now that a change must come, and this leads us to the question and consideration of the advisability of taking a hand in the work and doing what we may to give it direction and shape with a view to the preservation of the best interests of our people.

"The subject of entering into an agreement with the United States has been before our people so long, and so fully has it been discussed that all understand better today the will and wish of our people with reference to it than any time in the past,

and any person appointed to represent the people can now be confidently regarded as a true exponent of their spirit and pleasure more than at any time in the past. In these circumstances, therefore, I suggest that you provide a suitable commission or delegation of a number of competent men, clothed with power and authority to enter into an agreement with the United States for an allotment of all the landed possessions of the Muskogee Nation among its bona fide citizens. In such division I would suggest that all the land be divided and taken up, each citizen receiving an equal share of the lands of the nation wherever he may select the same, without intrusion on the rights or improvements of another citizen, to hold and use or dispose of as he may elect, leaving no surplus lands anywhere for the possible future operations of trusts, land syndicates and similar corporations now loudly complained of in the surrounding states. The lands so allotted should include everything of value found beneath as well as on the surface.

"The matter of townsites in the Muskogee nation has come to be of signal importance in the

public affairs of the nation and should receive your careful consideration in any agreement attempted or concluded with the United States. In case you provide a delegation to represent you in any negotiations with the United States, I would recommend that they be instructed to arrange for the sale of lands now platted and incorporated under the statutes of the state of Arkansas for townsites, to the duly authorized authorities of such incorporated towns, at some clearly stated price per acre, title to which may be given the same in the case of general allotment as soon as the agreement shall be signed and ratified and the price of such townsites paid to the authorities of the nation in cash. This would be a simple matter by which to solve the townsite question, and one which would involve no intricacies or complications which may not be clearly understood by the humblest citizen.

"Our tribal government, while republican in form and not perfect, has nevertheless been satisfactory to us, and under it we have achieved many successes towards the upbuilding of our people, and we cannot look upon our being compelled to lay it aside for something else as anything other than a serious wrong. I recommend therefore, that every

proper effort be made to retain, intact, the operation and jurisdiction of our laws and government in all controversies and things wherein all the parties shall be bona fide citizens of the Muskogee nation. I would further suggest that any stipulation for the retention and continuation of our government should fix some reasonable period of time during which the right of self government shall continue and also provide that the usual national funds be received and and disbursed by our duly authorized officers in defraying the expenses of our government during all of such period. After the expiration of such period as shall be agreed upon all moneys outstanding to the credit of the Muskogee nation in the treasury of the United States, including principal as well as accrued interest, shall be paid out per capita in money to the citizens of the Muskogee nation.

"It has been held by responsible parties that the alleged claim of the Missouri, Kansas and Texas railway company, to each alternate section of land for ten miles on each side of its right of way through the Creek nation, cannot be maintained against our consent to the detriment of the landed interests of the nation, and while this position

at once commends itself to command reason as the correct one, the alleged claim is one that has stood as something in the nature of a menace to the efforts and industries of our citizens located along said right of way, and I recommend that such commission require the government of the United States to undertake in clear and unmistakable terms to guarantee our people against further apprehension from this source.

"In conclusion I must assure you that it has been my hope all along that the government of the United States, so lavish in its professions of love and friendship for the meek and friendless, would not force us, its meek and trusting wards against our will to accept a course so at variance with our past methods and history. But with the lights and age before me now I can see no other course left to us but that indicated in the foregoing suggestions, and, unpleasant as it is to me, I commend it to your calm and thoughtful consideration. In connection with the foregoing, I would further suggest that any commission appointed be instructed to assist on an early settlement of all claims of the Muskogee nation or individuals thereof against the United States. I have not entered

into detail here and perhaps have overlooked some other subjects of importance, but should you undertake to negotiate an agreement as herein suggested, I feel sure that your good judgment and true patriotism will point out to you the interests that will best subserve your ends. Wishing that He who overlooks us from above may guide you in an earnest endeavor to do the right, I remain,

Your obedient servant,

ISPARHECHER,

Principal Chief Muskogee Nation.