

A FEW GOOD REASONS WHY

The Atoka Agreement Should Not be Ratified at the Coming Election.

First—The power and purpose of the United States is irresistible; but the United States, within the meaning of the United States, embraces not only the legislature of the United States, but the supreme courts thereof and however much congress may desire to take away the lands of the Indians without compensation therefor or without their consent, it will not be permitted to effect its purpose, unless its acts are in consonance with the forms of law and the constitution of the United States. One of the main objects of the supreme court of the United States is to act as a check upon congress, and for this reason power is vested in the wisest minds of our land, men whose education and training enable them to discern where unconstitutional acts are attempted and wrongful purposes designed. Therefore, any unjust laws or unconstitutional measures passed by the congress of the United States are subject to attack by the humblest citizen or by the smallest nation or tribe of people in this broad land, and it is well to be in mind that the Curtis bill is in exception to this rule, and every member of either house who lays any claim to legal knowledge will say that congress has no power to divest the Choctaw tribe of Indians either of their lands or any of their legal or constitutional rights without they first had obtained of the people, who are one of the parties to solemn contracts heretofore made with the United

States. Now the foregoing proposition is elementary, and were it not that the public is blinded and confused by the various discussions on this subject and the argument of those whose greed and cupidity ever prevents them from seeing the justice of this cause, or for gain causes them to ignore its justice, though plainly evident. Second—A Choctaw citizen either under the Dawes agreement or the Curtis bill gets no absolute title to his allotment, for no sooner shall the individual Indian have secured, as he fancies, his home where he may settle down in peaceful possession for the rest of his life, than the enterprising real estate speculator will discover thereon coal, asphalt or valuable minerals, and then what becomes of the poor Indian's allotment under the Dawes agreement or under the Curtis bill? The parties discovering the coal or other mineral may claim that an equitable amount will then be paid for the damage done to the Indian's allotment, but in order to obtain this the Indian must first maintain an expensive suit in court while his allotment is being destroyed and injured, and will inevitably be either dispossessed of his land or rendered unfit for his abode or comfort, thus depriving the Indian of the very rights that it is claimed will be secured to him if he ratified the Dawes agreement. After the Indian has been dispossessed of his home, his money will be spent, as it always is in such cases, and he

will be cast adrift with no opportunity to secure another home, the opportunities for obtaining which are daily becoming fewer.

Third—The agreement evidently does what the Curtis bill attempts to do, deprives the Indians of all rights to settle their own disputes under their own laws or in their own manner.

Fourth—The endorsement and ratification of the Dawes agreement retains it as true the useful portions of the Curtis bill, but we may inquire, useful to whom? Useful to the Indian or useful to those who are now ready to swarm like locusts upon his heritage and dispossess him of it forever.

Fifth—The agreement provides for arbitration by the United States in cases of dispute between United States citizens and citizens of the Choctaw nation. If the Indian wants to voluntarily give up what is now his, and about which there can be no discussion, and take his chances in the slow and tedious operation of the courts, let him adopt the Dawes agreement.

Sixth—In regard to the appraisement and valuation of town lots, perhaps in this feature there is more justice and a better attempt at good faith with the Indians than in any other portion of the agreement, and so far as any arrangement could be made that is equitable by the consent of both parties, it may be conceded that good will result from such an arrangement. It is not in the towns that the Indians are to be found, and they do not have a house and lot in the town that they want, and they are not to sell to the white man and give to them the property in the town well and good, but let such an agreement stand alone, and do not make the means by which the Indian shall be deprived of his rights, and this great nation be stained with the greatest wrong ever perpetrated on a defenseless people.

Seventh—The Curtis bill is so severe that it is unendurable, and as an alternative was intentionally made so. These words ought to be in letters of fire, that all the Choctaw nation might read. Unintentionally it declares first that congress has no power to do injustice, as is contemplated by the Dawes agreement and the Curtis bill; and secondly, it recognizes this fact so strongly that it holds the Curtis bill over the heads of the defenseless Choctaws as a weapon, and then goes further and says: "My father chastised you with whips; I will chastise you with scorpions." You either take the Atoka agreement or the Curtis bill, and if you refuse both we will then do worse.

The Curtis bill destroys the Indian courts, stops the payment of their public funds, interrupts the collection of their internal revenue, leaves their treasury empty, their officials without duties, authorities or salaries, and abolishes their schools, ignores private vested rights in town lots and in farm lands, and would impose those resisting these provisions. What splendid logic it is from a Christian nation to the defenseless Indian with whom contracts have been made but to be violated that now, say, if you do not ratify an agreement made for you by corrupt representatives, we will compel you to do so, we are big enough and powerful enough to take away from you those things which we have solemnly pledged to you forever, and deprive you of those rights which the worst despotism now on this globe dare not wrest from its smallest dependency.

Can the argument be advanced seriously that this people must give

up because, forsooth, if they do not give them up, they will be forced to tedious and vexatious litigation and because if they do not submit to these outrages and humiliations that congress will speedily take some action still more oppressive and wrong.

It is a well known fact that one of the white men who owns the largest block of brick buildings in South McAlester, shearily in favor of the Curtis bill, and is most anxious to see the Choctaw people ratify and accept of the Atoka agreement, and he is his reason for it? Simply this: He said that under the Atoka agreement he can get absolute title so much sooner to the lands upon which his brick buildings are located than he can under the Curtis bill or by any other means. Now, we submit this as a sensible proposition. Is the interest of this man any other white man voluntarily situated identical with that of the Choctaw people, or are not their interests diametrically opposed to each other?

In conclusion we submit that as much as every man who lays any claim to being a lawyer is bound to admit that the congress of the United States has no power to divest the Choctaw people of their lands without their consent, we would suggest that the Choctaw people can best subvert their own interests by voting solidly against the ratifications of the Atoka agreement. When that has been done the congress of the United States cannot undertake to allot the lands to the Choctaw people under the Curtis bill, but if it should, then the people, having refused to consent, can go into the United States and protect themselves against any encroachment on their lands under the Curtis bill.

Strange, But Still It Is True!

The Tuskahoma Party with Green McCurtain, at the head of the ticket can't find any plank in their own party platform to hold out to the voters, as they reveal one from the Union Party in the vain hope of pulling the freedmen to vote for the Tuskahoma party.

Green McCurtain is not quite cute as he thinks, when he offered a certain negro voter, of Tobacco county, the proprietorship of a certain academy in the Choctaw Nation for in consideration of his vote and influence.

If McCurtain is basing his hopes of election on the promises he is making to freedmen of good fat jobs, he will fall and great will be the fall thereof. The negro may be fooled in some things, but he will never be fool enough to believe that McCurtain, will stand by promises that he makes of this kind.

Wonder how many voters he has promised this same Academy? The Lord only knows!

"Gov. McCurtain will carry every county but one, in the 2nd District and he may carry that," says the Atoka Citizen. "We would like to inform the citizen that it can't always sometimes tell," who will carry a county. The Governor's shoulders are broad and massive, but not broad enough to carry so many counties as we don't think? He will have enough to do and enough to carry to take care of the multitude of sins and corruptions that has shouldered, in his past administration, without assuming other burdens. Time will tell who will carry these counties, and if there is any truth in the signs of the times it will not be McCurtain, but Wilson Jones, who will be our next Governor.

McCurtain is telling the people he will amend the treaty so that the mineral under each Indian's homestead will go with the surface, now if we are entitled to a part of the coal we're entitled to all of it, but McCurtain can not amend the treaty before the coming election. If we vote for him we must

The Tamaha New Era says editorially: Not satisfied with knifing Dukes that the Union Party are trying to make it appear that a money consideration influenced him (Dukes) in his support of McCurtain and winds up by saying the Union Party would not hesitate to besmirch the character of an angel. The main where the Era is mistaken. The Union Party stands for an honest and fair administration with equal rights to all and as to besmirching the character of the angel, said little angel, we are not so sure he has any character of his own left to besmirch. We think he sold what little he had to Green about July 1st and as to his being an angel, we can assure you, that better angels with clearer records can be found in the bottomless regions of Hades.

A three days' barbecue and picnic will be held at Bois, Ind. Ter., August 1st, 2d and 3d. Every voter in the county especially invited to come and have a good time. Prominent speakers will deliver addresses. Maschall and other amusements to the end. Come one, come all. Tamaha New Era.

That's right, Governor, get the

voters there in plenty time to get them good and full, have plenty corn juice of the same variety you had at Oadido picnic grounds, issued it out in good and copious quantities, then the voters will go home and vote as they should vote. Wilson N. Jones.

Upon seeing the personal abuse contained in the last issue of the Atoka Citizen, S. Grier said: "I have not indulged in any personal abuse myself and I shall take no notice of the character of abuse that is to be found in the Atoka Citizen. My friends always have and I know always will speak as to my personal character. At the application of numerous members of the Union party I have furnished them with certain statistics which are ready in my office, and have done so without comment on my part. If a person doubts the accuracy of the facts for himself, it is suggested that in the torrent of abuse poured forth there is nowhere a single hint of a denial of the facts alleged. Grier informs us that proper reports his transactions have been made to him to Gov. McCurtain and the national treasurer as required by law, and that evidence of this has been shown to various parties.

Indians, Indians, Indians

Don't fail to attend the Big Barbecue and Indian Picnic, given to the Voters of the Choctaw Nation Saturday, July 30th.

AT JEFF-LEE PARK

Fig Guns of both parties, Union and Tuskahoma, will speak and discuss thoroughly,

The Curtis Bill and Atoka Agreement

All Indians, and Choctaw Voters are urged and requested to be present, as questions of vital importance to them and their wives and children will be discussed

Plenty to Eat! Fine Speeches!

VOTE UNION PARTY COUNTY TICKET

They Are Men of Honor and Men Whose Characters Have Never Been Besmirched With Political Corruption.

- For Representative—JOSIAH GARDNER.
- For Judge—AARON ARPALAR.
- For Sheriff—HERBERT QUINCY.
- For Senator, Tobacco and Games Counties—CALVIN PERRY.
- For Ranger—T. J. RYAN.

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