

Fort Smith, Ark. Sept. 23rd 1868

P. P. Pritchard
Gov. Chactaw

Dear Sir

You are probably aware that during the recent Council held at this place between the various tribes of Indians and the Commission appointed by the President of the U.S. a number of Gentlemen were in attendance from Kansas and Missouri representing as delegates the Rail Road interests of those States.

I have been selected by that delegation to remain for a short time in the Indian Country to look further after the Rail Road interest - & take this occasion to communicate with you and through you with the Chactaw people upon this subject. I had hoped to have had a personal ~~interview~~ ^{conference} with you while here, but your stay being short a multiplicity of other business prevented the interview.

The Object that we seek to obtain
is the Construction of a Road from
the Missouri River through Kansas and
the Indian Country to Red River, thence
to connect with Roads already South
through Texas, to Galveston or some
other point on the Coast. A System
of Rail Roads will soon be Comple-
ted making a Continuous Line from
Lake Superior to the Missouri River
The Continuation of this System as
^{proposed} will connect the great Northwest
with the Gulf of Mexico and can
not fail to be one of the most im-
portant Rail Roads throughout upon
this Continent - running its entire length
through a Country that an all natural
reservoir of wealth is undisputed
in the world, and for the Com-
plete development of which, de-
pends the prosecution and Comple-
tion of the enterprise that has been
already initiated, and to which I here
call your attention

Upon reflecting you cannot
fail to see the importance of
in its relations to the Indian Country
as well as in its relations with

The best Region of Country west
of the Mississippi River
I trust. That you will present
this matter to your people for
their consideration and communi-
cate to me the result. We desire
to enlist in this work the Co-operators
of the Choctaw people, who are
characterized for their intelligence
and public spirit.

Either myself or others, represent-
ing the Freedmen's cause, will be in Wash-
ington next winter. And will be
pleased to confer upon this subject
with the delegation sent by the Cho-
ctaw Nation to treat with the United
States.

All Communications may be
addressed to me at
Lawrence, Kansas
Respectfully
your Obedient Servant
Jas. G. Blount