

THE PURCELL REGISTER

Purcell, Chickasaw Nation, I. T.  
Thursday, August 13, 1896  
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W. H. Walker, Editor

MESSAGE OF ISPARHECHER

Okmulgee, I. T.

August 5, 1896

To the National Council Assembled:

Gentlemen:

I submit herewith a communication from the Dawes Commission which embraces the subject matter to which I desire to call your attention at this time. I refer especially to that clause of the late law of congress which confers upon the commission the duty of preparing correct census rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes. That this should be done, is no less desired by the United States Government than by the said tribes. Had this been done years ago, its accomplishment would not be so difficult at this time. Many thousands of dollars of our public funds

would not have been expended upon fraudulent claimants, and our Nation would not now be forced to the necessity of incurring this extra amount of labor and expense which delay has made unavoidable. Difficulty and expense will not lessen by further delay. I therefore urge upon you the importance of taking into consideration at this time such legislation as shall be most effective in securing a correct census of our citizens. The usual method heretofore authorizing the town authorities to prepare their census rolls has proven satisfactory in all the towns except the colored towns, and while I do not insist upon any legislation that would indicate a discrimination touching the rights of any citizens, yet I do insist that it is your duty to enact such legislation as shall secure a correct census of our citizens. In order to do this I think it is best that a special census commission should be employed to make out a census roll of our colored citizens. This method would doubtless give better satisfaction to all parties concerned, as it would constitute the fairest means within our power for securing a correct census of our colored citizens.

I call your attention also to applicants for

citizenship. A large number have already filed their application before our citizenship court and it is likely many more will do so. It is made obligatory by said late law of congress that all applications for citizenship filed before the tribal courts since the enactment of said law shall be disposed of within thirty days after such filing. It therefore becomes indispensable that we employ adequate means for performing this work in the given time. It is important that you should consider the capacity of our present constituted citizenship court for performing this work and enact such legislation as to secure a disposition of all applications within the given time.

I also refer for your information a communication from the said Dawes Commission dated July 8, 1896, requesting copies of laws, etc, and hereby furnish you my answer of prepared copies for your inspection.

In regard to the subject of negotiation mentioned in the communication herein enclosed bearing date of July 1, 1895, will say that I have a copy of the proceedings of the International Council, convened at Eufaula on July 8th last, relating to that subject, which I will submit to you at your present session by separate message.

In conclusion permit me to express my sincere thanks to you for your promptness in responding to my desire for your assembling in extra session, and I indulge the hope that your session will be harmonious and characterized by wisdom, patriotism and dispatch of business.

Your obedient servant,

ISPARHECHER

Prin. Chief, M. N.

Okmulgee, I. T.

August 5, 1896

To the National Council Assembled:

Gentlemen:

I have the honor to transmit for your information the accompanying copy of the action of the International Council and earnestly ask your favorable consideration of the same and desire that you will enact such legislation as shall accord with the recommendations expressed therein. In addition thereto I would recommend the appointment of at least two competent citizens to act as representatives in behalf of our Nation before the Dawes commission for the purpose of resisting fraudulent claimants for citizenship and to act in conjunction with the attorneys who may be employed by our nation for that purpose. I realize that our people have never been confronted by greater questions nor called up on to respond to more weighty responsibilities than at this time. In dealing with these questions every patriotic citizen should be impelled from a sense of duty to cooperate with the constituted authorities of our nation in the struggle for self preservation. This is a

question that is paramount over every party or political difference now existing in our nation. It is a demand upon the services of our most competent and patriotic citizens regardless of political affiliation. I therefore trust that you will call to the positions required to be filled only such men as shall be qualified to perform the duties assigned them.

I have the honor to be very respectfully,  
your obedient servant,

ISPARHECHER

Prin. Chief, M. N.