

MUSKOGEE PHOENIX

Muskogee, Indian Territory
October 12, 1893
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I. W. Singleton, Manager

MESSAGE OF L. C. PERRYMAN

Okmulgee, I. T. Oct 3, 1893

To the National Council:

By authority of the powers vested in me as the Principal Chief of the Muskogee Nation, I again beg to lay before you for proper consideration the affairs of the Nation as have transpired since your last assemblage.

It is with great pleasure that I inform you that the affairs of the Nation during the past year have been uniformly peaceful and prosperous, a condition upon which every citizen of the Nation must look with satisfaction and pride.

You are doubtless informed that at the last regular session of the United States Congress the President was directed to appoint a commission to visit the five civilized tribes and to confer with them upon the subject of their condition and to learn

their wishes upon the subject of taking their lands in severalty, surrendering their tribal existence and becoming citizens of the United States. The President has not appointed this commission yet, and I recommend that you take some action in the premises, to the end that we may be able to treat with said commission in an honorable and intelligent manner whenever they may visit this Nation. All governments have been organized for the betterment of the citizens of the government, and I desire to call your attention to the fact that the Creek people, as a Nation, during the past fifty years have, under the present system of holding their lands in common, made better progress than any other nation recorded in history in the same period of time. Any departure from a system that has been so fruitful of good should be thoroughly investigated before being made, lest a change for the worse be the result.

Upon the subject of finances I am informed that at the last semi-annual payment of public moneys by the National Treasurer there was only funds sufficient to pay about 75 per cent. of the outstanding warrants. I should recommend that in future appropriations be made from year to year only to the extent of the amount of the National revenue.

At the last session of the Council this office

was authorized to lease the border lands of this Nation to citizens for grazing purposes. I have contracted most of said lands, but, owing to the failure of the lessees to secure cattle to pasture on said lands, little or none of it has been fenced or used, consequently no rental money has been paid in under these new contracts, as I have not felt disposed to compel the payment of rents from the parties, because they have not used the lands. I trust the conditions will be more favorable next year and that the Nation will receive the rents therefrom.

I recommend that a wholesome mining law be passed covering any mines now in operation or that may hereafter be operated in the Nation, such a law to be liberal and fair in its provisions so as to induce and stimulate the mining industry and at the same time to assert the authority of this Nation over said mines.

A great many complex questions are continually arising in the cities and towns of this Nation over the possession of lots and lands. If a law providing for surveying said cities and towns into lots of suitable sizes and conveying the same to citizens or non-citizens, with suitable restrictions, it would provide a large source of revenue and stimulate the upbuilding of these cities and towns, and thereby be beneficial in

providing markets for the products of the people,
without materially diminishing the public domain.

Other information upon matters pertinent to your
consideration will be conveyed to you in reports to be
made by the various officers and persons authorized
by law to report the same.

With greatest confidence in the ability and
integrity of the members of your Council, I am fully
convinced it will be your pleasure to enact such laws
and take such action as will be for the best interests
of the great people whom you represent. I am your
obedient servant,

L. C. PERRYMAN,

Principal Chief M. N.