

THE NEW STATE TRIBUNE

Muskogee, Indian Territory
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Chas. N. Haskell, Editor

NEWS ITEM OF ROLEY McINTOSH

Col. Roley McIntosh is a fullblood Indian -- a Creek living near Checotah. Some days before the New Year he sent out invitations to notify his blood relations to come to his home as he proposed to start the New Year with a reunion of his family, at which he would give an account of the history of his family from the year 1812 to the downfall of the Indian government. Early on the first of January, 1907, his relatives and immediate neighbors began to arrive at the Colonel's spacious residence. The Colonel had a committee of three to welcome the guests, taking charge of their teams and giving them provender. At 12 o'clock the Colonel arose in the great parlor and with sorrow in his Indian heart began to relate the trials of his people.

Among other things he said that some of his own life blood had been shed on the battle field in the front ranks facing General Jackson and further that whenever the Muskogee tribe of Indians had been involved in war, his blood kinsmen

had been called upon to go to the front. "In fact," he said, "my people were always the camp guard, army scouts and picket guard for the Muskogee tribe of Indians. Even in the war of the R_ebellion, your humble speaker was always in the front ranks, believing that he was fighting for the rights of his people. Since the war of the Rebellion, in our own troubles among ourselves, you remember I was always called upon to go to the front, which I did willingly.

"Today we are called upon to take sides with the two great parties, to help the white man to carry the yoke of the United States government. For myself, I am a Democrat, teeth and toe nail. Naturally I belong to this party. But it is left with you, my young people to choose. There are great and good men in both parties.

"We have one hundred and twelve delegates, picked from our ranks to formulate laws for our new country. By these laws we must abide. I caution you my young people, to conduct yourselves in a way that will be honorable before the white man's laws, for by these you will be governed.

Now, as I have talked and advised with you, you are at liberty and welcome to the good things which I have prepared for your repast."

The table had been furnished with good things to eat. There were both civilized and uncivilized meats, such as the tame turkey and chicken and wild turkeys and deer. After each

one had satisfied his appetite, some paid their respects to the old war horse and returned home, while a large portion of the guests remained and spent the greater part of the night in praying.

This is the first reunion ever held by a fullblood Indian, but it proved a great success.

Col. Roley McIntosh takes the lead as a progressive Indian.