

WAGONER RECORD

Wagoner, Ind. Ter.

March 9, 1894

Vol. 2 No. 22

M. Phillippe & J. C. B. Lindsey, Editors

CREEK INDIAN LAND OWNERS

By the United States census of 1895 the Indian population of the Creek Nation was 9,921, says the St. Louis Republic:

There were also according to the same authority, 5,341 negroes entitled to all the rights and privileges of the Indians. To these 15,000 citizens the government of the United States has guaranteed the use in common of 3,030,000 acres of land. But as a matter of fact the 3,030,000 acres are not held "in common" by those who are entitled to them. Over one-third of it is absolutely controlled, and for practical purposes is owned outright by 16 individuals and firms; or, to be exact, the number of acres so monopolized is 1,072,315. A pretty good slice of this mundane sphere for 61 firms and individuals to own, isn't it?

This monopoly of land by the few was made possible by this peculiar act of the legislature of the Creek

Nation, referred to in this correspondence a few days ago, authorizing the fencing in of the border of the nation to a depth of 10 miles for the ostensible purpose of preventing live stock straying into Oklahoma, where, it was represented to the unsophisticated red man, it would be gobbled up by the whites and confiscated. In view of the fact that for the most part natural lines of demarcation such as streams, large and small, were followed in fixing the boundaries of the tribal possessions; it can be readily judged that the very best and most productive lands of the nation are thus monopolized by these very few men who had the money to erect fences.

A funny feature of this whole business is that those who "hogged" the land paid into the tribal treasury in rents the first year a sum total of \$7,000 but it cost the nation \$9,000 to survey it for them, thus leaving a deficit of \$2,000, which the common people had to make up for the barons. Of course this tax came out of the annuities from the government at Washington and the license taxes collected from whites and others doing business here, which are the only sources of national revenue. The barons pay into the Creek treasury annually 5 cents an acre for this million and more acres

of land they have fenced. They then sublet it to cattlemen from Texas and elsewhere for pasturage purposes and charge from \$1.50 to \$2 per head for pasturing the stock. The cattlemen realize the bonanza which the land barons have in this nation, and many of them are full partners of the monopolists, subletting in turn the fine grazing lands to other cattlemen who are not so fortunate as to have a "pull" with the barons or the ready cash with which to buy themselves a "pull." It was difficult enough in all conscience to get the list of names of individuals and firms hereto attached, the most of whom have natural and "acquired rights," meaning those privileges and immunities which accrue to the squaw men, and to attempt to get the names and addresses of these cattlemen of Texas elsewhere who are sharing in the monopoly of the land would be to undertake a task which could only be successfully prosecuted by stealth and by travel from the Missouri river to the Gulf of Mexico. The interested parties whose identity is concealed under the nondescript title "Company," are said to be scattered all over the vast territory within that limit. Perhaps if their names could be gotten hold of the so-called "complicated situation" down here could be somewhat unraveled. For convenience the Creek Nation is

divided into three districts, or belts, in the investigation of this monopoly. Here is a result of that classification, with the names of the monopolists and the number of acres they have fenced:

NORTH BELT

The Monopolists	Acres.
Standwatie pasture.....	4,344
John Yargee.....	9,085
Pole Cat Pasture Company.....	18,046
Rock Creek Pasture Company.....	15, 305
Post Oak and Bruner Pasture Company.....	15,688
Wm. Sapulpa Pasture Company	17,762
Samuel C. Davis pasture.....	8,151
Bluford Miller Pasture Company.....	10,870
Salt Creek Pasture Company.....	26,081
N. P. Smiley Pasture Company.....	4,781
S. A. Bland Pasture Company.....	5,946
D. M. Hodges Pasture Company.....	26,920
Fisher & Anderson Pasture Company.....	19,398
G. B. Ferryman.....	68,170
Ben Marshal.....	6,116
Drew & Kelly.....	2,468
Warrion Marshall.....	13,865
Bob Daniels.....	2,915

The Monopolists	Acres.
Chissoe & Robinson.....	4,362
Hotulkee Hajo Pasture Company.....	32,000

WESTERN BELT

John Buck Pasture Company.....	32,000
G. B. & Thomas Perryman.....	32,000
T. J. Adams.....	32,000
H. J. Reed.....	31,160
George Toger.....	32,000
Brumer, Hailey & McIntosh.....	32,000
Knight Bros.....	34,420
Jones & Sands.....	24,560
Dunson & Jeffers.....	10,240
Cornelias & Knight.....	32,000
Hill & Cornelias.....	32,000
W. A. Palmer.....	32,000
Robt. Stewart.....	6,320
Hotulkee Hajo.....	32,000

SOUTHERN AND EASTERN BELT

Oparchewa Pasture Company.....	10,522
Roly McIntosh.....	24,054
S. A. Alexander.....	17,200
Bruner Town.....	32,000
Grayson, Stidham & Smith.....	10,246

The Monopolists	Acres.
Smith & Stidham.....	5,887
McKellop.....	52,116
W. J. McIntosh.....	2,152
Ochohunwa.....	8,649
Willison & Shannon.....	10,573
Independent Grazing Company.....	6,077
Freeland McIntosh.....	10,572
Bruner Pastor.....	5,962
Porter Pasture Company.....	31,232
Mingo Pasture Company.....	25,552
Barber Pasture Company.....	6,936
Willison & Weldon.....	4,101
Moses Smith.....	3,872
Weldon & Barber.....	2,319
Pale Childers.....	25,558
Bob Childers.....	5,219
Bob Childers.....	2,044
Maniel Drew.....	1,234
Robert & Primus.....	13,145
Ellis Childers.....	24,479
Tom Scott.....	<u>4300</u>
Total acres.....	1,072,215

Of course the showing here made of the monopoly by a few more than one-third of the Creek Nation does not tell the whole story. It only partially

represents the holdings of these men and others whose names cannot be procured. The best farming lands have also been taken up by this aggressive element, while those less alive to their interests have been driven to the foot hills and are glad enough to get a few acres to till in order that they and their numerous progeny may not starve.

What is true in this respect of the Creek Nation is true in kind of the other four nations, composing what is known as the Five Civilized Tribes. The land may not be monopolized in such large tracts for pasturage purposes, but it is divided among the stronger and more aggrandizing half-breeds and squawmen who belong to the tribes, for farming purposes, while the weak and ignorant are crowded to the back districts, not accessible to the markets, and seem content with just as few acres as will yield them a precarious livelihood.

These are not wild or exaggerated assertions; they are the plain statement of stubborn facts, revealed after a painstaking and thorough investigation of the situation down here. Perhaps when General Wheeler, chairman of the house committee on Public lands, reads them he will not be so harsh in his criticism of the work

and utterances of the Dawes Commission.