

THE BEGGS INDEPENDENT

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EDITORIAL ON MOTY TIGER

Washington,

March 10.

Moty Tiger, chief of the Creeks, is authority for the statement that the Creek Council will not accept the \$800 equalization plan as recently provided for by an act of Congress and that if necessary he will resort to his right of veto in order to defeat the proposition.

Asked for their reason for opposing the equalization plan as outlined by Congress both Moty Tiger and Mr. M. L. Mott, national attorney for the Creeks declared that the Indians are not disposed to dissipate their treaty rights in that manner. "We intend to see that every cent due the Creek under any and all existing treaties with the government accounted for," said they.

It is understood that the Creeks will ask that

the entire matter be referred to the court of claims for adjudication.

The equalization trouble of the Creeks is of long standing and according to some can be traced to Commissioner Tams Bixby, of the Five Civilized Tribes, and who was instrumental in taking the Indian role out of the hands of the Five Nations and preparing them after his own fashion. It was this policy which in the Creek case alone will cost the government more than \$4,000,000 representing the amount of the Creek equalization claim. Had the rolls remained in the hands of the Indian there would not have been the numerous enrollment of children and which were directly responsible for the land shortage, it is said. With no more land available the government will have to equalize the allotment with dollars and cents out of the federal treasury, whereas, if the Five Civilized Tribes commission had not always been so anxious to enroll new borns and the like and enabled the Creek authorities to co-operate in the work of preparing the rolls instead of keeping them in darkness, as was always the case, all this would not have come about.

Mr. Mott, in discussing this feature of the

work recently declared that the Creeks were not allowed to consult their own rolls till in the year 1907, and immediately thereupon discovered that there was at least 1,500 names on these rolls which had no right to be there. He also called attention to Mr. Bixby's hurried departure to Washington, but that occasioned a demand of \$75,000 at the hands of Congress for the ostensible purpose of expunging from the rolls more than a thousand of the names on the rolls prepared by him and under his supervision.

Fortunately no harm or pecuniary loss can come to the Indian because he is amply protected by treaty stipulations and sooner or later Congress will recognize these. But the tax payers of the country are in another boat. They must now pay for the errors of omission and commission in the interior department.

It will require about \$4,000,000 to equalize the Creek allotments on a \$1,040 basis as provided by the treaty. To accept the \$800 basis would mean a reduction of \$240 an allotment.