

THE INDIAN CITIZEN

Atoka, I. T.,
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B. S. Smiser,)
Norma E. Smiser,) Editors

MESSAGE OF ISPARHECHER

Gentlemen:-

You are convened in extra session of council at this time for the purpose of hearing a full report of our late national delegates. In a partial report submitted to me by your said delegates a new and alarming state of Indian affairs were made known, which to me seems to make it necessary that you meet at this time in order to receive a full report from them and consider whether or not any action on your part is made necessary. It seems important that you should take immediate action on the matters embraced by their report. It appears that the Indian appropriation bill which embraced an item of \$333,000 in favor of our nation, and certain other matters of general legislation, by which our civil and criminal courts were to be abolished on the first day of

January, 1898 failed to receive the approval of the outgoing president.

The general opinion is, that this and other such bills will have to be re-enacted by the present extra session of congress and approved by the incoming president. I am not officially informed that this has been done, but I am reliably informed that this bill has passed both branches of congress in the same shape in toto that it passed the old congress. The act appropriating the \$333,000 provides that the money shall be paid by the United States government officer on our national indebtedness, and on no other account, and only after the government is satisfied that such debts were just and correct. It is proper that we should pay our just indebtedness, and not for the government to do so with our money. We are the sole judges as to what our just indebtedness is, and we should pay it through our national treasurer, as we have paid our debts heretofore.

The question resolves itself as to whether we will accept this money under the conditions specified or not. From the report of the committee on warrants, it will be seen that our correct indebtedness to date is shown to be less than \$200,000. This

being true, some disposition should be made of the remaining \$133,000 provided you should elect to accept.

I am aware that our people are in need of a per capita distribution of a portion of their fund, and must feel greatly disappointed that a part of this money cannot be used for such purpose.

The Dawes commission will be among us again soon, for the purpose of negotiation with us and the other nations, and we should make necessary preparation to meet said commission. The appropriation of our commission has been exhausted requiring a further appropriation at this time.

I now content myself with this simple statement of facts as they have come to me, in the full belief that when a fuller report shall be rendered to you by your several representatives you will meet the situation by wise and considerate action.

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

ISPARHECHER,

Principal Chief, C. N.