

THE AFTON NEWS

Afton, I. T.
Friday, February 1, 1895
Vol. 3 No. 18
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EDITORIAL ON SPEECH OF JOHN S. LITTLE

Mr. Chairman:

I regret very much to be called upon this early in the session to obtrude myself upon the attention of this house. It is not necessary to say that I fully concur in the appropriations recommended in this bill. I rise not for the purpose of discussing the features of this measure, but to submit some general remarks as to what should be the policy of this great government of ours toward certain of its wards and dependents in this country. I shall address myself particularly to the relations which this government holds with the five civilized tribes of Indians residing upon the borders of Texas, Arkansas and Kansas. If any people on the face of this globe demand the earnest efforts of this house to carry out the treaty obligations of

the government, it is these tribes.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I do not take any pleasure and shall not take any pleasure in calling the attention of this house and the country at large to the condition of affairs that now exists in the Indian Territory, and I shall do so, being impelled only by a sense of duty to call your attention to these conditions, to the end that something may be done to relieve the distress existing not only in respect to the whites, but the distress of the Indians themselves.

It is a great country, Mr. Chairman, great in resources and great in its inherent wealth. Populated as it is now by about 50,000 Indians, and about, in round numbers, 250,000 white people -- there in the meshes of conflicting jurisdiction, in the meshes of conflicting officers and laws, and in the midst of five independent sovereignties, as they claim themselves to be, in this Territory, when the white man goes in one direction for redress the Indians goes in another, and the general crowd seems to have almost an irresistible tendency toward the violation of law and good order in this community left in such hopeless confusion.

This Territory consists of 25,694,564 acres of land, making 40,174 square miles of territory. This Territory, sir, abounds not only in timber wealth but in mineral wealth. There are now 13,600 square miles of bituminous coal fields. The output of these coal fields for the year 1889 -- the last year for which I have been able to secure statistics -- ran up to an aggregate amount of 752,830 tons bringing in a net sum to the operators of \$1,323,807. The exports of timber, of which the Indians are being deprived without compensation, will equal if not exceed the exports of coal. At this rate for the six years past there has been exported of the resources of that country, the joint property of these Indians, and for which they have received no compensation, \$15,885,684 of their property, and for which, I repeat, the Indians to whom it belongs have not received as much as the dropping of my finger. These great interests, sir, are held by leases procured in various ways, some of them paying small royalties to the Indian owners and to the Indian tribe, while it is a fact acknowledged by all familiar with the conditions there that not one cent of

this vast wealth that is being taken from the Indian country has ever yet reached the pockets of the plain, common, old Indian himself.

We hear very much, sir, said about the violations of law in that Territory, and I will address myself to that question, a little later on in the course of my remarks. I want now to call the attention of the house to the condition of the landed interests there, and I think when you see these appalling facts, which are taken from the records of that tribe, that every man who desires to see the right of these people protected under the treaties, and common justice done to them, will at once declare that something in that direction must be done, and promptly done, to relieve existing conditions. I refer to the pasture men.

There is, Mr. Chairman, in one tribe alone -- and I speak of the Creek tribe -- 1,040,250 acres of land held by corporations and private individuals aggregating only sixty-one human souls. The entire territory of that particular tribe embraces something over 3,000,000 acres, I think; so that we stand confronted with the fact that sixty-one persons in the Creek Nation hold

in their iron grasp one-half of the territory of that people, and not only one-half of their territory, but that one-half comprising nearly all of the very best lands they possess. And yet we are told continually that nothing ought to be done with such conditions! They tell me that they have been acquired in legal, legitimate ways, and that they have a perfect right to their occupancy. I want to call the attention of the house now for a few moments as to how they have been acquired. I want to call the attention of the country to the fact that there is an absolute landed aristocracy in that nation, at whose doorsteps the honest Indian, to whom the country belongs, must beg his bread or starve.

It has been asserted in this capitol that the five civilized tribes can boast of the fact that they have not a pauper among them. They can boast truthfully, if they want to, that there are 25,000 of the tribal Indians, native by blood, who today have not \$10 to stand between them and the poorhouse and nothing more than a red shirt and blanket between them and the chilly blasts of winter. That is a fact. Then you ask me, why do

not these Indians rise up, being a majority, and demand their rights? I think I will be able to satisfy you on that question before I get through. I announced some time ago that this country was cursed with a condition of a landed aristocracy. I will take up that branch of the subject now, in order to designate the class to which I refer. That class consists exclusively of the Indians in whose veins the white blood largely predominates. and of the "squaw men," as they are commonly called.

I do not know that they are any more dishonest on general lines than the average of humanity, but I do know that in that defenseless country they have been impelled by that avarice that too often rules the human heart to rob and trample down the rights of their own people, for whose protection this country has plighted its faith and guaranteed its power.

I want now to call your attention to those who hold the offices in the Creek nation and the character of the men who come before the committees of this house accredited as delegates protesting that we ought not to interfere with the conditions that exists in that country.

They come here with their tongues bribed by their own interests, and speak not as patriots but as men who hold in their hands not only the destiny but the property of their own people. It sometimes is not pleasant to use names, and I will try to use them in no offensive sense.

I vouch personally for the truth of the statements that I am now going to make. I will give the offices of these men as I go along.

The first names of the pasture men that I see upon my list are A. P. McKellop and N. P. Murphey, who hold one pasture of 4,000 acres; A. P. McKellop and Blackstone, 38,000 acres; A. P. McKellop and someone else, whose name I have not, 20,000 acres, making in all about 62,000 acres of land that this country, by its treaties, guaranteed should be and remain the common property, with a common interest, of all the people of that vast country.

Who is A. P. McKellop? He is the man who comes here with tears in his eyes and pleads to the committees of this House to let conditions remain as they are; that they will work out their own destiny. They will, for they will not only

grind the prosperity but the blood and life out of the men that this nation seeks to enlighten and is obligated to protect.

But who is A. P. McKellop? He is national attorney, clerk of the house of warriors. He is also delegate to Washington. These are the positions held by this humble man, who wants the rights of his people secured, and seeks to secure them by building a wall around 60,000 acres of land, to the exclusion of his own brethern. Glorious patriot!

The next ones that I see on my list are Grayson, Stidham and Smith, who have about 64,000 acres of land under fence. Listen to the list of offices they hold in the Indian country.

Capt. G. W. Grayson is a member of the council, and a delegate to Washington. He is a brother of Samuel Grayson, the treasurer of the nation. George W. Stidham, another partner, is clerk of the house of kings, which is the senate in that country, and tax collector for the Eufala district. He is another patriot who has sacrificed himself upon the alters of his country for the good of his people.

George W. Smith, the other partner is president of the board of education.

William Sapulpa has a pasture of 17,762 acres. He too, is a member of the Creek Council.

Samuel C. Davis has a pasture of 8,151 acres. He is private secretary of Chief Perryman, and the trouble with him is he got in too late to get his 100,000 acres.

George B. Perryman has 68,170 acres.

George B. and Thomas Perryman have 32,000 acres, making in all 100,000 acres of the common heritage of the people of that country for which the people do not receive as consideration one solitary farthing. Who is George B. Perryman? A brother to Chief Perryman. Thomas Perryman is a member of the council, and president of the house of warriors.

The Bluford Miller Pasture Company has 10,870 acres. Bluford Miller is a member of the Creek council.

The D. M. Hodges Pasture Company has 26,920 acres. D. M. Hodges was a member of the council when the pasture law was passed.

Bob Daniels has 2,915 acres. He is a

member of the Creek Council.

Chissoe and Robinson has 4,362 acres. Chissoe is a member of the council. Robinson was a member of the council when the law was passed, and is now school superintendent.

The John Buck Pasture Company has 32,000 acres, and that seems to be the average amount to which a councilman was entitled. Thirty-two thousand acres would almost make a country.

John Buck is judge of Okmulgee district. He is another one of that high class of distinguished men who cry over the miseries of their own people.

T. J. Adams, 32,000 acres; is a member of the council and has been for many years.

H. C. Reed, 31,160 acres. He did not get his stakes set just right or he would have gotten the 32,000 acres. He is also a member of the council.

George Tiger, 32,000 acres; is a member of council.

Kingt Brothers, 34,240. They got a little over the dead line, and Thomas Knight, one of the firm, is a member of the council of that great country.

W. A. Palmer, 32, 000 acres -- the regular figure; has been the national auditor for about seven years.

Robert Stewart, 6,320 acres; is the prosecuting attorney of Wewoka district.

Hotulkee Harjo, 32,000 acres; is a member of the council.

Parchewa Pasture Company have 10,522 acres. Parchewa is a member of the council.

Rolla McIntosh, 2,405 acres. McIntosh was speaker of the house when the pasture law was passed.

G. A. Alexander, 27,200 acres. He is a member of the council and is a brother in law of the chief, John Brown, of the Seminoles; and I am sorry that I have no statistics of the Seminole country.

W. J. McIntosh, 2,152 acres. He holds the office of chief justice of the supreme court of that Territory.

Freeland McIntosh, 10,572 acres. He is a member of the council.

Porter Pasture Company, 31,232 acres.

Porter was a member of the council when the pasture

law was passed, and has been delegate to Washington, and will be sent again as special delegate if the times get hot. They might just as well send him along; for the cries of these people in their distressed condition are being heard throughout this nation