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Virgil Winn, Editor

APPOINTMENT OF MOTY TIGER

Chief of Creeks

Washington, D. C.

Upon the recommendation of J. George Wright, commissioner of the five civilized tribes, Commissioner of Indian Affairs Leupp Wednesday advised President Roosevelt to appoint Moty Tiger the present vice chief to fill the vacancy caused by the death of Chief Pleasant Porter.

The appointment was made at once. It will be satisfactory to the Creeks and there will be no conflict between the government and the tribes over the matter.

CREEKS BELIEVE IN TIGER

Muskogee, I. T.

Moty Tiger, appointed by President Roosevelt

under the Curtis act to succeed the late Chief Porter, is a full-blood Creek about 65 years old, who for twenty years sat in the national councils. Eight years ago when Porter was elected chief Tiger was made second chief. He is an intelligent, broadminded, deep-thinking man and a fluent talker, and the Indians believe the affairs of the tribe will be successfully carried out along the lines laid down by Chief Porter. Tiger's home is at Honey Springs, thirty miles south of Okmulgee.

THE BROKEN ARROW DEMOCRAT

Broken Arrow, I. T.
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John E. Wells, Publisher

BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH OF MOTY TIGER

There naturally centers considerable interest in the new chief of the Creek nation, the successor to the late lamented Pleasant Porter for in all probability Chief of one of the greatest tribes of American Indians. The name of the new chief -- Tiger -- would indicate agility, strength and many other attributes of the animal that bears that name. The chief's Indian name is Ho-mah-ti-ka and in an attempt to pronounce in English his name is called Moty Tiger. The meaning of the Indian name Ho-mah-ti-ka is "the first to cross the river, enter the enemy's country and recapture canoe." It was the name of one of the chief's gallant ancestors, who with three other brave Creek warriors were the first to capture the canoe from the enemy during the Florida war.

Moty Tiger, or Ho-mah-ti-ka was the son of Tulsa Fixico and Louise, his wife, in the veins of both whom

flowed nothing but pure blood of the Indian tribe of which they were members.

Each of his parents emigrated to the Indian Territory from their home near Eufaula, Alabama, in the year of 1834 and 1835 settling about twelve miles west of the town that bears that name in Indian Territory, where the subject of this sketch was born, in 1840. The son received only limited school advantages, attending the neighborhood schools of the Creeks.

He enlisted at the outbreak of the civil war as a private in the volunteer Indian regiment of Col. Chilly McIntosh and was subsequently promoted to first sargeant of scouts. Throughout the entire period of hostilities he did active service as a brave and gallant soldier.

At the close of the war he found himself, like thousands of others thoroughout the south, reduced in property to the point where a struggle for existence was necessary. He built himself a home with his own hands split the rails which fenced a plat of ground, plowed, and did such other hard work manual labor, by which he earned a living for himself and family.

His call to official position began in 1874, when he was elected captain of the Light Horse of Creek

nation, since which time he has filled successively, with great honor to himself, and with credit to the tribe of which he is a member, the following official positions:

Members of the house of Kings from Tuckabatchee town; district judge of Deep Fork district; member of House of Warriors from Tuckabatchee town; appointed by Acting Chief Roly McIntosh, attorney general; superintendent of Creek Orphans' home; prosecuting attorney of Deep Fork district, and while serving his term as such the fact of congress known as the Curtis bill, abolished the Indian courts.

In the fall of 1899 he was elected second chief of the Creek nation and re-elected in 1903. The new chief is a man of high character and is untiring in his devotion and loyalty to the cause of his people. He is decended on his mother's side from Tuckabachee Micco, one of the famous chiefs of the Creeks. He has always been one of the most advanced in his opinions of any member of his tribe. In 1893 the Dawes commission was created by act of congress for the purpose of negotiating with the several tribes of Indians in Indian Territory, with a view of dissolving the tribal relations. There was a mass meeting of the Creeks called by Chief Perryman

to meet the members of that commission at Okmulgee. When the commission explained to the Creek citizens of that meeting the object and purpose for which the commission was created and their purpose in being there, Moty Tiger was the only Indian present who did not oppose the place.

He was the only Indian who favored adopting the plan of the federal government. It was he, who of the entire body of Indians, could foresee the inevitable dissolution of the tribe and the allotment of the lands in severalty. The hand of destiny had written the decree. The star of the once powerful Indian tribe must sink behind the horizon and pass forever into history. No one sooner realized the fact than did Moty Tiger and he had, in the face of tremendous opposition, by his fellow countrymen, the courage of his conviction.

Originally the Creek tribe was composed of but one Indian town or clan, the Tuckabatchee, of which the new chief of the nation is a member. Subsequently as the tribe became less powerful and as the numbers greatly diminished, for self government and protection they formed a federation or association of many towns or clans numbering in all in the Creek nation forty

seven, forty-four of which are Creek Indians and three of freedmen, the former slaves of the Indians.

Until the civil war, it was necessary that the chief be a member of the Tuckabatchee town. It seems only fitting and proper that the last chief of the once mighty nation of warriors should be a member of the clan from which in the past, each chief had to be selected.

While Chief Tiger has been mindful of the political and temporal welfare of the people of his tribe he has not been unmindful of their spiritual well being. He is an ordained minister of the gospel. For years he has been a member of the Indian Mission conference of the Methodist Episcopal church, south. In his native language he preaches to his people the gospel of the lowly Nazarene.

BENJ. MARTIN, JR.