

Why the Indians Should NOT Be Republicans

Facts and Figures to Prove That the Republican Administration is Guilty of Deception, Fraud, Graft and Delay in the Settlement of Tribal Estates--Significant Appeal of Governor McCurtain of the Choctaw Nation to His People.

Green McCurtain, governor of the Choctaw Nation, a man known as one of the greatest living Indian scholars and statesmen; a man who has long served his tribe in many positions of trust with honor to himself and race--boldly comes out at this important time and advises his tribesmen to weigh well the evidence of the past before forming an alliance with a political party whose history has been one devoted to respect or honor in the execution of sacred treaties. His significant

property. Can you vote for the republican party on this ground? As an evidence of the fact that the republican party loves the negro better than they do the Indian, Secretary Hitchcock is now at work enrolling negro babies, and yet there is no law that gives him any such authority. These children have no rights, yet he arbitrarily forces them on us, taking thousands of dollars of our money, without let or hindrance from any source. He is a high muck-

Republican Misrule of Indian Estate

A Detailed Review of Some of the Most Glaring Chapters of Choctaw-Chickasaw History.

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cannot be shaken by the charge that the Capital is guilty of an effort to resuscitate political questions which were settled long ago, for use in the forthcoming campaign. The questions and issues now arising here are live and modern questions and should be settled on their merits and will be so settled; and the Choctaws are, normally democratic, by every rule of history, geography, tradition or ancestry. It is but the statement of an existing fact that

ing, through its agents and organs in the new state of Oklahoma, that the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians should be republicans. Many Broken Treaties. The Choctaw and Chickasaw treaty of 1866 contained a provision which may be profitably examined. The Choctaws and Chickasaws owned under their original purchase, a vast area of country which they did not occupy, lying between the ninety-sixth and one hundredth meridians west longitude, and comprising a large portion of the present ter-

contempt for the lines of humanity and decency along which the representatives of the Cleveland administration had proceeded in regard to the property and affairs of the Choctaws and Chickasaws. Its contempt was directly manifested by taking a few turns upon the thudabier. The representatives of the tribes were asked to meet the representatives of the government to enter into an agreement. This was not objectionable and the representatives of the tribes came. When the commissioners

to be a Choctaw Indian, to be a democrat, or republican in the new state politics? This is the question that is now engrossing the thoughts of both parties, not only in the new state, but attracting attention in political circles throughout the United States. I feel a great deal of concern in the matter and will undertake to give a few reasons why the Indian can not afford to join the republican party. In 1865 the Choctaws and Chickasaws made a treaty with the government at Fort Smith, Ark. The republican party at this time had charge of the government. Our people were told by Commissioner Coody that we had forfeited all our rights to our property by joining the south in the fight against the union and that the government did not feel that it owed any duty to the Choctaws or Chickasaws under the circumstances, and that unless we adopted the negro freedom that dire consequences would be visited upon us. It was this threat that led us to adopt the negro. It was a great outrage to force this condition upon us. Many southern states had seceded and taken up arms against the United States and no such confiscation had taken place in any of them. There the question arises, why should the Indian love the party that has by this act robbed him of property valued at several millions of dollars? Can he vote for that party under these circumstances?

the statehood but as to the politics of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians. The Capital has, from the first, had no doubt about what the political affiliations of the Indians of these tribes would be, but up to this time the situation has not been comprehensively reviewed and the reasons set forth why the republican party and its policies merit their condemnation. In view of the approaching election necessary to organize the new state government, we now think the proper time has arrived to indicate the republican party, from the standpoint of the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians, upon which they rely for its conviction upon the many counts contained in the indictment.

Republican Misrule of Indian Estate. A Detailed Review of Some of the Most Glaring Chapters of Choctaw-Chickasaw History. Ancestry of Indian Was Democratic. The Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians were not republicans. They were democrats. They were born just before the beginning of the civil war. The Choctaws and Chickasaws joined the southern confederacy, believing in the justice of the cause for which their relatives, neighbors and friends in the southern states were contending. Notwithstanding the fact that they had always been treated as an incompetent and irresponsible wards of the government, their punishment was a terrible and vindictive one and far exceeded the punishment visited upon the southern states, having as they did some ability to defend themselves. Every treaty which had ever been made with the Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians was abrogated and thereby their title to their coun-

try was cancelled. When they were thus brought to the feet of this southern government and placed at the mercy of the unscrupulous and time serving politicians of the reconstruction era, by being reduced to beggary, new treaties looking to the re-establishment of their relations with the government, were proposed. These treaties were accepted because their failure to accept them, with their burdensome conditions, meant starvation and vagabondage. By the terms of these treaties of 1866 the Choctaws and Chickasaws were forced to share their property with their former slaves. No such proposition was made by the federal government to the people of Virginia or Mississippi or Arkansas or any of the southern states. They were powerful commonwealths, notwithstanding their failure to sustain the yoke of war. The Choctaws and Chickasaws were helpless dependents and could be treated in any way the federal government saw fit, notwithstanding its obligations of guardianship. It was purely and simply a case of "might is right," and, withal, the negroes had to be taken care of and the Choctaws and Chickasaws had plenty of property out of which they could be taken care of and without expense to the government. There were nearly as many of these negroes as there were Choctaws and Chickasaws, and, as has been widely and forcibly said, the republican party strapped a negro upon the back of every man, woman and child in the Choctaw and Chickasaw nations. This was a gross violation of the rights of the Choctaws and Chickasaws and a gross violation of the rights of the negroes. It was a gross violation of the rights of the Choctaws and Chickasaws and a gross violation of the rights of the negroes. It was a gross violation of the rights of the Choctaws and Chickasaws and a gross violation of the rights of the negroes.

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The net proceeds claim was held up by the republican party for twenty-eight years. It was a just claim, yet this party refused to adjust it, without giving a reason. President Cleveland, a democrat, after a brief investigation, insisted that the government should live up to its obligations and pay its honest debts. Can any Indian vote for the republican party on this score?

change in our form of government. The graft and dishonest conduct of the republicans in connection with the allotment of lands has been a stench in the nostrils of decent people everywhere. The Bonaparte-Woodruff investigation proclaimed the unfitness of the republican officials, yet, through the intervention of Hitchcock, they were retained and the Indians have been handed like an article of merchandise. Can any Indian walk up and vote the republican ticket with a knowledge of these facts?

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The government under a tentative agreement with the Choctaws and Chickasaws, secured the right to settle other Indian tribes on what is known as the Wichita and Apache reservations, and as a consideration therefor, paid a small sum of money. Since then the matter had been determined, and the Choctaws and Chickasaws lost approximately seven million acres of land, over five hundred dollars to each man, woman and child in the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations. Is there any reason here why the Indian should vote for the republican party? If so, state it.

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Notwithstanding the protest of the Indians, through their chief executive, millions of feet of pine timber have been stolen from the public domain, converted to lumber, and are being shipped to the coast. The republican party has been the cause of this. The Choctaws and Chickasaws are being robbed of their property and their rights. Can any Indian vote for the republican party on this score?

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