



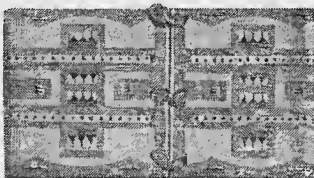
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HEARINGS

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

OF THE

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

ON

H. R. 108

TO CONFER UPON THE SUPERINTENDENT OF THE FIVE
CIVILIZED TRIBES CERTAIN JURISDICTION

M. S. Congress. House. Committee on Indian Affairs

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J. LINDEN SMITH
COLLECTION

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS.

SIXTY-FOURTH CONGRESS.

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FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES OF INDIANS.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., March 9, 1916.

The committee this day met, Hon. John H. Stephens presiding. The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order.

Gentlemen, we have met this morning for the purpose of taking up House bill No. 108, introduced by Mr. Hastings. Mr. Hastings is a Member of the House, and desires to be heard on the bill this morning. Mr. Hastings, you may proceed.

I will instruct the stenographer to put the bill in the record so that we may have a complete record. You may then proceed with your argument in favor of the bill.

[H. R. 108. Sixty-fourth Congress, first session.]

A Bill To confer upon the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior respecting lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes and their individual moneys.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma shall, after the passage and approval of this act, have and exercise all the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior, or either of them, respecting the lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma and their individual moneys.

SEC. 2. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM W. HASTINGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

MR. HASTINGS. I was about to say, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, that I do not remember just how many of you were present at the time, but I was heard, in part at least, on last Thursday or Friday, at which time I went over, to some extent, the purposes of this bill, and what I desired to accomplish by it. At that time we did not have a stenographer present, and I am at a little bit of a loss as to the amount of time I should take up now. I assume, however, that before these hearings are concluded, all of these matters will have been gone over thoroughly, so that they will be fully understood by the members of the committee. With the permission of the chairman and the members of the committee, I shall attempt to make a recapitulation of what I have already said, and put it in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. That may be done, and I can assure you that the committee will give you authority to revise your remarks.

MR. HASTINGS. If the committee does so, I will recapitulate this morning, to some extent, and then take advantage of the permission to revise my remarks, which has been given by the chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. That is the general understanding.

(The statement of Mr. Hastings referred to above was as follows:)

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, on the first day Congress convened, December 6, 1915, I introduced the bill now under consideration (H. R. 108), to confer upon the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior respecting the individual lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes and their individual moneys.

I want to make it clear at the outset that this bill only deals with the lands and moneys of individual restricted Indians and has nothing whatever to do with the tribal property of the Five Civilized Tribes.

In order that the members of the committee may better understand the purposes of the bill, permit me to remind you that the eastern half of Oklahoma prior to statehood was known as the Indian Territory, and was occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes—Cherokee, Creek, Seminole, Choctaw, and Chickasaw. In the early part of the last century these tribes moved under treaties, made with the Government of the United States, from the Southern States to the Indian Territory. Each tribe maintained a government of its own, separate and distinct from the other tribes, as much so as one State of the Union is separate and distinct from another State. Each tribe had its own governor or executive head, its legislature and its judiciary. They enacted their own laws, without any supervision whatever from the Federal Government, and they executed them. Their lawsuits were tried in their own tribal courts without any appeal to a Federal court. Few Members of Congress, not on the Indian Committee, are aware of this.

For the past 100 years these tribes have intermarried with white people who come among them. Schools and churches were established and the members of the tribes were recognized as being on an equal plane of intelligence with citizens of the surrounding States. White people settled in their country, railroads were built, cities established, and finally Congress, by the act of March 3, 1893, created the Dawes Commission and sent it to the Indian Territory to make treaties with the tribes, with a view of having their lands individualized, their tribal funds paid out per capita, and their territory made a State of the Union.

Under various treaties and acts of Congress provision was made for the allotment of their lands. The final enrollment showed 101,521 allottees to whom 19,526,966 acres of land belonged. All these lands have been allotted except some known as tribal lands.

Let me repeat that this bill only affects the lands allotted and patented to the individual Indian and the moneys deposited to the credit of the individual Indian. It does not affect any tribal lands or tribal money.

Under the various agreements and acts of Congress under which the lands were allotted provisions were inserted restricting the sale of their land for certain periods of time. Part of these restrictions were removed by the act of April 21, 1904, and by the terms of the acts of April 26, 1906, and May 27, 1908, all the homestead land of an enrolled member of one-half Indian blood was restricted from alienation, and all the surplus land of an Indian enrolled as of three-fourths or more Indian blood.

No restricted member of the tribes can lease his land for oil or gas, nor can he make an agricultural lease upon his homestead for more than one year, without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior. In brief, a restricted Indian has become a very well-defined term in Oklahoma. It means an Indian, who, under the law, is not permitted to manage his own affairs. In other words, he can not lease, encumber, or sell his land, or handle his own individual money without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior 1,500 miles distant.

Of the 101,521 members of the Five Civilized Tribes, there were in round numbers about 75,000 of Indian blood, and of this number about 37,000 were restricted. The records show that restrictions have been removed from about 8,000 of these Indians, and about one-third of the Indians remaining have died since their enrollment. Hence, the number of Indians within the restricted class in eastern Oklahoma is estimated to be between 20,000 and 25,000

Formerly two officials in Oklahoma looked after the affairs of the tribes—one the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes, who succeeded the Dawes Commission, and the other the United States Indian agent. One looked after the tribal property, and the other after the individual property of the restricted members of the Five Civilized Tribes.

By the act of August 1, 1914, Congress consolidated these offices and the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes was appointed. He was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. Therefore the officers had been appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. The combined office was considered of more importance, and it was expected greater power would be conferred upon him. The salary was fixed at \$5,000 per annum, the same amount the Commissioner of Indian Affairs receives.

The above statement is preliminary to what I wish to say regarding the purposes of this bill.

At present if a restricted Indian wants to do one of four things:

First. Make an agricultural lease on his homestead for more than one year, or upon his surplus land for more than five years;

Second. Make an oil lease upon his land;

Third. Pay a claim out of his money; or

Fourth. Sell any part of his land—

he can not do so without the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, or, I had better say, a clerk or inferior officer under him.

It is the purpose of this bill to confer this authority upon the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee. You will note that it does not take away any supervision whatever, but it transfers supervision from Washington to Muskogee. To illustrate: If a restricted Indian wants to make an agricultural lease upon his land, he goes before the local field clerk in Oklahoma, who transmits the lease through the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, where it goes through the files in the proper division, thence to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, where it is referred to some bureau, and thence to the Secretary of the Interior, where it is referred to a clerk and final action is had upon it. It is returned in the same way, and the Indian and the tenant are finally notified of the result.

Our contention is:

First. That final authority should be given to the superintendent at Muskogee to approve these agricultural leases, as he understands local conditions.

Second. If a restricted Indian wants to make an oil lease, regular blank forms have been prepared, with rules and regulations understood by everybody, and the superintendent at Muskogee has local men at convenient points throughout eastern Oklahoma who can supply detailed information. Our contention is that he is more competent, with all this information, to approve these leases than anyone else and can be as safely trusted to supervise and approve them as any man at the head of a bureau in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or the clerk in the office of the Secretary of the Interior. The truth is that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs does not personally superintend these matters, nor does the Secretary of the Interior, but some clerk, paid \$1,800 or \$2,000 per annum, 1,500 miles away, supervises the action of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, a man upon the ground, appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who is paid a salary of \$5,000 per annum.

Third. If a claim is presented against an Indian who is within the restricted class, unless authority is first obtained, it has to go through the same routine that an agricultural lease or an oil lease does. This method results in tedious delays, which the bill introduced by me is intended to correct.

Fourth. If a restricted Indian wants to make application to remove the restrictions upon the sale of his land, it goes through the same channel—through the local field clerk, thence the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, thence through the bureau under the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and finally over the desk of some clerk in the Department of the Interior. The Indian may be old and decrepit or sick or there may be other reasons for urgent action being taken upon his application. Our contention is that all matters affecting the individual Indian—his allotted land and individual money—should be supervised by an honest, trustworthy, competent official, the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, at Muskogee, Okla. He has a large number of law clerks, stenographers, appraisers, oil inspectors, field clerks, and other clerical help to investigate thoroughly every matter at first hand which may be submitted to him for supervision and approval.

The present Indian appropriation bill carries an appropriation of \$185,000.

We claim that all these matters can be safely trusted to the local man, and that the interests of the individual Indian will be scrupulously guarded, action upon the various transactions expedited, and their rights better protected if this bill becomes a law. There can be no legitimate argument against it.

Mr. HASTINGS. In order that the members of the committee may understand the situation, I will say that Congressman Ferris, chairman of the Public Lands Committee, intends to be here this morning. There is some matter before his committee at this time, and I understand that Mr. Ferris desires to be heard at 11 o'clock this morning, so that he will be able to go back to his committee. With the permission of the chairman and the members of the committee, I shall proceed until Mr. Ferris comes, and then yield to him.

The CHAIRMAN. We will want a complete record.

Mr. HASTINGS. Gentlemen of the committee, this bill H. R. No. 108, which was introduced by me on the first day of the convening of Congress, December 6, is to refer the administration of the individual Indian estates to the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee.

Now, to recapitulate, we have in eastern Oklahoma, or there were, in round numbers, about 101,000 members of the Five Civilized Tribes. They were formerly in what was known as the Indian Territory, which is now a part of the State of Oklahoma. There were, as you all know, five of these tribes.

Under various treaties, beginning about 1897 and extending along for a number of years, agreements were made to allot the lands in severalty among the members of the tribes. Let me say at this point, gentlemen of the committee, that practically all of those lands have now been allotted. Take, for instance, the Cherokee Nation; there were about 42,000 enrolled members of that tribe. Every foot of the land has been allotted. Whatever lands remained have been sold, and the last disbursement of their money is now being made, amounting to about \$3.30 per capita. The lands in the Creek Nation have, as I understand it, been allotted, and the same is true of the Seminoles. With reference to the Choctaws and Chickasaws, their allotments, as I understand it, have also been completed. I think that they still have some coal land and asphalt lands to be sold, and there may be some other surplus lands to be sold.

The CHAIRMAN. Timberland.

Mr. HASTINGS. Perhaps some timberland. I want to impress upon this committee the fact that this bill does not affect tribal property at all.

Mr. MURRAY. So far as the allotments of the Chickasaws and Choctaws are concerned, they are completed?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes. Whatever else remains is tribal property. I want to say again that this bill does not affect tribal property at all. I want to make that very clear to the members of the committee in expressing my views. I think that the larger questions ought to come here for determination, and that we are very likely to need more legislation on the part of Congress.

Mr. KONOP. This Commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes was created here some two or three years ago, was he not?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, sir; by the act of August 1, 1914.

Mr. KONOP. It was the understanding at the time this commissioner was created, that the matters of the Five Civilized Tribes could be better taken care of in Oklahoma than in Washington?

Mr. HASTINGS. There is no question about that. That was generally understood in Oklahoma, and I think every member of this committee and every Member of Congress understands it.

Mr. KONOP. Am I to understand now that the way they are proceeding with Indian matters pertaining to the Five Civilized Tribes, that this Commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes takes the matter up and reports to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs has to go to the Secretary of the Interior before final action is taken?

Mr. HASTINGS. That is correct. That is what I want to correct, so far as the supervision over the individual Indian is concerned.

Mr. KONOP. What is the object of having this commissioner then?

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, on that point you and I take exactly the same position.

Mr. KONOP. How much salary does this man get?

Mr. HASTINGS. \$5,000.

Mr. KONOP. Is he paid by the Government?

Mr. HASTINGS. He is paid by the Government. He is nominated by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate.

Mr. KONOP. It seems to me that, instead of expediting the work for the Five Civilized Tribes, you have complicated it, and made it possible for a matter to go through one more head than was formerly the case.

Mr. HASTINGS. It has been changed several times. At first we had three members, and then five, and finally it was cut down to one superintendent.

Mr. VENABLE. I am a new member of the committee, and I am not very familiar with this subject. I would like to ask this question: What jurisdiction does the Department of the Interior, or the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, exercise over these allotted lands?

Mr. HASTINGS. If you will permit me, I will take that up a little later. It will take some time to discuss that matter. Mr. Ferris desires to address the committee this morning and I shall yield to him. After that I will answer at length. That is one of the questions before the committee.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ferris is present now. Do you desire to yield to him now?

Mr. HASTINGS. I should like to say just a word or two more.

Mr. DEMPSEY. Let me make a suggestion before you start. Mr. Johnson and I have been talking and this thought has occurred to us: The only complaint you made the other day was this, that in the leasing of lands you lost the benefit of the leases frequently, and the Indians did not get the rights they ought to get because of the fact that there were delays. Suppose you had a specific bill instead of a general bill, and that the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes had authority to approve a short lease, we will say, for one year or three years, or a least for a part of a term. Say, for instance, that there was a lease of 15 years, and he could approve it for 1, 2, or 3 years of that time, and then as to the balance of the term the lease would be subject to approval here. There would be plenty of time during the running of this first part of it in which to secure approval here. On the other hand, you would have a check or safe-

guard, so that if the lease was unconscionable it could be disapproved for the long part of the period.

Mr. KONOP. I think by such procedure you would create only confusion. I do not believe anybody would lease land under those conditions.

Mr. DEMPSEY. I will say that I have personally owned land for 20 years. I have bought land out in this country, and I think I know something about this subject. I do not think there would be any trouble in the world in getting a man to accept a three-year lease. You might experience some difficulty in getting a man to accept a lease for one year, but a three-year lease would be regarded, in some instances at least, as a long lease.

The CHAIRMAN. I think, gentlemen, that this is a matter that can be discussed in executive session.

Mr. MURRAY. Suppose it is timberland. I do not think any man can go on that land and put houses on it in three years' time.

Mr. HASTINGS. I shall be glad to answer all the questions that I can. I want to say to the members of this committee that I was reared in Indian Territory.

Mr. KONOP. Won't you confine yourself to discussing this proposition about which Mr. Dempsey asked you? What would you do with a proposition like that?

Mr. HASTINGS. I intend to come to that in a minute or so. I have lived in Indian Territory all my life. Ever since I left school I have handled this Indian question. If there is anything that I am entitled to know anything about, it is the Indian question in Oklahoma.

There is no misunderstanding about the jurisdiction that is given to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes by the terms of this bill. It is a clear-cut proposition. Every man in the Indian Office understands thoroughly the jurisdiction that is given by it. It is difficult, as you all understand, to write a bill and go into all these little details, but this bill deals with the individual estates of Indians. It does four things.

If you will permit me to digress for a moment I will say that the object and purpose of this bill is to prevent delays, to permit the placing of a man upon the ground before whom you can go and before whom you can have a personal hearing in regard to these matters that affect the individual Indians.

By the act of August 1, 1914, the Commissioner for the Five Civilized Tribes and the agent for the Union Agency were consolidated. The office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes was created. He was to be nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. He was a responsible officer, and was given jurisdiction that had been heretofore given the other two. That was in order to prevent delays and in order to prevent duplication of work, because a lot of the work at that time went over, first, the agent's desk and then went over to the Commissioner for the Five Civilized Tribes; then it was forwarded to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs it went to the Secretary of the Interior. In order to prevent these delays and to avoid this duplication of work these offices were combined into one. This bill seeks to further prevent duplication of work and to prevent delays by giving the superintendent down.

in Oklahoma final jurisdiction over certain matters. I want to say to the members of the committee, in order that it may be very clear, that it does not take away any supervision over the Indians whatever. I want to emphasize clearly the fact that it does not take away any supervision, and to disabuse anyone of the idea that we are trying to take away supervision over the Indians and giving any undue advantage in these matters to any white man.

Let me say to you that this affects, as I said the other day, four things; first, it affects the supervision of agricultural leases. At this point it may be well for me to explain for the benefit of those gentlemen who are not old members of this committee that to each of these Five Tribes was allotted what was known as a homestead allotment, and the remainder was surplus allotment. It varied a little in the different tribes. In the Cherokee Tribe it was land equal in value to 40 acres of land. That is rather peculiar language, but it depended on the character of the land that was taken. In other words, it was land equal in value to the 40 acres of the average allotable land. If it happened to be bottom land, it would probably be less; and if, on the other hand, it happened to be cheaper land it would be more. I think, however, the homestead in the Creek Nation was 40 acres. I am not so familiar with that.

Mr. MURRAY. The Choctaws and Chickasaws was \$520 worth.

Mr. HASTINGS. I mean for a homestead.

Mr. MURRAY. That was 160 acres on the average.

Mr. HASTINGS. The rest was surplus. As to these agricultural leases, you gentlemen can readily understand that the value of the land varies greatly. It may be rich bottom land, it may be hillside land, it may be uncleared land, and it may be land that has no improvements, so that you can see that land may vary in rental value from 50 cents to \$7 an acre owing to the condition of the improvements and the character of the land itself. Now, along comes a tenant, who goes to an Indian and wants to rent his land. He can not perhaps afford to spend money to improve the land for the rent of one year. He wants it for a longer term. He goes before the local Government man. This man is an appointee of the Government. He is not elected by the people in the counties in which these Indians live, and therefore public opinion there does not control him. Now, what I desire and what this bill proposes, so far as agricultural leases are concerned, is to permit the local man in the field to investigate these questions as they are brought up, when those interested can be present and an agreement entered into to suit the circumstances of each case. The question of the character of the improvements which are going to be made, the question of the terms and conditions of the contract, can be gone into and arranged for by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee. I think that lease should be approved by the local man and not sent to Washington.

Mr. GANDY. How is he appointed?

Mr. HASTINGS. He is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. He is on a par with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

The CHAIRMAN. Your bill does not change the modus operandi in order that you may get what you want done in the field?

Mr. HASTINGS. Not at all.

The CHAIRMAN. You would have it just the same as now?

Mr. HASTINGS. Except that I would not have these matters forwarded from there to Washington. Since this bill was introduced—some time in January—and since this matter has been agitated, the Secretary of the Interior has given authority to the superintendent down there.

The CARTER. Did we not put that in the bill?

Mr. HASTINGS. It was knocked out on a point of order.

I read the other day about how these new lease rules were working. I shall take time to read again a news item from the Muskogee Times-Democrat:

The new regulations which give the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes authority to approve agricultural leases in the Muskogee office is working out to the advantage of all concerned and enables the local Indian office to dispatch business with rapidity.

The first lease under the new regulations was approved to-day. The lease was executed on February 5 and approved four days later. The lessors are Arch and Jenny Cloud, and Nancy Youngduck is the lessee.

The land was owned by an old Indian woman who had no home. She wanted to lease the lands to obtain money with which to build a home. A 15-year lease was made. The woman was given a check to-day and the contract for the building of the house will be let to-morrow.

Under the old system it would have taken perhaps months to get the lease approved.

Mr. JOHNSON. What authority have you conferred on him?

Mr. HASTINGS. This bill would give him authority to approve these leases.

Mr. SNYDER. If the authority has been given, and these leases are now made according to your bill and according to your desire, what is the use of going any further?

Mr. HASTINGS. That is only one of the things that is sought to be accomplished by the bill. If this bill were defeated, or if an unfavorable report were made on it, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or the Secretary of the Interior could revoke the order at any time. What I want done is to have it fixed in the law.

Mr. SNYDER. You do not think the Secretary would do that if he found it satisfactory?

Mr. HASTINGS. I do not think he ought to do it.

Mr. KONOP. What are the other three things that you referred to a while ago?

Mr. HASTINGS. I will come to them. The other things that are sought to be accomplished by this bill are these: First, the payment of any claims or any bills out of the restricted moneys of restricted Indians. Then comes the approval of oil leases, and then the removal of additional restrictions from restricted Indians.

Brushing aside the question of agricultural leases, let me take up the question of payment of claims. I believe that I told you the other day that there were about 37,000 so-called restricted Indians in Oklahoma. Many of those restricted Indians were members of the legislature. Some of them were governors or chiefs of the different tribes; some of them sat upon the tribal court benches. They presided over murder trials. Others occupied other county offices. Some of them represented the tribes here before committees of Congress, and so on. Now, a number of these are within the restricted class. Of these 37,000, I am advised that about one-third

have died since these laws were enacted. These laws were enacted away back 12 or 14 years ago. If one of these Indians has any money coming from any source whatever—it may be equalization money, in lieu of allotment of land; or it may be from the sale of a part of his land, he has money to his credit; it may be from one of these agricultural leases or it may be from oil leases—if he is within the restricted class. A man can not buy a dollar's worth of anything unless the purchase is approved in advance. Unless authority is gotten in advance to expend the money, as I understand it, or the claim is sent to Washington for approval, they can not pay the claims. At any rate authority has to be gotten from Washington to approve every dollar's worth of expenditure either before or after the purchase, anyway before the payment.

Now, gentlemen of the committee, there is too much delay in connection with this. This bill, if it passes, will give the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes the authority to approve any one of these claims. Wherever I go throughout my district I find that one of the biggest complaints arises from the delay which is experienced in the settlement of claims. Throughout the eastern part of Oklahoma there is a constant complaint in regard to the matter of having these claims paid. Let us take a very simple case. We will say, for instance, they go to a store in order to buy groceries or provisions of various kinds, or utensils, or they want money for any other purpose. An account is made out; it is investigated and O. K.'d by the local field clerk. That account goes to the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee. A great long report comes to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs at Washington; from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs it goes to the Secretary of the Interior. You can see that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs does not have time to deal with questions of that kind. There are larger questions to which he should devote his entire time. What I desire, and what this bill seeks to do, is to allow the man who is nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate of the United States, and who is placed upon the ground in Oklahoma, to approve these bills that affect the individual Indian.

Mr. JOHNSON. In order to be consistent, if this bill should be enacted into law, should we not have a superintendent in Arizona, in North Dakota, in South Dakota, and in all the States where there are Indians? It seems to me that the same problems would arise in those States that arise in Oklahoma.

Mr. HASTINGS. I took it for granted that that question would be propounded. I tried to anticipate that when I spoke before the committee a few days ago. I tried then to distinguish between the different tribes of Indians. I said to the committee at that time that the great difficulty was that when we get to talking about the Five Civilized Tribes you get the wrong idea. You are dealing here with an entirely different situation from that which ordinarily confronts you. We have here five civilized tribes of Indians with a century of civilization behind them. Here you have tribes of Indians who have had their own government as distinct as that of Arizona, as distinct as that of Arkansas, and as distinct as that of Maine. Those governments existed for a period of 75 years, when it was replaced

with the State government of Oklahoma. Here you have tribes with written constitutions, with written laws, etc., and with governors who have about the same authority as the governor of a surrounding State, for instance. They had their own legislatures—an upper and lower house. They passed acts by the legislature similar to the acts of any of our States. They had their judiciary. Their country was cut up into counties, and they had their various courts—the supreme court, the circuit court, the district court, etc.

Mr. MILLER. Presided over by Indians?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, sir; and the Government of the United States had nothing more to do with it than you have with Russia to-day. They appropriated their own money.

Mr. KONOP. At that time it was called Indian Territory, was it not?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, sir; at that time it was called Indian Territory.

Mr. KONOP. Besides that governor that you had there was there a territorial governor appointed?

Mr. HASTINGS. Not at all.

Mr. KONOP. Was there any United States court there?

Mr. HASTINGS. One was established in old Oklahoma in 1889 and afterwards extended to Indian Territory in 1890. The jurisdiction was enlarged from year to year. Prior to that time there was no court there, and so far as concerns the Indians the Federal courts had no jurisdiction whatever.

Mr. KONOP. What relation does our Government bear to this government?

Mr. HASTINGS. The only relation it had was that we could not violate any treaty we made with you. We could not pass an act that was violative of a treaty or the Constitution of the United States. The States, of course, can not pass an act violative of the Constitution of the United States, so that we stood practically in the same relation to the Government of the United States that one of your States does now.

The CHAIRMAN. The same relation as the old territory?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, sir; the same relation as the old territory, except, I believe, you appointed the governors in territories and we elected ours. We had a regular form of election. We had tribal politics and tribal parties. The governors were nominated, and all minor officers clear down to the lowest one were nominated and elected just as you elect them in any one of the States in the Union. I was about to say, furthermore, that we had a school system that was a model for the surrounding States. We used the proceeds from the exchanging of lands to maintain a school system that was considered a model. We had a free school system that was not supervised by the Government. You had nothing to do with it. You had nothing to do with the appropriation of our money. We maintained a superintendent of education. If I may say it with becoming modesty, I occupied that position for a short period 20 or 25 years ago. We had tribal school, and teachers were appointed in the various localities. What I say about one tribe could well be applied to the others. We built brick colleges and seminaries, where the young men and women of our country were educated. We had

teachers from Eastern States; we had graduates from Princeton and other universities, so that about the same course was taught in these schools as is taught in the high schools of the country to-day. Hence, you can readily see that we have educated our people. I am trying to show this committee the difference between a member of the Five Civilized Tribes and one of the other western tribes. You must bear in mind that during all these years we had no supervision at all. That applies to the members of the Five Civilized Tribes so far as their dealings with each other are concerned.

Mr. KONOP. How has this benevolent arm of the Government down there helped Oklahoma?

Mr. HASTINGS. May I answer that by using the words of the superintendent himself?

Mr. KONOP. Certainly; just so I get an answer.

Mr. HASTINGS. The superintendent has said that the Indians show less ability to take care of themselves to-day than 10 years ago.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Ferris is here and wants to be heard. Do you wish to yield to him now?

Mr. HASTINGS. I did not intend to take up so much time. I wish, however, to impress upon the committee again that I do not seek, in this bill, to take away supervision over the Indians. I do not want any illegal claims allowed. It is not my purpose to have any bogus claims allowed. I do think that if there is a claim against a restricted Indian; if a merchant, doctor, lawyer, blacksmith, laborer, or mechanic presents a claim to the local Government man on the ground, and he investigates it and reports upon it, and the report goes to the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, the report of the superintendent, or the decision of the superintendent, should be final. If there is an appeal from that, it comes up here to Washington, and white is the result? I have not a word of condemnation so far as the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs is concerned. I have, in fact, an affectionate regard for him. I was in the employ of the Cherokee Tribe for years and years and I was always treated with the utmost consideration by the Indian Office, and that applies equally to the past and present occupant of it. This is not a fight on any individual, but it is a fight against a system. I am opposed to it, because I do not think it is for the best interests of the Indians. Therefore, I do not wish to see it continued.

Mr. GANDY. If this bill should pass, would there be any appeal on matters from the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes directly to the Secretary's office?

Mr. HASTINGS. There would not be any in so far as these things that I have been referring to are concerned. In my opinion, the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes is at the present time simply a forwarding clerk. These matters do not go to the Secretary of the Interior. They go, as you know, to his office, but I venture to make the assertion that if you ask the Secretary of the Interior personally about these things, he could not tell you anything about them. He could not possibly keep track of these matters. The question is whether you will let the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, who is upon the ground and who has personal knowledge of these things, and who can get all the information that is necessary for a full investigation, approve these matters and pass

upon them, or will you send them here to Washington and let them go to the head of some bureau, where some clerk will pass upon them. It is not a question of appeal. They are all forwarded. Take a claim, for instance, of a man who has done work as a carpenter, and some restricted Indian owes him \$25 for some work that he has done on a house. The Indian wants to pay it, and the carpenter wants his money. He can not wait; he is not in a position to wait; at least, it inconveniences him to wait. He presents that claim. If that claim is O. K.'d, after an investigation, I think we should place the responsibility of approving it on the man in Oklahoma, in order to prevent delay. I think that should be final.

Mr. KONOP. Some years ago this committee thrashed out some matters in connection with frauds. For my own information, I wish you would tell me whether these frauds were committed in the tribal courts, or was that since the United States Government took hold?

Mr. HASTINGS. Those were not in the tribal courts. Our tribal courts have been abolished for a number of years. I think the matter you have in mind was something that occurred in about 1908.

Mr. KONOP. What I want to know is whether these frauds were committed under the Indian government or subsequent to that time?

Mr. HASTINGS. They have all been subsequent.

Mr. MURRAY. That was the Cherokee Nation.

Mr. HASTINGS. I may say that I represented the tribe in those fights.

Mr. KONOP. It was only for my own personal information that I asked it.

Mr. MURRAY. The tribal courts of the Chickasaw Nation had jurisdiction until the act of Congress took it away in 1913.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, as to oil leases, practically all that country has been leased for oil. You gentlemen who are acquainted with the oil situation know that oil lands are developed first by "wildcatting." In other words, a man a distance of several miles away from any oil development will secure a block of land and lease from the various owners, and they drill a well somewhere near the center. They can not afford otherwise to go down in the "wildcatting" territory and spend three or four thousand dollars for a well. Nearly all of this territory that is anywhere near oil territory has been leased. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs will invite attention to the fact that these are valuable oil leases.

Mr. KONOP. These leases will expire some time, will they not? They are not in perpetuity.

Mr. HASTINGS. That is true. Then some of the leases are occasionally canceled. Now, after a while an oil well may be drilled down there 2 or 3 or 4 miles from the former well, and some "wildcatter" takes a chance at it. These oil leases are made on a blank form prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior. They require the lessee to comply with certain rules and regulations. That part is not disturbed by this bill. These are made up on blank forms, and the bill does not disturb that. They have to give bond, and that is not disturbed. The Indian is interested in having the land developed, and the lessee is interested in the development, and the country is interested in the development, so that the Indian makes the lease to some lessee. Now, before the report is made by the local Government

officer he knows where this land is; he knows the section, township, and range, for instance. They have all this information there in the office. The field man goes out and inspects it and makes a report as to the probable value of the land as to the nearest oil wells and as to what bonus is being paid on commercial leases. These leases are not as valuable as commercial leases because of the delays incident to securing their approval. After this local man reports to the superintendent at Muskogee, they have a long report which has to be dictated and sent to Washington. They have no more information in Washington than the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes has down there at Muskogee. If this bill is enacted into law it will give him final authority in these matters, based upon the information that is collected by him.

I desire now to invite the attention of the committee to the amount of correspondence between the department and the men in the field in order to show you the condition that I am trying to remedy. If you will look at page 69 of the superintendent's report, you will find that he gives the amount of outgoing mail—departmental letters—as 7,650. If you cut out Sundays and holidays, you will see that in round numbers there are 25 letters written by the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes every day to the department here in Washington. Of course I have no knowledge as to the exact character of those letters. Some of them are short and some are long. You can readily see, gentlemen of the committee, that this man is nothing more than a forwarding clerk to the head of the bureau here, and he would be busy if he had nothing to do besides reading these letters that are prepared in his office for his signature. Let me also invite attention to the number of letters that he receives from the department. This report shows that he received departmental letters in the incoming mail amounting to 7,694. There were, as you will remember, 7,650 letters going to the department, and there were 7,694 coming from the department, so that you can see the amount of clerical work involved and the size of the force that is necessary in order to make reports and for the purpose of forwarding these things to the department.

Let me call attention to another thing which is shown by this report. It shows that the miscellaneous mail, incoming, runs up to 116,570. Miscellaneous letters outgoing from this office run up to 144,402.

Mr. CARTER. Do you mean that is at the Indian office down there?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, sir; at Muskogee. There are some 300 employees in the office of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes. They have a big force at Muskogee. They have a large force of clerks. They also have field men scattered all over eastern Oklahoma from whom this superintendent may get first-hand information.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to call your attention to the fact that you have 17 minutes left. Do you desire to yield to Mr. Ferris?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes; in just a moment.

Let me give you a practical application of how this thing works, and then you will see why we are trying to remedy the existing conditions. Whenever any action is asked for by a restricted Indian, whether it is the payment of a claim, the approval of an agricultural

lease, the approval of an oil lease, the removal of restrictions, or any action at all, however slight it may be, the local men down there, if they want a matter expedited, if they live in my district, they immediately write a letter to me, or if in another to their Member of Congress, asking that the matter be expedited, because they know the delays that are incident to it. The Member of Congress answers that letter. He immediately writes to the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes. Then he writes a letter to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. They write each other a letter, and each one of them writes the man in Oklahoma a letter about the matter. Now, gentlemen of the committee, I know that that accounts for a large part of this mail.

Mr. NORTON. As I understand it, your chief complaint seems to be that there is too much correspondence between the department on minor matters.

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Have you taken that up with the Secretary of the Interior and called attention to that?

Mr. HASTINGS. I have never yet found a department that wanted to yield any jurisdiction.

Mr. NORTON. I was simply asking for information.

Mr. HASTINGS. It has been my understanding, Mr. Norton, that promises have been made, not only by this administration, but by past administrations, in response to a number of complaints and applications, that more jurisdiction would be given to the local man, but there does not seem to be any improvement. At any rate, I have exercised my right as a Member of Congress and have introduced this bill which seeks to do away with these unnecessary delays.

Mr. NORTON. I regret very much that I have not been here during all of this discussion. Have you covered with the committee the question of the probating of the estates of the Indians down there? As I understand it, that at one time was in charge of the local authorities and was taken in charge by the Government.

Mr. HASTINGS. The law is the same now as it was then.

Mr. NORTON. The law is the same?

Mr. HASTINGS. The law is the same. This bill does not change that at all.

Mr. NORTON. Of course, this would not change that law. Do you mean to say that the law pertains to the probating of Indian estates in the same way that it did before the Burke Act?

Mr. HASTINGS. I know what you have reference to. Some three or four years ago, as I remember it, you appropriated additional money for probate attorneys, and these probate attorneys now assist in these probate matters in all these courts.

You continued that appropriation in the appropriation bill that you recently passed.

Mr. MURRAY. The jurisdiction is the same.

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes.

Mr. CARTER. Were you not one of the parties that called the attention of the department first to the bad state of probating affairs in Oklahoma?

Mr. HASTINGS. I do not want to take too much credit to myself, but it is a well known fact in Oklahoma that I led the fight in behalf

of the Indians. I might add that it was an exceptionally vigorous fight.

Mr. MILLER. Under existing law, if an Indian sells his allotment, what becomes of the money?

Mr. HASTINGS. It depends upon whether he is a restricted Indian or not.

Mr. MILLER. If he is not restricted.

Mr. HASTINGS. The department may remove the restriction unconditionally and turn him loose. This bill does not change that at all. It gives supervision to the local man instead of the head of some bureau in Washington.

The CHAIRMAN. It is almost 12 o'clock, and Mr. Ferris is waiting to be heard.

Mr. HASTINGS. I will yield to Mr. Ferris.

STATEMENT OF HON. SCOTT FERRIS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

Mr. FERRIS. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, it seems almost trite for one who knows so little of Indian affairs to even for a moment interrupt a gentleman who knows so much about them as Mr. Hastings. I want to say that I concur in and second all that he has said with reference to there being a grave necessity for bringing the administration of Indian affairs a little closer to the Indians. This condition of affairs to which he has referred does not mean so much to some of you, but to those who live in the one Territory or the one State where all the Indians have been collected and colonized it means a great deal. As we all know, the former Indian Territory, now a part of Oklahoma, was set apart years ago by Congress for the purpose of assembling the Indians that the white people in other States wanted to get rid of. I guess I should say when the older States wanted their lands for settlement purposes. In this way, using this method of pressing the Indians back, this brought together almost half of all the Indians in that single area called Oklahoma.

Now, the problems of these people are numerous; their property is vast, and the administration of it is very complicated. I know how natural it is that the head of the Indian Department, Commissioner Sells, is loath to relax any part of the jurisdiction he now has. There was a time, less than 10 years ago, when the State was admitted into the Union, and every Indian was made a full citizen and clothed with every right of citizenship possessed by a white man. One of these citizens was elected to the United States Senate; one to Congress, and they have since elected two additional Indians to represent us in the Congress of the United States. The second governor of our State was an Indian citizen. The first two speakers of the legislature were Indians. The chairman of the constitutional convention was an Indian citizen. If any of you gentlemen should visit us, the committee that would greet you would be largely composed of Indian citizens. The reception committee would be composed of Indians. If you should go behind the counter of a bank out there, you would find Indians in control of many of the banks. It is humiliating to these people who have had patent to land since

1842, who have been civilized, and who have served in both armies, to have to ask permission, first, of their local representative of the Indian Service, and later of the Indian Office, and still later of the Indian Department, to buy a few shingles to go upon the roof that covers their heads.

Mr. NORTON. Would you, Mr. Ferris, favor a bill or provision of law severing the relation of the Indians in Oklahoma entirely from the Government?

Mr. FERRIS. I would not as to all of them, but surely as to the great majority of the Five Civilized Tribes. I will give my opinion very frankly.

Mr. NORTON. I had in mind something that Mr. Hastings had said.

Mr. FERRIS. I am very glad to deal with that question. We have in the Five Civilized Tribes what may be called white Indians, and we have in the Five Civilized Tribes what may well be called real Indians. As to the former, I would free them; as to the latter, I would handle as other Indian problems. It was my opinion when I sat on this committee, and it has been my opinion from that day to this, that the so-called white Indian should be separated from the real Indian. I am sure that if I were to try to introduce a bill along those lines to-day, I would almost be assassinated; not by you gentlemen who come from Indian States, but by others, who would say that I was trying to take away from them the protection of the Government. So, I do not think we can go that far. I have not consulted with Mr. Hastings about this bill, but I have no doubt that he would say if there was any possibility of doing that thing, we would not be here to-day interested in this matter. Inasmuch as it seems impossible to get the real Indians separated from the so-called white Indians, I am ready to second Mr. Hastings's proposition to bring the Government to the Indians, rather than bring the Indians to the Government. Every year they have to go around and collect little pittances among themselves to send delegates here. A committee of Indians was in my office this morning. They come to Washington yearly from the several tribes. Considering the progress that these Indians in Oklahoma have made, I think that we should have an administrative officer on the ground.

The Indian office at Muskogee has become nothing more or less than a subordinate office, and if an Indian goes there to ask for the simplest thing; if he goes in to ask for a set of harness or for a plow to cultivate his cotton; he goes in to ask for money to build a pigsty or a chicken shed, it takes months to get those trivial matters through the various channels and acted upon. You see, his money is all tied up. It is held by the Government.

I do not come in here in a spirit of complaint against the great Government which does so much for our Indian people and for our Indians, but it is merely against the method of procedure that I protest. The Indian goes in and signs an application to get \$40 for the purchase of cotton seed, or for money to build an addition to his barn, but before it can be approved it has to go through all these various channels, and the Indian becomes a beggar, he becomes a dependent, and he has to humiliate himself before he can get what he needs. This, of course, is intended to help him, but in reality harms him and reduces him.

My district does not include as much of the Five Civilized Tribes as does the district of the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. Hastings, or the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. Carter, or the gentleman from Oklahoma, Mr. Murray; but in going around the State some, as I do every year, I become fairly well acquainted with conditions over the State. I attended some public gatherings in the eastern part of the State last year, and I was humiliated to find that some of those people who have for 50 or 75 years run their own government very well had been reduced to the rankest sort of poverty by the administration which has been put upon them.

If you ask me whether Commissioner Sells willingly does that, I answer no. If you ask me whether Secretary of the Interior Lane willingly submits to that, I say no. If you ask me if any arm or branch of the Government service willingly does that, I say no. But it comes about from a cumbersome and bunglesome handling of Indian affairs that ought to be remedied. The Government is too far away from the Indian. The office there is without power. They have to report everything to Washington.

Mr. NORTON. Do you not think if the Secretary of the Interior would take up this matter and issue an order saying that he wants the condition remedied, he would have the power to do it?

Mr. FERRIS. It is my opinion he could. Mr. Hastings, I think, answered you very well when he said it is preposterous to assume that any official, under any conditions, will ever yield a particle of jurisdiction. If Congress thrusts it upon him to-day, it is with him forever, unless somebody divests him of it.

Mr. NORTON. The gentleman assumes that he can not find in this Republic of ours a man strong enough to be placed in a position such as that of Secretary of the Interior who will do what he honestly believes is best for the Indians?

Mr. FERRIS. I hope you will not put those words in my mouth, because they are not my words; they are not in my heart. Secretary Lane, in my opinion, is a brilliant, capable, able man. Personally he is my best friend connected with the whole administration. In fact, I am going to talk with him in regard to this very proposition.

With his many cares he can't give full attention to all these matters.

Mr. NORTON. If you had the full say as to what should be done in the administration of affairs down in the Five Civilized Tribes, you would know what to do?

Mr. FERRIS. I hope I have not appeared as such an egotist as to say I could solve the problems, even as well as they have been attempted to be solved, although I am glad to submit any views I may have in regard to the system, realizing how unworthy my opinion may be.

Mr. NORTON. Does the gentleman think the Secretary of the Interior now has power, under the law, to correct the administrative features in the Five Civilized Tribes of which he complained?

Mr. FERRIS. Probably most of them could be.

Mr. NORTON. The gentleman says that the Secretary has that power, but he will not make the correction.

Mr. FERRIS. Well, I did not say that.

Mr. SNYDER. I think I can probably straighten this out. As I understood Mr. Hastings, the department is already doing for the district what this bill requires?

Mr. FERRIS. Only in part.

Mr. SNYDER. That shows it has some jurisdiction in regard to the things with which you are concerned.

Mr. FERRIS. Mr. Hastings may be correct, and I may be incorrect, but my own notion of it is that the Secretary of the Interior could, if he had the time to, become conversant with it, and I think he could correct it himself, or at least most of it.

But let me urge a reason why he could probably never be brought to that point. I think the committee will agree with my statement. Under the Secretary of the Interior is, first, the Pension Bureau, dealing with the old soldiers of the country, who need much attention. Under the Secretary of the Interior is also the Patent Office and the United States Land Office, which is dealing with 700,000,000 acres of public land. The forest reserve lands are partly under the Agriculture Department, but their disposition comes under the Secretary of the Interior. The Land Office also deals with all the water power of the country, which is a very vast subject.

The Secretary of the Interior also has under him the Bureau of Education, the Geological Survey, the Reclamation Service, and the Bureau of Mines.

So, you see, gentlemen, it is unreasonable to expect that the great Secretary of the Interior who is now in that office, or any other great man who may succeed him, or any of the great men who have preceded him, will or could acquaint himself with all these little matters, and do that detailed work. It is impossible to expect that of the Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Norton.

Mr. NORTON. May I interrupt you at this point?

Mr. FERRIS. Certainly.

Mr. NORTON. I can not agree with the gentleman from Oklahoma in that. I can not concede that the Secretary of the Interior has not men under him who would advise him correctly in a matter of this kind; that he could not receive advice from the Members of the delegation from Oklahoma in matters of this kind, which he has within his power to correct.

Mr. FERRIS. I may have failed in my efforts in presenting the matter, but I thought I gave a reason that was at least satisfactory to myself as to why it is impossible to get the Secretary of the Interior, or even the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to make himself conversant with all these problems. The reasons seem ample to me, and I do not wonder that things are not more satisfactory than they are.

There are over 300,000 Indians in the United States, scattered in nearly every State in the Union. There are some in New York, and some even in the District of Columbia, as I learned recently, much to my surprise. You will find Indians in nearly every State in the Union. So it is impossible for the Secretary or the commissioner to take up all these little matters. He has to trust them to somebody, and he trusts them to some clerk in the office who probably draws a salary of \$1,500 or \$1,800 or \$2,500, while down at Muskogee, Okla., there is a man appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who is paid the same salary as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. When this man first went there it was said that he would

be given power to do something. As a matter of fact, he has not been given that power. He has really been shorn of most of the power the office once had. This is wrong I feel sure, and unnecessary as well.

It is not the person with whom I am infatuated. Mr. Gabe Parker is a delightful young man. He has been here in the Treasury Department, and he has been at the head of the schools in Oklahoma. He is a charming young fellow. If he is not strong enough to do the business, somebody ought to appoint a man who is strong enough. I think he is strong enough. I feel sure he is. I merely mention this to show there is no personal interest in the matter at all.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Parker has been in the Indian Service for 10 or 12 years.

Mr. FERRIS. Yes; and he was of their own choosing. He was not foisted upon the department by the Oklahoma Representatives. He was a man of the Indian Department's own choosing. He was not even a candidate for the office when he received it.

Mr. NORTON. I want to say personally I would like to see the whole matter kicked out of Congress and out of the department, and taken in charge by the people of Oklahoma. But they do not seem to want to do that. They want Congress to continue its appropriations and the people not have any jurisdiction down there.

Mr. FERRIS. My friend from North Dakota, with whom I am almost always in accord, I think has wandered away from the path when he talks of too large an appropriation going to Muskogee. In the Five Civilized Tribes there are 101,000 allottees. There are only 300,000 in the entire United States. If you take the appropriation they get out of the Federal Treasury and compare it with that received by any other tribe in the country, unless you except the poor Papagos, or some of the scattered wandering tribes, you will find that the per capita expense is greater nearly everywhere else. Perhaps it should be so. I am not in favor of all the administration that is going on down there. I have never been; I never will be. It is not my opinion that it elevates a citizen to have some one tagging at his coat tail constantly. A poor boy, who is fortunate enough to have a poor father, of a thrifty, industrious disposition, is more fortunate than one, be he white, red, or black, who is carried along by his boot straps throughout his lifetime. One makes a brave citizen, ready to defend his country in war or in peace, while the other usually becomes a pap sucker and a dependent.

The CHAIRMAN. There are only two classes of property over which the commissioner would have jurisdiction. One is the land allotted to enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes, and the other is Indian money. That refers to the land, a good deal of which could be eliminated, if we would put in the word unrestricted enrolled members of the tribe, so that when the Indian who owns a piece of land that has been allotted to him has the restrictions removed it would then give them jurisdiction down there. Otherwise he can not control his own property. Let it remain where it is now. Would that not be fair?

Mr. FERRIS. The chairman may have a correct conception of that. I have not had time to weigh the proposition or to follow him carefully.

The CHAIRMAN. What does Mr. Hastings say to that?

MR. HASTINGS. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has now no jurisdiction over any of the unrestricted Indians, and this would not transfer anything. It only transfers the jurisdiction which the commissioner and the Secretary of the Interior have now, and they only have it over unrestricted Indians.

The CHAIRMAN. Why not write it into the bill?

MR. HASTINGS. That is what the bill says. It just transfers such jurisdiction as they have. It only transfers jurisdiction over the restricted Indians.

MR. DEMPSEY. If you wrote the word "unrestricted" in there, that would not be effective there at all.

MR. FERRIS. Of course, this bill would not affect any tribal property at all. I would not affect their tribal fund. It would only affect the individual Indian. My thought is that, coupled with the ability the Indian himself has, coupled with that and the \$5,000 man and all the agents and other men down there, they would be able to properly care for it for them, if they had an opportunity.

MR. MURRAY. An unrestricted Indian is then made an Indian with his lands unrestricted. An unrestricted Indian has no restricted land. But there are restricted individuals who have land unrestricted. That is the distinction.

MR. FERRIS. May I add one word, again using Mr. Murray's suggestion for another purpose. When Congress admitted our State into the Union, we had a million and a half people in the State, and Congress said that every individual citizen in the State, the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes, and the western Indians, too, should be full citizens, in all that the term citizenship means. They hold office, they vote, they come to Congress, they become bankers, they become district judges, and they become county prosecutors. They perform every function of a citizen and most of them do it pretty well.

To do what Mr. Hastings asks you to do is only a fair thing, so far as the property of the people is concerned. It is a fact that the individual Indian looks pretty well after his own property. Let me say to you that all the graft and the bad dealing in Indian matters has not been confined to the private allotments at all. It comes where there is community property. It is the tribal property that has been the bait for big attorney fees and graft.

I speak the truth when I say the individual Indian takes pretty good care of what he personally has, and is usually able to defend what he has. The Indian's own intuitiveness, his own initiative, his own native wit enables him pretty well to hold on to his own individual property in a controversy between himself and some one else. But if you will look into the matter, and look up the various persons who are always trying to divest the Indian of his property, you find that the property they are trying to get hold of is the community property as distinguished from the individual Indian property. I am sure about that.

After 15 years of residence there among them, during which time I have practiced law among them, I am sure that is true. I was born within 16 miles of where these people have lived since 1830, and during this time I have known of them intimately. I have known

something about them for a long time, and have been intimately in touch with them for 15 years.

Some members of the committee, very properly, I notice have been scrutinizing Mr. Hastings's bill closely. It is proper to do so. Here is an adverse report from the department. It is proper for the committee to know why. The committee will have to have that information in order to put the bill through the House of Representatives. My one request is that the committee shall not hurriedly sweep aside the matter, but that they shall look into it a little further. I think, perhaps, with a little change here and there something might come out of this that would redound to the credit of the committee, to the credit of the Indian, and redound to the growth and progress of the new State, where there has been such a hard struggle, and where the people have had to pay 5 or 6 per cent in taxes in some parts of the State in order to keep things going.

Gentlemen of the committee, while we annoy you and the House a good deal, and Oklahoma now seems to some too prominent in Indian affairs, you should remember that that has been a colonization area for Indians for the last 75 years. They are collected together there, and their problems have to be solved by you.

So if we have appeared tedious, if we, as a delegation, appear to ask too much of you, I ask you to be just a little considerate and patient with us, because some of this Indian property is not taxable at all; some of it is by statute made nontaxable indefinitely, even after it passes out of the Indian's hand. Some of the great blocks in Muskogee can never be taxed, due to laws which have proven unwise. It is a great new State, that was almost a full-grown State when it was admitted into the Union. Our State was entitled to eight Congressmen and had a population of 1,650,000 people when it was admitted. We have nearly half the Indians in the United States in our State, with great interests there, and great problems there to be solved, and I beg the committee to give Mr. Hastings credit for initiating this proposition, which, if it can be enacted by you gentlemen, would do a great deal toward solving these problems.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you not think it would be advisable to turn over the Indians to the State and let the State govern them—let them be supervised by their own State government?

Mr. FERRIS. That presents a problem so gigantic, Mr. Chairman, that any offhand answer I might give you to your questions would not be worth anything. I beg the indulgence of the chairman in not answering that now other than to say that if I had sufficient ability or intelligence to bring before you any vehicle or methods to divide the white Indians from the real Indians I know I would be rendering you good service and the Indians even a greater service. I know I would have rendered the State a great service. I think I am sure when I say good results would flow all around.

The CHAIRMAN. Is it your opinion that the members of the legislatures of the States who live among the Indians would know much more about how to control the Indians than we who are 2,000 miles away from most of them?

Mr. FERRIS. I think, so far as the full-blood Indians are concerned, that is a national problem; and in as far as that is a national problem, Mr. Chairman, while the answer you expected from me might be in

the affirmative, I am not ready to give it in the affirmative. But I am anxious that somewhere, at some time, in some way, they will let the Indians that are not real Indians go their way. It is humiliating to have a dozen or more Federal agents at the coat tails of the Indians all the time, attempting to instruct men who know enough to be governors of States, presidents of banks, and district judges; it is humiliating to have a dozen Federal agents trying to teach those people how to spell their names, and it is, in truth, an illogical proposition, and there will be always a rebellious attitude among those people as long as that system prevails.

Mr. SNYDER. There is a similar situation so far as the Federal banks are concerned throughout the States, where Indians are not in control.

(Thereupon, at 12.10 o'clock p. m., the committee adjourned.)

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, D. C., Friday, March 24, 1916.

The committee this day met, Hon. John H. Stephens (chairman) presiding.

The CHAIRMAN. The committee will come to order. We have as unfinished business this morning House bill No. 108, introduced by Mr. Hastings. We have had hearings on the bill and the proponents have spoken. We have set apart to-day for the purpose of hearing the department's views. Mr. Meritt is present this morning, and we will first hear from him, unless there is some one else whom he wishes to represent the Government this morning.

STATEMENT OF MR. EDGAR B. MERITT, ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, I have been requested to appear before your committee on behalf of the department and the Indian Office in opposition to H. R. 108, known as the "Hastings bill," entitled "A bill to confer upon the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior respecting lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes and their individual moneys."

Before entering upon a discussion of this matter I wish to make it perfectly clear that I have no criticism to make of the author of the bill or any other member of the Oklahoma delegation. I have the pleasure of a personal acquaintance with each Representative and Senator from that State and hold them in the highest esteem.

Neither do I wish to offer any wholesale criticism of the citizenship of Oklahoma in connection with Indian matters. I have traveled over a large part of the State of Oklahoma and have met many of its citizens, and I believe that I can say with perfect truth that the citizenship of the State will compare favorably with the citizens of any other State of this Union.

With my position perfectly plain at the outset, that I do not appear before your committee to criticize Oklahoma, the Representa-

tives of that State in Congress, or the citizenship of the State, I will be glad now to take up for consideration the bill itself, which reads as follows:

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma shall, after the passage and approval of this act, have and exercise all the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior, or either of them, respecting the lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma and their individual moneys.

SEC. 2. That all acts and parts of acts inconsistent with the provisions of this act be, and the same are hereby, repealed.

The Indian appropriation act of August 1, 1914 (38 Stat. L., 598), abolished the office of the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes and the superintendent of the Union Agency, and in lieu thereof the President of the United States was authorized to appoint a superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes. The superintendent authorized by this law was appointed December 22, 1914.

You will observe from a careful reading of this bill that it is proposed to invest in the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes all the authority now conferred upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior relating to individual Indian matters in the Five Civilized Tribes. It is almost impossible to conceive of the vast authority that this bill would place in the hands of one man, who would be absolute in his power and without the right of interested parties to appeal to a higher authority. It should be remembered that about one-third of the Indians in the United States are located in Oklahoma—

Mr. CARTER. That is rather a misleading statement. Are there one-third of the restricted Indians of the United States in Oklahoma?

Mr. MERITT. There are probably between 50,000 and 60,000 restricted Indians located in Oklahoma.

Mr. CARTER. Of the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. There are about 35,000 Indians who are restricted Indians among the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. CARTER. Yes; not more than that under this jurisdiction.

The CHAIRMAN. As a matter of fact, this bill only touches the Five Civilized Tribes, does it not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir. I was going to bring that out a little later on.

Mr. HASTINGS. May I make one observation at this point? My recollection is that your report shows that there are 37,000 restricted Indians, all of whom are allottees. Is it not a fact that the records will show that of this 37,000 you have removed the restrictions from about 8,000, and about one-third of the remainder are dead, so that the restricted class would be less than 25,000 at this time; that is, the living restricted class?

Mr. MERITT. Somewhere in the neighborhood of 25,000. Our records show that there are between 32,000 and 33,000 Indians in Oklahoma in the Five Civilized Tribes, who have not had their restrictions removed.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do the records show that many living; that is what I am after?

Mr. MERITT. I would have to look at the records to get that information.

The CHAIRMAN. Let me suggest that Mr. Meritt be permitted to go on with his statement, and after he has concluded anyone who desires to do so may ask him questions.

Mr. MERITT. I would appreciate that. It should be remembered that about one-third of the Indians in the United States are located in Oklahoma; that there are enrolled in the Five Civilized Tribes 101,521 citizens, 26,789 of whom are full-blood Indians, and that there are about 33,000 restricted Indians at this time among the Five Civilized Tribes.

Lands have been allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes as follows:

To 3,119 Seminoles an average of 120 acres, 40 acres being a homestead and nontaxable in perpetuity.

To 18,712 Creeks, 160 acres each, 40 acres being a homestead and nontaxable and inalienable for 21 years from date of patent.

To 40,196 Cherokees, an average of 110 acres each, 40 acres being a homestead and nontaxable while held by the original allottee.

To 27,021 Choctaws and Chickasaws, not including freedmen, an average of 320 acres each, of which 160 acres was designated as a homestead.

To 10,657 Choctaw and Chickasaw Freedmen, land equal in value to 40 acres of the average allottable land.

Under the Choctaw and Chickasaw agreements all land is nontaxable while the title remains in the original allottee, not exceeding 21 years from date of patent.

Under the provisions of the act of Congress approved April 21, 1904, all lands of allottees not of Indian blood, except as to minors and homesteads, were made free from all restrictions, and the act of Congress of May 27, 1908 (35 Stats. L., 312), provided that all lands allotted, including homesteads of allottees having less than one-half blood, including minors, shall be free from all restrictions, and that all lands, except homesteads, of those having one-half or more than one-half and less than three-quarters Indian blood, as shown by the enrollment records, shall be free from all restrictions, and the restrictions on land allotted to all other enrolled Indians, including minors, may be removed wholly or in part by the Secretary of the Interior. Since the approval of these acts the restrictions have been removed from approximately 12,500,000 acres of land by operation of law and by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. MILLER. How does it come about that the Indians disposed of the land?

Mr. MERITT. The act of May 27, 1908, removed the restrictions on these lands, and they were at liberty to sell their lands without any legal objections by anyone.

Mr. MILLER. Could not the Department of the Interior object?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; because the jurisdiction of the Interior Department no longer prevailed after the passage of that act.

Mr. CARTER. The act removed the restrictions on all lands of those Indians of less than half Indian blood.

Mr. MILLER. Oh, I understand.

Mr. MERITT. The act of May 27, 1908, removed the restrictions on more than 10,000,000 acres of land. There were originally belonging to the Five Civilized Tribes 19,525,266 acres, which were classified

and appraised by 40-acre tracts. It will be seen that restrictions have been removed from practically two-thirds of the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes. It is estimated that 90 per cent of the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes who had their restrictions removed by legislation are to-day without any lands whatever. In other words, more than 50 per cent of the membership of the Five Civilized Tribes have, within the last 10 years, passed from landlords to tenants. In view of the great loss of property which has resulted to those members who have had their restrictions removed by legislative enactment, it is clearly the duty of the department to see that every precaution is taken to protect the property rights of the 35,000 Indians, most of whom are full bloods, whose restrictions have not yet been removed. Some of these restricted Indians have oil allotments valued at hundreds of thousands of dollars. The records show that there was an oil production on Indian lands of the Five Civilized Tribes last year amounting to 27,098,994 barrels and royalty interest paid thereon to Indians amounting to \$1,537,727. Revenue derived from agricultural and nonproducing leases approved by the department during the last fiscal year amounted to \$354,571. These restricted Indians owned on June 30, 1915, 3,318,370 acres of land. There are deposited to the credit of restricted Indians approximately \$5,000,000, accruing from rents, royalties, and the sale of lands.

It is strongly believed by the Indian Office and the department that no man, no matter how honest he may be, can safely undertake the sole management of such a vast and valuable estate. The officer who institutes administrative action is not always the most competent one to review such action for final decision. His view is often too restricted and his perspective is too limited. It is believed that no Indian or citizen should be deprived of the right of appeal or review respecting action by a local official involving property rights worth thousands of dollars.

Mr. CARTER. I noticed that there were some questions asked you in the Senate. Do you think that the President should pass on a thing of that kind, or that an act of Congress should be passed? How was it that it was overlooked? How is it that it was not thought necessary to have the President review the applications, and that congressional action was not made necessary?

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Carter, I believe that your question answers itself.

Mr. CARTER. Well, do you really and seriously think it is necessary for the Secretary to pass on these things?

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Carter, may I reply to your question after I have completed the statement I desire to make?

Mr. CARTER. Why, yes. I am afraid, however, that I may overlook something.

Mr. MERITT. If the Hastings bill should be passed as introduced, it will vest in the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes more authority than the Commissioner of Indian Affairs now has over those matters, because his action is now subject to review by the Secretary of the Interior.

The local associations—personal, social, and political—would seriously embarrass the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes,

and might deprive him of that independence absolutely necessary to withstand local pressure.

In a report of November 3, 1915, in regard to the money belonging to restricted Indians, the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, Mr. Parker, said:

There is every pressure imaginable, not only from those who desire to separate the Indian from his money, but, in many cases, from Indians themselves, brought to bear upon me to purchase various and sundry things with Indian moneys, or to make loans on all kinds and classes of security, and even to pay out the money without restriction thereon whatever, to individuals, guardians, administrators, and in every other conceivable way possible, to get the money out of the hands of the department.

There is abundant evidence in the files of the Indian Office and the department showing clearly that the local official who institutes administrative action should not be the final arbiter, but that his official recommendations and acts should be reviewed by a higher authority.

Referring to local pressure and the feeling regarding Indian matters, attention is invited to the language of the Supreme Court in the case of *United States v. Kagama* (188 U. S., 375, 383), wherein the court said—

The CHAIRMAN. What is the date of that decision of the Supreme Court?

Mr. MERITT. It is 188 United States.

The CHAIRMAN. What is the date of it?

Mr. CARTER. 1883, I think.

Mr. MERITT. The Supreme Court in that case said:

These Indian tribes are the wards of the Nation. They are communities dependent on the United States. Dependent largely for their daily food. Dependent for their political rights. They owe no allegiance to the States and receive from them no protection. Because of the local ill feeling the people of the States where they are found are often their deadliest enemies. From their very weakness and helplessness, so largely due to the course of dealing of the Federal Government with them and the treaties in which it has been promised, there arises the duty of protection and with it the power.

Because of the fact that there is such a large percentage of the Indians of the country living in Oklahoma, and there is within that State such an immense area of land that is not taxable under existing law, the pressure to remove restrictions and sell Indian land in order to make the property taxable is very great indeed.

If the Hastings bill were enacted it would be possible for the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes within a few months to remove restrictions on all the lands of the full-blood Indians in the Five Civilized Tribes. I am not contending that such action is probable, but it would be possible under the proposed legislation.

Before this committee takes action on the Hastings bill it is suggested by the Indian Office that the members of the committee read with care the speech of Hon. Charles H. Burke, of South Dakota, on the Mott report, relative to Indian guardianships in the probate courts of Oklahoma, which was delivered in the House of Representatives on December 13, 1912. That speech and report show what may be expected when local officials are vested with final authority relating to property rights of Indians. The Indian Office and the department have already invested the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes with immense authority.

Mr. HASTINGS. You say that if the Hastings bill were enacted it would be possible for the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes to remove restrictions on all the lands of the full-blood Indians in a few months.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Is not that possible now? Is it not possible for the Secretary of the Interior to do that now?

The CHAIRMAN. Let Mr. Meritt finish his statement first. You gentlemen can take notes as we go along and then ask these questions later on.

Mr. MERITT. Only recently Secretary Lane issued an order authorizing the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes to approve agricultural leases in his name.

Mr. CARTER. When was that done? That was since the Hastings bill was introduced, was it not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; I think it was.

The objections heretofore made regarding this matter of agricultural leases no longer obtain. Very liberal authority has also been given the superintendent regarding the handling of individual Indian moneys. Under the regulations now existing he has broad and liberal authority to handle the funds of individual Indians for permanent improvements on Indian allotments, and other needs of the Indians.

Mr. KONOP. I would like to ask a few questions just at this point.

The CHAIRMAN. I have ruled otherwise. It is understood that Mr. Meritt is to finish his statement, and then you may ask questions.

Mr. KONOP. Did you rule otherwise before I came in?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes; I suppose so.

Mr. MERITT. I believe there should be the most liberal policy pursued regarding the winding up of the tribal affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes, and that those affairs should be closed up at the earliest possible date. We have recently sold for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations 124,895 acres of unallotted tribal lands, including the surface of segregated coal and asphalt lands, receiving therefor \$906,544.58. It is expected that the remaining unallotted tribal lands, including the timber reserve in the Choctaw Nation, will be disposed of this year. We are also in favor of making such a disposition of the reserve coal and asphalt so that each Indian may receive his pro rata share of the proceeds thereof. We have also recommended large per capita payments in the Choctaw, Chickasaw, and Seminole Nations, and it is expected that as soon as the Indian appropriation bill has passed there will be distributed approximately \$8,400,000 to the enrolled members of those nations. I believe that every competent Indian in the Five Civilized Tribes should receive his pro rata share of the tribal funds and that the money should be deposited to the individual credit of the incompetent Indians for their use and benefit.

The thought has been brought out that this proposed legislation in the Indian bill is a natural sequence to the act of August 1, 1914, which consolidated the offices of the Union Agency and the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes. The hearings before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs upon the Indian appropriation bill

will show clearly that the Indian Office and the department were in favor of the legislation consolidating those offices. That recommendation was made, however, without any idea that subsequently legislation such as is proposed in the Hastings bill would be urged upon Congress. It is now my personal belief that a mistake was made in that legislation in so far as it made the office of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes a political one. That official may be changed every time there is a change of administration of the Federal Government. In my judgment, the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes should be a civil-service employee. The responsibilities of that office are so great and the complications so many, and with the multiplicity of laws and regulations applicable, the man to fill that office successfully should be a trained official and his term of office should not be limited to the political ascendancy of any party. There can not be a successful administration of Indian affairs if we are to have a constant change in administrative officials.

Reference has been made to the long delays in the Indian Office and the department in handling Five Civilized Tribes matters, especially oil and gas mining leases and the removal of restrictions. In the hearing of February 23, 1916, before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs on the Indian appropriation bill, in discussing oil and gas mining leases and removal of restrictions, as shown on page 238 of the hearings, it was said, in part:

Mr. MERITT. Under existing law the Secretary of the Interior is required to approve oil and gas mining leases and the removal of restrictions. The superintendent gets an application from the Indian that his restrictions be removed; that is passed on by the field agent, and Supt. Parker submits it with his report to the Indian Office. When that is received in the Indian Office it goes directly from the mailing room to the clerk who handles the removal-of-restriction cases. That paper then comes to my desk and goes from my desk direct to Secretary Sweeney. Secretary Sweeney passes on that case directly, without referring it to the clerk in the Interior Department.

Senator OWEN. Do you make any report on it?

Mr. MERITT. I make a recommendation.

Senator OWEN. Based on the report of your clerk?

Mr. MERITT. Based on the report of the clerk and the report and recommendation of the superintendent. The same method is adopted in connection with the oil leases, and I believe that Supt. Parker, who is here, will bear me out that where there are no complications those removal-of-restriction cases and the approval of oil leases are back in his office within 15 days from the date they are sent here by Supt. Parker. Is that the case, Mr. Parker?

Mr. PARKER. Yes, sir.

Certainly a delay of 10 or 15 days, in order that there might be a review of important cases, is no serious inconvenience to the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes or the citizens of Oklahoma. I would see no serious objection to authorizing the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes to approve oil and gas mining leases in the name of the Secretary of the Interior where there were no conflicts or contests, but I believe it would be unwise to permit him to be the final arbiter in contested lease cases, some of which involve property rights worth as much as a quarter of a million dollars. We believe it also unwise to vest authority in the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes to remove restrictions on the lands of Indians.

We need in Indian administration checks and balances, the same as we find them necessary in other departments and branches of our Government. Only recently the office found it necessary to overrule a decision of Supt. Parker in an oil and gas mining lease contest

case, involving property rights worth thousands of dollars, and the action of the office in that case was approved by the department.

Supt. Parker entered the Indian service in 1899 as assistant and principal teacher, and from 1900 to 1904 was principal teacher at the Armstrong Academy and received a salary of \$100 per month. From 1905 to 1913 he was superintendent of the Armstrong Academy at a salary of \$1,500 a year. He was then appointed Register of the Treasury, which position he held until January 1, 1915, when he assumed the duties of his present position as superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. Mr. Parker is not a lawyer and has not had any large experience in handling administrative problems requiring knowledge of legal matters.

We have in the Indian Office and the Interior Department trained lawyers who have devoted years of study and work in connection with Five Civilized Tribes matters. The various laws and treaties and the many court decisions in connection with Five Civilized Tribes matters require men of large experience and training to properly interpret these laws and treaties and to apply them to the various complicated questions of property rights that are constantly arising in the Five Civilized Tribes.

It is believed that the enactment of the Hastings bill would not only be exceedingly unwise, but that it would be also exceedingly dangerous to the interests of the restricted Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes and the proper protection of their property. These Indians are the wards of the Government, and it is the duty of the Federal Government to see that they receive every protection that is necessary to safeguard their interests.

If legislation must be enacted regarding the subject, it should permit the Secretary of the Interior to designate an assistant secretary, to be located in Oklahoma, to supervise the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes and the final actions of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, and this official should be under civil service and not subject to change because of politics. Instead of enacting the Hastings bill, we believe that Congress should enact legislation along the following lines:

FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES, OKLAHOMA.

No farming or grazing lease of restricted allotted lands of the Five Civilized Tribes, or any deed or mortgage or other instrument affecting or intended to affect the title of such lands, or any will devising or bequeathing such lands or any funds or other property held in trust for restricted Indians, shall be valid or of any force or effect as to the interest of any allottee, heir, or devisee of half or more Indian blood, unless approved by the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes or his successor in authority under rules and regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Interior: *Provided*, That where the allottee has died the status of the land with respect to alienation shall be deemed the same as of the date of his death, and the age and degree of Indian blood of any Indian who may be a party in interest shall be determined by the approved rolls and enrollment records of the Five Civilized Tribes if his name appears thereon as a duly enrolled citizen: *Provided further*, That this provision shall not be construed to affect the power of the Secretary of the Interior to remove restrictions or the powers of the State courts of Oklahoma heretofore conferred by law.

INHERITED LANDS.

Section 9 of the act of May 27, 1908 (35 Stat. L., 312), provides that the death of any allottee of the Five Civilized Tribes shall operate to remove restrictions from the alienation of such allottee's land. The act provides,

however, that the conveyance of an interest of a full-blood heir in such land shall not be valid unless approved by the court having jurisdiction over the settlement of the estate of such deceased allottee. The department has no jurisdiction over the sale of inherited lands by restricted Indians. A great many of these restricted Indians are wholly incompetent to transact business of any considerable consequence. Many complaints are received from heirs against their grantees on account of inadequate considerations and practices of fraud. One method used by the land grafter to secure an heir's signature to a deed is to offer him a large consideration but to pay him only \$10 or \$15 upon the execution of the deed. The Indian's execution is secured with the understanding that title will not be conveyed until the deed is made of record and the instrument is recorded and the balance of the consideration promised has been paid. After the deed has been recorded the grantee refuses to pay the balance agreed and the Indian comes to the Government for relief, which is more often than not impossible to secure. The Government is thus placed in a peculiar and anomalous position, in that, while the restricted Indian must look to it for relief and assistance, still in such cases the Government is helpless.

Many instances might be cited. However, only two in point are submitted:

Sophia Robert, nee Cash, full-blood Choctaw Indian, Roll No. 2872, sole heir of Wallace Cash to inherited allotted land lying in the Healdton oil field, valued conservatively at upward of \$150,000, executed a deed upon the approval of the county court for a consideration of \$1,250. Suit was instituted in the United States court to have this conveyance set aside, but the success of the Government was prevented by the execution of a second deed by the heir for a consideration of \$10,000, of which she received but \$5,000, the balance being paid to her attorney.

Louisa Wesley, sole heir of Rayson Wesley, deceased, was induced to sell her interest in the oil production accruing from the allotment of the latter for a consideration of \$90 per month, covering a period of 10 years; thus the aggregate which she will receive will be \$10,800. The property thus disposed of was worth, at a conservative estimate, not less than \$100,000. Taking the position that it was not the county judge's duty to see that the Indian secured the full value of the land, but rather that his functions in the transaction corresponded to those of a notary public, suit is contemplated in the United States court to have this conveyance set aside. Proceedings are also pending in the State courts at this time having the same object in view. In such cases the Government can not protect the incompetent Indian against himself or against the machinations of unscrupulous and designing speculators. If such practices are persisted in in inherited-land cases, the next generation will be thoroughly pauperized and degraded.

SALE OF INHERITED LAND AND REMOVAL OF RESTRICTIONS.

Section 9 of the act of May 27, 1908, authorizes:

"That the death of any allottee of the Five Civilized Tribes shall operate to remove all restrictions upon the alienation of said allottee's land: *Provided*, That no conveyance of any interest of any full-blood Indian heir in such land shall be valid unless approved by the court having jurisdiction of the settlement of the estate of said deceased allottee: *Provided further*, That if any member of the Five Civilized Tribes of one-half or more Indian blood shall die leaving issue surviving, born since March 4, 1906, the homestead of such deceased allottee shall remain inalienable, unless restrictions against alienation are removed therefrom by the Secretary of the Interior in the manner provided in section 1 hereof, for the use and support of such issue, during their life or lives, until April 26, 1931; but if no such issue survive, then such allottee, if an adult, may dispose of his homestead by will free from all restrictions; if this be not done, or in the event the issue hereinbefore provided for die before April 26, 1931, the land shall then descend to the heirs, according to the laws of descent and distribution of the State of Oklahoma, free from all restrictions: *Provided further*, That the provisions of section 23 of the act of April 26, 1906, as amended by this act, are hereby made applicable to all wills executed under this section."

AGRICULTURAL LEASES.

Section 2 of the act of May 27, 1908 (35 Stat. L., 312), authorizes restricted Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes to lease their homestead allotments for one

year, and their surplus allotments for five years, for agricultural and grazing purposes on their own initiative without the approval of the department. Few departmental leases, therefore, are executed.

This law has resulted in pauperizing restricted Indians in eastern Oklahoma, and reducing them to indolence and destitution probably to a greater extent than all other conditions and influences combined. The department is handicapped and unable in a very large majority of cases to secure substantial and permanent results from its efforts to induce these Indians to live upon their lands and cultivate them themselves. For example, restrictions may be removed from part of the allotment for the purpose of improving the remaining part. Either before the remaining part is improved or during its improvement or soon thereafter, the Indian is induced to execute a commercial agricultural lease, thereby divesting himself of the possession of his land and home, generally for an wholly inadequate consideration, and moves away to live upon his friends, leaving the department helpless to perform its duty. By overlapping or continuing leases the law is evaded and the system is continued.

Many cases in point might be cited, but the case of Agnes Nelson, nee Wade, a full-blood Choctaw, roll No. 5361, only is submitted.

She dresses as neatly as a white woman of her station and is well above the average full blood in appearance and intelligence. Her surplus allotment was sold in May, 1914, for \$2,281, in order that her homestead might be improved.

Our investigation of this case disclosed the allottee and her six minor children entirely without funds, living with charitable friends who were kind enough to take them in. Several weeks prior to letting the contract for the erection of a house on her homestead she and her children were camping on a portion of the homestead, having nothing to shelter them from the elements than an old canvas wagon cover erected on poles, making a sort of tent without sides. Here, in the cold and rain in October and November, they lived, or rather existed, until the house was completed; with a few old pots and pans as cooking utensils, and with some dirty, ragged articles of bedding to sleep upon. When the house was finished it was furnished for her at a cost of \$112.60; a well was dug at a cost of \$54.98; and the land was fenced at a cost of \$112.50 for labor and \$104 for fencing material; a team, wagon, and harness were purchased for \$385.

After the land was fenced it was proposed to clear and put in cultivation a portion of it. Before doing this it occurred to us that the records should be examined to ascertain the condition of the title. This examination, to our chagrin, disclosed five different leases, executed by her, covering her homestead, each for the year 1915. This condition made us and her trespassers upon the land, and we could do nothing else but stop the improvements, leaving this Indian woman and her minor children to the mercy of the lessee, charity, or the elements of nature.

In addition to the foregoing, the execution of such commercial leases operates to restrict and obstruct proposed sales of allotted lands. The lessees make a practice of acquiring such leases in order to control or prevent sales, and the good intentions of the department are often frustrated and blocked when sales are attempted, the lessee being in a position to control or prevent the sale, and in practice exercise such obstructing methods with the view of being in possession at the death of the allottee in order that he may purchase the land at a nominal consideration.

Section 2 of the act approved May 27, 1908, authorizes:

"That all lands, other than homesteads, allotted to members of the Five Civilized Tribes from which restrictions have not been removed may be leased by the allottee if an adult, or by guardian or curator under order of the proper probate court if a minor or incompetent, for a period not to exceed five years, without the privilege of renewal: *Provided*, That leases of restricted lands for oil, gas, or other mining purposes, leases of restricted homesteads for more than one year, and leases of restricted lands for periods of more than five years, may be made, with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, under rules and regulations provided by the Secretary of the Interior, and not otherwise: *And provided further*, That the jurisdiction of the probate courts of the State of Oklahoma over lands of minors and incompetents shall be subject to the foregoing provisions, and the term minor or minors, as used in this act, shall include all males under the age of twenty-one years and all females under the age of eighteen years."

WILLS OF INDIANS IN THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.

Section 23 of the act of April 26, 1906, authorizes that:

"Every person of lawful age and sound mind may by last will and testament devise and bequeath all of his estate, real and personal, and all interest therein: *Provided*, That no will of a full-blood Indian devising real estate shall be valid, if such last will and testament disinherits the parent, wife, spouse, or children of such full-blood Indian, unless acknowledged before and approved by a judge of the United States court for the Indian Territory, or a United States commissioner."

Section 8 of the act of May 27, 1908, amendment thereto:

"That section twenty-three of an act entitled 'An act to provide for the final disposition of the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes in the Indian Territory, and for other purposes,' approved April twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and six, is hereby amended by adding at the end of said section, the words 'or a judge of a county court of the State of Oklahoma.'"

WILLS.

Section 23 of the act of April 26, 1906 (34 Stat. L., 137), authorizes a restricted Indian to devise and bequeath his restricted land or money by will and testament, and was amended by section 8 of the act of May 27, 1908 (35 Stat. L., 312), by the addition of the following words: "or a judge of the county court of the State of Oklahoma," so that a full blood may not disinherit a parent, wife, spouse, or child without the approval of the will.

There appears no good reason why an Indian incompetent to transmit his affairs during his lifetime should be considered competent to dispose of his property at his demise. The history of wills executed in eastern Oklahoma by restricted Indians discloses that in practically all cases the property is disposed of unwisely and to the detriment of some member or members of the decedent's family.

Many causes could be cited, but the following only is submitted:

William Robinson: On October 30, 1915, this full-blood Choctaw Indian, roll No. 13348, died in Choctaw County. Three days thereafter an instrument in writing, purporting to be the last will and testament of William Robinson, deceased, was filed in the county court under the terms of which V. Bronough, in no sense related to the decedent, was to receive the entire allotment, worth \$4,100, upon the payment to the executor of the will of \$1,050. After a long hearing and examination of witnesses, said purported will was admitted to probate in the county court.

If this proposed legislation be enacted it would result in great benefit to the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes.

In connection with the Hastings bill, I wish to invite particular attention to the report of Secretary Lane, recommending that it be not enacted. The report reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, February 23, 1916.

MY DEAR MR. STEPHENS: I am in receipt of your letter of January 13, 1916, transmitting, with request for report thereon, H. R. 108, entitled—

"A bill to confer upon the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior respecting lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes and their individual moneys."

The annual report of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes for the year ending June 30, 1915, shows that lands have been allotted to Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes in 40 counties of the State of Oklahoma, covering an area of 19,525,966 acres; that there have been enrolled 101,521 members, which comprises approximately one-third of the Indian population of the United States. By virtue of acts of Congress restrictions have been removed in a large number of cases, so that on June 30, 1915, there were 32,540 restricted Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes. They had 3,318,370 acres of restricted lands under the immediate supervision of the superintendent. There are oil lands of incalculable value in the Creek, Chickasaw, and Seminole Nations, which last year produced 27,098,994.02 gross barrels of oil, in which the royalty interest of the Indian allottees amounted to \$1,537,727.47. An

annual revenue of \$354,871.70 was derived from agricultural and oil-producing leases approved by this department.

The vastness of the estate that is being administered is apparent from the foregoing facts.

The passage of the proposed legislation would, among other powers, place in the hands of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes all leasing for oil and gas mining purposes, all removal of restrictions, all investments of individual Indian funds, and the settlement of innumerable questions of policy arising out of these matters.

By the act of June 30, 1834 (4 Stat. L., 735), the Department of Indian Affairs was established, with a Commissioner of Indian Affairs as its immediate executive head and with supervision and appellate powers vested in the Secretary of War. See also act of July 9, 1832 (4 Stat. L., 564). By the act of March 3, 1849 (9 Stat. L., 395), establishing the Interior Department, the supervisory and appellate powers previously exercised by the Secretary of War with relation to all acts of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs were transferred to the Secretary of the Interior, and the Indian Office was placed under the newly created department.

Section 463 of the Revised Statutes of the United States reads:

"The Commissioner of Indian Affairs shall, under the direction of the Secretary of the Interior, and agreeably to such regulations as the President may prescribe, have the management of all Indian affairs, and of all matters arising out of Indian relations."

The above enactments are of long standing, evidencing a well-established governmental policy, applicable to the dealings of the Federal Government with its wards. Justice Holmes, in delivering the opinion of the court in *West v. Hitchcock* (205 U. S., 80), said:

"The Department of the Interior generally has been the custodian of Indian rights."

The regulation of commerce with Indian tribes is a Federal obligation, the executive functions resting primarily upon the President. In the performance of many of his duties arising out of Indian affairs, as in other matters, he acts through an appropriate department of the Government and through the chief officers charged with the immediate supervision of the affairs of that department. (*Wilcox v. Jackson*, 13 Pet., 498.)

One of the chief reasons for placing the control of Indian affairs under the National Government was the local prejudice of people of the various States against the Indians. In speaking thereof the Supreme Court in the celebrated case of *United States v. Kagama* (118 U. S. 375, 383), said:

"These Indian tribes are the wards of the Nation. They are communities dependent on the United States. Dependent largely for their daily food. Dependent for their political rights. They owe no allegiance to the States, and receive from them no protection. Because of the local ill feeling, the people of the States where they are found are often their deadliest enemies. From their very weakness and helplessness, so largely due to the course of dealing of the Federal Government with them and the treaties in which it has been promised, there arises the duty of protection, and with it the power."

While this case was decided in 1885, conditions therein referred to still exist, even if in a modified degree.

Attention is invited to the fact that in the course of business constant reference is necessary to the records and papers of this department and other departments. Especially is this true with litigation. Transference of jurisdiction would, I feel sure, be accompanied with confusion, delay, and uncertainty in obtaining information contained in such records and papers. If sole supervision were granted to the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes in the matters enumerated in H. R. 108, the reasons therefor could be advanced for also giving him the sole authority and supervision in the matter of the disposal of the tribal properties, worth many million dollars. In the event of the passage of the proposed legislation the decisions of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes would in said individual Indian matters referred to in the bill be final, and there would be no right of appeal. No person who initiates and directs the work in the field should in matters of such importance be the final arbiter as to his own acts. The conferring of the power proposed by this bill would vest in the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes absolute authority in the administration of the matters indicated a greater authority than is now conferred upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, whose acts are largely supervised by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. Gabe E. Parker, the present superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, in his report of November 3, 1915, concerning the protest and pressure brought to bear upon Thomas Long, a full-blood Creek Indian, to induce him to invest his accrued oil royalties (of which he had to his credit \$60,000) in the purchase of certain land near Muskogee, Okla., said:

"There is every pressure imaginable, not only from those who desire to separate the Indian from his money, but in many cases from Indians themselves, brought to bear upon me to purchase various and sundry things with Indian moneys or to make loans on all kinds and classes of security, and even to pay out the money without restrictions thereon whatever, to individuals, guardians, administrators, and every other conceivable way possible, to get the money out of the hands of the department."

This is but an illustration of a situation. My experience leads me to the conclusion that to bestow such power as is proposed in this bill upon a field official would place in serious hazard the moneys, the properties, and the welfare of our Indian wards. There is abundant evidence in the records of this department to make me feel that this would be a most perilous step. As conditions are now the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes is under the constant check of this department, and the very fact that the disposition of these great properties, while primarily passed upon by him, are subject to supervision by an authority that is removed from local influence, gives him a strength which otherwise he could not have. We have millions of dollars of individual Indian money on deposit in the banks of Oklahoma, and tens of millions of dollars of property that is under our care, control of which, in my judgment, should not be vested in the discretion of a single individual, no matter how honest he may be. I am satisfied that no private institution—a railroad, for instance, or a great estate—would regard it as businesslike to do what is here proposed.

I sympathize with the desire to decentralize as far as is practicable and wise the control of these properties, giving as wide a discretion as from time to time may seem advisable to local officials, but our trust can not be carried out in the highest good faith by throwing upon the shoulders of one man so great a burden of responsibility.

Cordially, yours,

FRANKLIN K. LANE,
Secretary.

HON. JOHN H. STEPHENS,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, House of Representatives.

Senator Owen, of Oklahoma, offered an amendment to the Indian appropriation bill before the Senate Committee on Indian Affairs, giving the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes authority to remove restrictions. Secretary Lane submitted the following report in opposition to that amendment:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, March 2, 1916.

HON. HENRY F. ASHURST,
Chairman Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

MY DEAR SENATOR: By your reference of February 23, 1916, I am in receipt of request for report on the amendment to the pending Indian appropriation bill proposed by Senator Owen, which has for its object the authorizing and directing the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes to examine into the competency of adult restricted members of the Five Civilized Tribes, and to deliver to the competent members "certificates of competency." The item carries an appropriation of \$25,000.

I am in sympathy with the purpose of this amendment, but not with the machinery that it is proposed to use for the end desired. In a word, I am in favor of segregating the competent adult and restricted Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes and giving to such competents "certificates of competency." That is to say, I am in favor of turning competent Indians loose and making them self-dependent, but I don't think this burden should be cast upon the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. I think it should be undertaken by men appointed by me and responsible to me. I have now in the field two commissions, one headed by Maj. McLaughlin, for many years an inspector in this department, and the other headed by Maj. Thackery, one of our most

competent Indian agents, both of which are passing from reservation to reservation, selecting those Indians who are competent to handle their own affairs; and I have now in hand the papers relating to several hundred such cases, and in due time these Indians will, by virtue of the authority that is vested in me, be released from their status as wards of the Government and given entire control over their affairs. I expect to have more men put at this work in the near future, and to undertake it as a very serious part of our Indian work. I would be pleased, however, if Congress were to authorize the employment of additional inspectors to meet this problem in an adequate manner. In this connection I beg to quote from my annual report to the President in 1914:

"It is the judgment of those who know the Indian best, and it is my conclusion after as intimate a study as practicable of his nature and needs, that we should henceforth make a positive and systematic effort to cast the full burden of independence and responsibility upon an increasing number of the Indians of all tribes. I find that there is a statute which significantly empowers the Secretary of the Interior to do this in individual cases. That authority is adequate. And as soon as the machinery of administration can be set in motion I intend to use such authority. If year by year a few from each of the tribes can be made to stand altogether upon their own feet we will be adding to the dignity of the Indian race and to their value as citizens. To be master of himself, to be given his chance—that is the Indian's right when he has proven himself. And all that we should do is to help him to make ready for that day of self-ownership.

"Viewed in this light, the Indian problem is incomparably larger to-day than it was when the Cherokees were gathered up from the Southern States and sent into the unknown across the Mississippi. In 1830 the problem was how to get the Indian out of way. To-day the problem is how to make him really a part of the Nation. This blend of wisdom, dignity, and childishness, this creature of a noncommercial age, has been brought into a new day when all must live by conforming to a system that is as foreign to him as the life of the Buddhist ascetic would be to us. Slowly through a century and more of tortuous experience he has come to see that it is not our purpose to do him harm; but he must learn to find his place in an economy that antagonizes every tradition of his 10,000 years of history. How, then, are we to get into the mind of this soldier-sportsman the fact that the old order has passed away and that the gentleman of to-day earns his right to live by his usefulness—that the American can not be a man and a ward at the same time?

"It is a strange thing indeed that we should be concerning ourselves so largely and spending so many millions each year for the remaking of the people who are the truest of Americans. It shows how anxious to be just and willing to be generous are our people. They feel with a quick conscience how cruel it would be to introduce this primitive man into a harsh, competitive world of business with a code of its own more foreign to him than that of the Bushido; too much, they fear, like pitting Little Boy Blue against Shylock in a trade. Let us frankly state the fact—there is such a thing as being too unselfish, and this the Indian too often is, for he has not gained a forecasting imagination. His training has not given him the cardinal principle of a competitive civilization, the self-protecting sense. It is not instinctive in him to be afraid of starving to-morrow if he is generous or wasteful to-day. And work? Why work if not necessary? Is it not, as an Osage chief once reprovingly said to me, is it not the hope of every American that he may some day be a gentleman who does not work?

"We are bent, then, upon saving the Indian from those who would despoil him until the time comes when he can stand alone. And that time comes when he has absorbed into his nature the spirit of this new civilization that he has become part of. This is certainly a revolution we are expecting—an impossible revolution in some natures—the substitution of a new standpoint for one long taught by fathers and grandfathers. Truly such a transformation is not to be worked like some feat of legerdemain, by a turn of the wrist. Bayonets can not do it; money can not do it. We can force men to work. We can keep them without work. These two methods we have tried with the Indian, and they have failed in leading him toward the goal of responsible self-support. Adaptation to new environment comes from education, through experience. We therefore have the task of introducing a new conception into the Indian mind. This is not a thing that can be done wholesale. It becomes an individual problem, and our hope lies in schools for the young and in casting more and more responsibility upon the mature, and letting them accept the result.

with the consent of the committee, in the hearings on the Hastings bill. The circular reads as follows:

NATIONAL PROTECTION FOR OKLAHOMA INDIANS—DANGEROUS LEGISLATION PROPOSED AFFECTING THE FIVE CIVILIZED TRIBES.

INDIAN RIGHTS ASSOCIATION,

995 Drewel Building, Philadelphia, Pa., January 20, 1916.

Three years ago public indignation was aroused over the exploitation of the estates of minors belonging to the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma, as revealed on the floor of Congress, when the astounding statement was made that the cost of administering the estates of Oklahoma Indian minors, where professional guardians were employed, was in excess of 19 per cent of the property handled; and in one county at least in which estates valued at \$1,172,000 were involved, the cost of administration was \$246,000, or 20.13 per cent. The cost of administration of white minors' estates in the same county was 1.7 per cent.

This condition was rendered possible by operation of the act of May 27, 1908, which reads as follows:

"SEC. 6. That the persons and property of minor allottees of the Five Civilized Tribes shall, except as otherwise specifically provided by law, be subject to the jurisdiction of the probate courts of the State of Oklahoma.

"SEC. 9. That the death of any allottee of the Five Civilized Tribes shall operate to remove all restrictions upon the alienation of said allottee's land: *Provided*, That no conveyance of any interest of any full-blood Indian heir in such land shall be valid unless approved by the court having jurisdiction of the settlement of the estate of said allottee: * * *

Twenty probate attorneys were appointed by the Secretary of the Interior to assist in the task of protecting the Indian estates. The services of this large force of officials were made necessary to conserve the property of deceased Indian allottees and minors from whom restrictions had been removed, and which were by law placed under the jurisdiction of the probate courts of Oklahoma. The estates of minors and others remaining in the restricted class and directly under the care of the Secretary of the Interior have not suffered to the same extent.

The pillaging of Indian property continued to such an extent that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, jointly with the probate courts of Oklahoma, outlined a code of "Rules of procedure in probate matters." These rules were afterward adopted by the justices of the supreme court of Oklahoma. While this code of rules has aided materially in protecting Indian estates, its scope has been limited by the recent Legislature of Oklahoma. The failure of the Oklahoma Legislature to approve the rules of probate to meet the existing exigency is ominous of the fate awaiting the estates of Indian minors and deceased Indian heirs in the event of any further relinquishing of authority which remains vested in the Interior Department.

It is important to bear in mind that this plundering of the Indian estates was a result of the operation of the law relieving the Secretary of the Interior of any control of the Indian property thus exploited.

On the opening day of the present Congress, Hon. William W. Hastings, of Oklahoma, introduced a bill (H. R. 108), which provides—

"That the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma shall, after the passage and approval of this act, have and exercise all the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior, or either of them, respecting the lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma and their individual moneys."

We may safely conclude that similar results would follow the enactment of this bill into law as have been shown to have resulted from the former act of Congress already cited, by which the Federal Government released its jurisdiction and control over the Indian property.

The care and control over our Indian population is a national duty resting upon the security of the Constitution, and should not be delegated to others without the greatest care being exercised to see that local influences will not prevail, under the changed conditions, against the best interests of the Indians.

The 101,521 Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes represent more than one-third of the Indian population of the United States. Of these, 32,540 are known

as restricted Indians, their property being held in trust by the Federal Government. Of the 19,525,966 acres of land belonging to the Five Civilized Tribes, over 15,000,000 acres were allotted, of which there remain 3,318,370 acres of allotted land which are under the care of the Government and within the jurisdiction of the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. This does not include the million and a quarter acres of segregated coal and timber lands.

The superintendent in a recent report states that the area of lands within that jurisdiction is three times as large as the State of Massachusetts, and twenty-four times as large as the State of Rhode Island. The enormous wealth represented by this vast property interest is proposed by the pending legislation to be transferred from the Secretary of the Interior to the full control of the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes located in Oklahoma.

Official reports show that to the close of the last fiscal year there had been collected and deposited \$19,500,000 of tribal moneys by the superintendent and this fund was deposited in various Federal and State banks; and there is yet due the sum of \$7,050,000 from tribal lands heretofore sold, in addition to \$5,000,000, the estimated value of the surface of the coal lands. The lowest official estimate upon the value of the coal and asphalt deposits on the 431,00 acres of segregated coal lands is \$12,000,000, while the tribal superintendent of mines has placed their value at \$100,000,000.

By the act approved August 1, 1914, the offices of the Commissioner to the Five Civilized Tribes and superintendent of Union Agency, Okla., were abolished; the position of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes was created and the duties formerly performed by the officials holding the two positions abolished devolved upon the present superintendent, subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

The royalties on oil and gas received from the property of 6,000 restricted Indians amounted for the last fiscal year to \$1,537,727.47. A share of this immense fund has been heretofore invested by Government representatives in city and other property, which through lack of care, more especially in purchases for permanent investment, has resulted in great loss to the Indian estates.

If these wards are to be protected, a closer supervision must be had on the part of the Federal Government rather than relinquish any of the power which may now be exercised.

We must judge of the future by past experience and from that viewpoint no other conclusion can be reached than that of holding that if the jurisdiction over the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes is transferred from the department at Washington and vested in the superintendent resident in Oklahoma in charge of these Indians, another era of ravishment of Indian estates will result.

It may be claimed in reply that the proposed legislation provides that the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes shall continue, as at present, to be appointed by the President, and not by the State of Oklahoma. The appointment, however, is purely a political one, since the candidates for the position must be confirmed by the Senate, thus bringing it within State patronage.

No reflection upon any particular superintendent or official is intended by these statements. The fault lies in the system and the proposed transfer of authority as outlined by the pending bill. No official can escape the influences brought to bear, often with ulterior motives, to secure an unfair advantage in dealing with these questions.

The Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes recognizes the herculean efforts put forth to secure advantages over the Indians under his care. In his report, dated November 3, 1915, addressed to the Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the superintendent states:

"There is every pressure imaginable, not only from those who desire to separate the Indian from his property, but, in many cases, from Indians themselves, brought to bear upon me, to purchase various and sundry things with Indian moneys, or to make loans on all kinds and classes of security, and even to pay out the money without any restrictions thereon whatever to individuals, guardians, administrators, and every other conceivable way possible to get the money out of the hands of the department."

The claim will no doubt be made by the advocates of the pending bill that the delays incident to disposing of cases coming before the Department of the Interior for determination render necessary the transfer of the jurisdiction to the superintendent who is immediately in charge.

While delays, no doubt, sometimes occur in certain cases, it is believed that the immense authority of the Government at Washington will be more effective

to expedite business and also safer for the interests involved than the proposed plan of committing the responsibility to a superintendent residing in Oklahoma who is a political appointee.

The files of the Interior Department bear abundant and conclusive evidence to support the position herein presented.

We trust your influence will be exerted in opposition to the pending bill (H. R. 108).

On behalf of the Indian Rights Association.

CARL E. GRAMMER,
President.

HERBERT WELSH,
Corresponding Secretary.

Mr. MILLER. I got a copy of that. I spoke to a gentleman here who very greatly discredited Mr. Brosius. Do you know him?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MILLER. Should he be discredited, in your opinion?

Mr. MERITT. I have known Mr. Brosius for a number of years and I have always found him to be a thorough gentleman.

Mr. MILLER. Is this Indian Rights Association a reputable association?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; that association has been organized probably for a period of 45 or 50 years.

Mr. MILLER. Have they a financial interest in this question other than philanthropy?

Mr. MERITT. None whatever.

Judge R. C. Allen, national attorney for the Creek Nation, has written a letter, dated March 20, 1916, to the chairman of the House Committee on Indian Affairs in opposition to the Hastings bill. Judge Allen and Commissioner Sells have requested that this letter be incorporated in the hearings. It is requested that the letter be incorporated at this point. It reads as follows:

MARCH 20, 1916.

HON. JOHN H. STEPHENS,

Chairman House Committee on Indian Affairs, Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: In order to understand fully the Hastings bill and the effect that this proposed legislation might have upon the Indians of Oklahoma, it is necessary to review briefly the history of previous legislation.

Section 22 of an act of Congress approved April 26, 1906 (34 Stat., 137), provides:

"That the adult heirs of any deceased Indian of either of the Five Civilized Tribes whose selection has been made, or to whom a deed or patent has been issued for his or her share of the land of the tribe to which he or she belongs or belonged, may sell and convey the lands inherited from such decedent; and if there be both adult and minor heirs of such decedent, then such minors may join in a sale of such lands by a guardian duly appointed by the proper United States court for the Indian Territory. And in case of the organization of a State or Territory, then by a proper court of the county in which said minor or minors may reside or in which said real estate is situated, upon an order of such court made upon petition filed by guardian. All conveyances made under this provision by heirs who are full-blood Indians are to be subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, under such rules and regulations as he may prescribe."

Subsequent to the passage of this legislation Oklahoma was admitted into the Union as a State, and immediately the delegation from Oklahoma began to clamor for a broader jurisdiction to be vested in the local officers. It was conceived at that time by the delegation from Oklahoma that it would be proper for the county judges, who are elected by the people of our State and are charged with the responsibility of administering the affairs of minors and incompetents, and in addition to this they are required to give a bond for the faithful performance of their trust, that such an office could well be trusted with the administration of estates of minors and incompetent Indians. So upon

the insistence of this delegation Congress was persuaded to adopt sections 6 and 9 of the act of May 27, 1908 (35 Stat., 312), which provide as follows:

"Sec. 6. That the person and property of minor allottees of the Five Civilized Tribes shall, except as otherwise specifically provided by law, be subject to the jurisdiction of the probate courts of the State of Oklahoma. The Secretary of the Interior is hereby empowered, under rules and regulations to be prescribed by him, to appoint such local representatives within the State, of Oklahoma who shall be citizens of that State or now domiciled therein as he may deem necessary to inquire into and investigate the conduct of guardians or curators having in charge the estates of such minors, and whenever such representative or representatives of the Secretary of the Interior shall be of opinion that the estate of any minor is not being properly cared for by the guardian or curator, or that the same is in any manner being dissipated or wasted or being permitted to deteriorate in value by reason of the negligence or carelessness or incompetency of the guardian or curator, said representative or representatives of the Secretary of the Interior shall have power and it shall be their duty to report said matter in full to the proper probate court and take the necessary steps to have such matter fully investigated, and go to the further extent of prosecuting any necessary remedy, either civil or criminal, or both, to preserve the property and protect the interests of said minor allottees; and it shall be the further duty of such representative or representatives to make full and complete reports to the Secretary of the Interior. All such reports, either to the Secretary of the Interior or to the proper probate court, shall become public records and subject to the inspection and examination of the public, and the necessary court fees shall be allowed against the estates of said minors. The probate courts may, in their discretion, appoint any such representative of the Secretary of the Interior as guardian or curator for such minors, without fee or charge."

"Sec. 9. That the death of any allottee of the Five Civilized Tribes shall operate to remove all restrictions upon the alienation of said allottee's land: *Provided*, That no conveyance of any interest of any full-blood Indian heir in such land shall be valid unless approved by the court having jurisdiction of the settlement of the estate of said deceased allottee: *Provided further*, That if any member of the Five Civilized Tribes of one-half or more Indian blood shall die leaving issue surviving, born since March fourth, nineteen hundred and six, the homestead of such deceased allottee shall remain inalienable, unless restrictions against alienation are removed therefrom by the Secretary of the Interior in the manner provided in section one hereof, for the use and support of such issue, during their life or lives, until April twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and thirty-one; but if no such issue survive, then such allottee, if an adult, may dispose of his homestead by will free from all restrictions; if this be not done, or in the event the issue hereinbefore provided for die before April twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and thirty-one, the land shall then descend to the heirs, according to the laws of descent and distribution of the State of Oklahoma, free from all restrictions: *Provided further*, That the provisions of section twenty-three of the act of April twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and six, as amended by this act, are hereby made applicable to all wills executed under this section."

As you will observe, section 6, in addition to giving full jurisdiction over the estates of minors to the county courts, authorized the Secretary of the Interior to appoint representatives, whose duties it should be to watch over the estates of Indians and report to the Secretary of the Interior. For the purpose of paying the expenses of these representatives, then known as district agents, there was appropriated the sum of \$90,000.

These agents became officious in the administration of probate affairs in Oklahoma and often retarded the progress of corrupt and designing grafters in looting the estates of helpless children. These designing persons then started the hue and cry of Federal interference with the administration of the estates of minors who had been committed to the jurisdiction of the State courts. So loud was their protestation that it found its way into the National Capitol and caused many good men to believe that they were, in fact, a nuisance in the administration of the affairs of Indians, and some of the Representatives in Congress from Oklahoma earnestly sought to have the system abolished. In this fight there was no other man who stood out so steadfastly for the Indians as did my friend, and Representative, Mr. Hastings.

In a letter written to the public and handed to the press on March 14, 1912, Mr. Hastings, after reviewing the very wise and wholesome legislation creating

the office of district agents, and justifying the appropriation and condemning its critics, continued as follows:

"The district agents are the advisors of the restricted Indian; they assist him in making agricultural leases, in the collection of rents from his lands, in dispossessing tenants who are trying to hold over; the district agents receive applications for the removal of restrictions and report upon the same, and if the restrictions are removed either conditionally or unconditionally they appraise the land from which restrictions have been removed and assist the Indians in getting its fair and reasonable value; and if the restrictions are conditionally removed the money is paid to the restricted Indian in such amounts as is thought advisable through these district agents, who assist them in the expenditure of the money to the best advantage of the Indian; the district agents cooperate with the probate courts to the end that the accounts of guardians are checked up, reports made, and that their funds are not squandered; the district agents in fact hear every kind of a grievance of the full-blood or restricted Indian, and they do what they can to assist them just as every mother and father does what he or she can to aid and advise their minor child. No honest probate court is opposed to the cooperation of a fair-minded, upright official. Every county judge in eastern Oklahoma, every tribal attorney and every tribal chief has written a letter favoring the district agent system.

"We might as well be frank about it. Everybody who is familiar with the Indian, his history and tradition, knows that he needs assistance in the management of his lands. Sixteen hundred and eighty full-blood Cherokees who were arbitrarily allotted land refused to take the patents sent to them through the mails out of the post office, and they refused to go upon the land or accept any proceeds therefrom. Will any intelligent person say that these poor misguided people do not need assistance, that they are able to care for themselves, or that they will protect themselves? The truth is that every one knows who is at all familiar with the Indian that he will not assert his rights in a civil suit. Ask the lawyers of the country how many civil suits they have had for full-blood Indians. Some of them will answer that they have had a few. That is quite true. They are an exception, and if these Indians are competent to manage their own affairs then I am in favor of removing the restrictions from their lands and let them manage their own affairs, but I know, and every good citizen throughout the eastern part of Oklahoma knows, that if the district agents are abolished that in less than a year there will be thousands of illegal leases, deeds, and other encumbrances filed of record upon their lands. If there are no local agents to assist the Indians, to advise him of his legal rights, to help him to get into court, to help him prepare his case, and to get his witnesses, no civil action would be brought and the man in the illegal possession would retain it. Every land speculator and grafter in eastern Oklahoma knows this, and every one of them is stirring up public sentiment against the district agent, and every one of them is causing as many letters to be written as possible to Members of Congress against them. If any district agent is either dishonest or incompetent, he should be removed. I am defending the system, not the individual, and I am trying to arouse public sentiment against the wholesale attack of the system. I have had occasion to closely observe the work of the district agents, and I know that they have been compelled to adversely report upon many leases, applications for the removal of restrictions, payment of claims, and other things submitted to them. Every disappointed man is against them.

"Through my veins courses Cherokee blood. I trust that I will not live long enough to see the full-blood members of my race homeless in their own country, wanderers in their own land. They thought they were protected by the old treaties, binding upon them and sacred to them; they resisted the change in their form of government; they did not invite the individualization of their lands, because they had never been used to an individual title, and they appreciated that they had never had any experience in dealing with the title to lands. Their fears were justified, for the records show that thousands of leases, deeds, and other evidences of encumbrance in violation of protective provisions of law for little or no consideration have been gotten from them and placed of record. Without the assistance of local men in the field all of these illegal leases and deeds might as well be validated. Everybody knows this. Why not speak the truth? What the future of the Indian in eastern Oklahoma is to be is a great problem. The State is doing a commendable work, so are the county judges and the district agents. Many people would not unfairly deal with a white man

who would not hesitate to rob an Indian. They know he is powerless to help himself and that he will not arouse public attention. The Government is now paying 16 district agents \$1,800 each per annum to aid in some measure in their protection, and I am sure that no fair-minded citizen, white or red, whose good opinion is prized, will believe that these Indians should be set adrift, robbed of their lands without the assistance of the Government. Millions of dollars are being appropriated for pensions, for maintaining the Navy, for enlarging and supporting the Army, for the government of the Philippine Islands, and for other governmental expenditures, and hundreds of thousands of dollars are being appropriated for costly public buildings to be erected throughout the country, and yet when the small appropriation is asked to help save a vanishing race from its own improvidence we are met with the cry of economy. The report is being circulated that the district agents are retarding the settlement of tribal affairs. Everyone knows this is untrue. The Whitmire suit and the suit to prevent the enrollment of minor children have postponed the settlement of Cherokee affairs. We will need the district agents long after our affairs are settled. Their continuance has nothing to do with our final settlement. Every schoolboy knows this. I am urging, in season and out of season, a final settlement every minute. Let's not muddy the water. This issue is clear. Are you in favor of protecting the admittedly incompetent full-blood Indian?

"The best years of my life have been given to the service of the Cherokee people, and I am determined now to do what I can for their protection. There are a few good fights left in me yet, and I appeal to the public conscience for their assistance."

The author of this bill, Mr. Hastings, was for about 15 years, if I am not mistaken, attorney for the Cherokee Indians, during which time he served them with distinguished loyalty and devotion. Evidently he did not at any time conceive that it would be beneficial to his tribe of Indians to enact legislation such as he proposes, for if there was any one thing Mr. Hastings was more conspicuous in than another it was his fearless advocacy of any cause he believed to be in the interest of his tribe, and not once during the term of his office did he advocate the vesting of jurisdiction in the local representative of the Secretary of the Interior, such as is proposed by his bill.

On October 16, 1911, which was prior to the date of Mr. Hastings's letter to the public, I find that I was in perfect accord with Mr. Hastings and his effort to save the district agents, for on that date I wrote to Mr. Kelsey at Muskogee the following letter:

"WAGONER, OKLA., October 16, 1911.

"HON. DANA H. KELSEY,

United States Indian Agent, Muskogee, Okla.

"DEAR SIR: Since the establishment of the district Indian agencies I have observed carefully the work being done by them, and I desire to say that in my opinion the Indian people have derived greater benefit through that system than through any other ever adopted by our Government. By this means the agents of the department are brought in direct contact with the Indians and those with whom they deal, and are therefore placed in a better position to understand and appreciate their real needs.

"Until I was brought into contact with the Indians and with those with whom they were dealing, as trial judge in many cases, I believed in the unqualified removal of restrictions. I desire to say now that I believe it is a mistake to permit an unqualified removal of restriction in any cases. The only way that the Indian can be protected is by Government supervision, and I am heartily in favor of removing the restrictions from a part of the lands of the Indians only upon condition that the proceeds from the sale of the land be paid to the Indians upon recommendation of the district agents. My experience with the district agents in this part of the State has convinced me that they are doing all in their power to safeguard the interests of the Indian people, and they have by their fair treatment won the respect of both the Indian and the white race. And I believe if the district agents were given entire supervision of the Indian lands that the Indian would receive a fair price for the lands sold and would receive the consideration in a way that would be most beneficial to them.

"I have not had occasion to investigate the conduct of many of the county judges in this State, but I believe that the county judges in Muskogee, Wagoner, McIntosh, and Tulsa Counties, which counties, I have observed, have been greatly assisted by the district agents in the management of the estates of the Indians.

And where, as in the counties mentioned, the county courts and the district agents work in perfect harmony the benefit accruing to the Indians would amply justify the expenditures attached to this department.

"Trusting that the Indian agents may be maintained in this State, I beg to remain, as ever,

"Your friend,

R. C. ALLEN,

District Judge (Third Judicial District), Wagoner, Okla."

When the matter of appropriating \$100,000 to continue the district agents in office, which provision was contained in the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1912, Mr. Ferris, of Oklahoma, expressed himself in the following manner:

Mr. FERRIS. Mr. Speaker, the question under consideration involved whether or not the Federal Government shall pay \$100,000 to perpetuate what is known as the district agents longer in Oklahoma. The history of that legislation can be stated in a word. Vice President Sherman, then chairman of the Committee on Indian Affairs, said at the time this item first went into the bill that we would probably need agents there, perhaps one or two years. They went in there as a temporary matter, while we were emerging from a Territory into a State. They have now been there five years, and now the State is well furnished with officers. The Indians hold the elective offices right by the side of the whites. The governor of the State is an Indian citizen, the lieutenant governor is an Indian citizen, the president of our constitutional convention was an Indian citizen, and the present speaker of the legislature is an Indian. The Indians hold more offices than they are entitled to hold, according to the pro rata or percentage of population between the Indians and the whites. Here comes a strong protest, inculcated, steeped out, brought about by the very men who desire to perpetuate themselves. Here they are spending the Indians' money, spending the money of the Federal Government sending telegrams, journeying to Washington, roasting in the galleries, conjuring up figures to prove they should hold on forever, digging up scandal, befouling their own nest, trying to injure the State, all because they desire to perpetuate themselves.

"I tell you, sirs, the Indians do not want such detailed supervision. It has the opposite effect from the one intended. It retards; it does not improve. It stifles and weakens; it does not encourage and strengthen. It does not move Indian matters to a final conclusion; it complicates and confuses. Surely it is intended and hoped for by us all that the Indian problem will some time terminate. It will not be accomplished by a total withholding of his funds, by a total withholding of his lands, by a total refusal to grant him the very most elemental task. I charge no bad faith on the part of anyone. It is merely a disposition to hang on forever to a job that ought to have been abolished years ago. Remove some of the surfeited and overabundance of supervision and let the Indian stand partially on his own pegs. His money and lands are all tied up. There is no way he can spend it or sell it. Federal restrictions are on tight as a drum. Why, my friends, I have seven counties in the Five Civilized Tribes. When I go around in my campaign the leading citizens in those counties are Indian citizens. The men who serve on the reception committees who meet me and other public men are Indian citizens. Charley Carter, Senator Owen, can not expend their own money to-day. It is tied up tight. What a pathetic sight that is. The governor of our State can not expend his money, but they send some little pipstern whippersnapper down from Washington, New York, or Kansas, and they are to supervise, to nose around the affairs of a people who know more than they do. Why, the speaker of our dower house of the local legislature is a full-blood Indian. Then, when we come to seek to save \$100,000 for the Federal Treasury, when we seek to get rid of a service that prevails nowhere else, a service we do not want and the Indians do not want, here comes a storm of protest and some telegrams from Boston telling us what we need and must have in Oklahoma.

"Why, I visited Boston this year; it is one of the most beautiful cities in the world, and yet you would not expect her to be an expert on Indian matters, would you? I do not presume that 1 per cent of the population of the city of Boston ever stepped foot in Oklahoma; I do not presume that a half per cent of the citizens of Boston ever shook hands with an Indian; I do not presume that 10 per cent of them ever crossed the Mississippi River, yet they are sending telegrams telling Congress what to do about Oklahoma employees and against

the combined judgment of Democrats and Republicans, Indians and whites, and the bulk of all our people who know the facts and do not desire to hold the jobs. I tell you, sirs, we have left enough money in this bill for employees. In my judgment too much. You can have 141 people and pay them \$2,000 a year. One-half of them ought to be fired to-day, not to-morrow, and here comes my good friend, and I say it with all kindness and all earnestness, from South Dakota (Mr. Burke), and he is urging the retention of these Interior Department employees. I have nothing against them personally—not one of them. My friend from South Dakota (Mr. Burke) is so sympathetic in disposition that he has gone wild and gone mad in order to save those employees their positions until after the next election. My friends, we will give all the 141, at \$2,000 per year, a passport from our State, and we will send them back to you, if they must have appointments. * * *

I simply call your attention to the difference in opinion upon Indian questions that was entertained by the two gentlemen from Oklahoma, Mr. Ferris and Mr. Hastings, who have been urging the adoption of this measure, at a time when Mr. Hastings was attorney for a tribe of Indians in Oklahoma and Mr. Ferris was a Congressman from that State.

I do not mean to intimate that either Mr. Hastings or Mr. Ferris are now, or were then, advocating principles of government that they did not believe to be for the best interests of Oklahoma. I do mean to convey the idea that there is such a divergency of interest between the whites and the Indians of my State that one who in a political way becomes associated with the white race unconsciously becomes the antagonist of the Indian to the extent, at least, of sharing the public sentiment of the people of my State that restrictions of all kinds and character should be removed, or at least all supervision of the Interior Department should be taken away from the Indian and his property.

I think that it was in 1912 or 1913 that a general exposure of probate conditions in Oklahoma was made by my predecessor in office. He submitted a report to the Secretary of the Interior in which it was shown that it was costing a great deal more to administer the estates of Indians than it was to administer the estates of whites, and that, generally, the estates of minors and incompetents were being consumed by court costs and other expenses and a lack of proper administration of such estates. After this exposure and the resentment that was manifest in Congress because of the treatment that a dependent people had received at the hands of officers of a sovereign State, after the Congress had been persuaded to believe that the estates would be properly handled, the entire delegation in Congress from Oklahoma joined in a telegram to the governor of that State, in which it was represented, in substance, that unless Oklahoma would enact laws that would safeguard the rights of these Indian children that the Federal Government would withdraw the jurisdiction which was granted by the act of 1908.

Notwithstanding this telegram and the fact that Oklahoma has not met the demands of the delegation in Congress by enacting laws for the protection of these minors, it is now proposed instead of withdrawing jurisdiction from local officers to permit the probate courts to retain the same jurisdiction which it has had since 1908 over the estates of minors and to invest in a local branch of the Interior Department sole jurisdiction over the estates and persons of these Indians.

It can best be determined what is expected to flow from the enactment of legislation such as is proposed by reviewing the results of other legislation granting jurisdiction to local officers. I desire to remind you, before entering into a discussion of conditions in Oklahoma, of the fact that only a small per cent of the Indians in Oklahoma are now subject to governmental supervision. Our delegation in Congress from time to time has succeeded in securing the passage of legislation further removing restrictions, until at the present time only the following class of Indians belong to what may be termed as the restricted class:

First. The homesteads of allottees enrolled as one-half or more than one-half blood Indians.

Second. All allotted lands of three-fourths blood Indians, including minors.

Third. All allotted and inherited lands of full-blood Indians.

Under the terms of the restriction acts a full-blood citizen of the Creek Nation can lease his surplus allotment and all his inherited lands without supervision of the department for a term of five years, and may lease his homestead for a period of one year. So you see that we only have those Indians who are generally conceded to belong to the incompetent class as re-

stricted Indians, and only these are now under the supervision of the Secretary of the Interior.

Following the act of 1908, the probate courts of Oklahoma commenced to exercise jurisdiction over the estates of minor citizens of the Creek Nation, and their guardians, oftentimes appointed for the purpose of selling the estates of minors and receiving commissions therefor, would immediately sell all of the estate. The result has been that millions of dollars have practically been stolen from helpless and defenseless children in Oklahoma. This result has not flown so largely from corrupt officials. It has resulted from a careless and reckless administration of the estates by these judges.

Soon after my appointment as Creek national attorney I began an investigation of the estates of Sophia O., Conny M., and John R. Boling. The guardian of these minors by first one means or another was permitted during a few years to squander an estate valued at approximately \$100,000. He went to Phoenix, Ariz., had himself appointed guardian at that place, and then resigned as guardian in Oklahoma. He then had a friend of his appointed guardian at Tulsa, Okla., and this guardian would collect moneys and send to Boling, who was father of the children, and their guardian, in Phoenix, Ariz. When this matter was called to my attention I sent one of the probate attorneys to Phoenix, and in conjunction with attorneys representing the minors we filed an application to require this guardian to make his reports. He did make his reports, in which he brought one of the minors out in debt to him, and the estates of the other two minors were shown to be of little or no value. Exceptions were filed to these reports, the case heard, with the result that judgment was rendered against the guardian for \$73,000. His bondsman paid \$33,000 of this shortage and the balance was paid by the guardian conveying property to the minors.

I am of the opinion that if Congress had not invested the probate courts of Oklahoma with the management of these estates that this guardian would not have tried to have embezzled these funds.

My report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for the year ending December 1, 1914, gives detailed statements of the money conserved, invested, and saved to the Indians, showing totals as follows:

Conservation and investment of Indian funds.....	\$187, 224. 00
Total amount saved to the Indians.....	218, 078. 20

I do not believe that more honest or conscientious county judges can be found anywhere in the American Union than we now have in the Creek Nation, but when you remember that each county judge has several thousand cases of landed minors to look after you will realize the impossibility of giving these matters the attention they deserve, and the grafters have much less hesitancy in attempting to rob a minor through a proceeding in a county court than they would have through a proceeding in a Federal court.

There are, of course, some instances of criminal negligence and even corruption of county judges in Oklahoma. It would require too much space for me to go into anything like a detailed report of conditions which now exist in the Creek Nation and the many frauds that have been committed as a direct result of vesting jurisdiction over the estates of Indian minors in local officers.

On October 9, 1915, I reported a few of such cases, as follows:

"Four indictments were returned by the grand jury in Creek County charging M. C. Flournoy, guardian of Bessie Cobb, a minor, with offering false evidence in connection with his final report as guardian of this minor, the specific charges being the filing of certain altered, raised, and false receipts, as vouchers in support of alleged expenditures for and on behalf of said minor charged to said estate in his said final report.

"Several months ago an application to remove this guardian was denied by Judge Brown, who was then county judge of Creek County, and an appeal was taken to the district court. Just before the case was called for hearing in the district court Flournoy tendered his resignation as guardian and the same was accepted, and he thereupon filed his final report as such guardian. Exceptions were filed to this report, which were overruled, and the report was approved by Judge Brown. An appeal was then taken to the district court from the order approving the report, and upon a hearing in the district court, practically every exception made to said report was sustained, and this guardian was surcharged with approximately \$1,000. Flournoy is a prominent merchant of Bristow, Okla., and was a close personal and political friend of Judge Brown.

"Two indictments were returned against W. A. Rentie charging him with the embezzlement of \$22,427.58 and \$366, respectively, belonging to the estate of his ward, Roy Bismark Rentie.

"This guardian was one of the promoters of the Creek Durango Land and Investment Co., which company had for its object the colonization of Creek freedmen in the State of Durango, Mexico. The methods of this company were substantially as follows:

"Certain designing and dishonest persons in Oklahoma organized said company and obtained from the Government of Mexico patent rights to about 27,000 acres of land situated in the State of Durango, Mexico, which land was unimproved and practically worthless. The promoters of this company would induce the fathers of minor Creek freedmen to procure the appointment of themselves as guardians for said minors, petition the court for a sale of said minors' allotments, and when said lands were sold the promoters of this company would be the purchasers, and in each instance the consideration paid was grossly inadequate. The promoters of said company would then induce the parents of said children to move to Durango, Mexico, and there use the proceeds derived from the sale of their children's lands in the purchase of worthless lands in this republic from the promoters of this company, who had also been the purchasers of said minors' lands in Oklahoma, the effect being to trade to the parents and guardians of these minors worthless lands in Durango, Mexico, for valuable allotments situated in the Creek Nation."

"There are pending now in the Creek Nation a large number of suits which have been brought to cancel and set aside conveyances thus made. These people being freedmen and unrestricted, I have not brought any of these cases myself, excepting the Scott cases, with which you are familiar, but I have advised with the allottees and assisted their attorneys wherever possible.

"The grand jury returned an indictment against William Grayson, charging him with the embezzlement of \$3,000 of the funds of the estate of Hilly Bear, deceased. The Hilly Bear case has heretofore been fully reported to you by Probate Attorney Ligon.

"After the death of Hilly Bear, William Grayson, who was not related to Hilly Bear, filed in the county court of Tulsa County a purported last will and testament of Hilly Bear wherein the natural heirs at law of said Hilly Bear were disinherited and wherein William Grayson was named as executor and principal beneficiary. The probate of this will was bitterly contested and the facts disclosed on the hearing of the petition for the probate of this will showed conclusively that said will was a forgery. In spite of this showing the county court of Tulsa County admitted said will to probate, from which the heirs of Hilly Bear appealed to the district court, which said court reversed the order of the county court and denied said will to probate. * * *

"The grand jury returned two indictments against W. E. Coleman, one for the embezzlement \$146.33 belonging to his minor ward, Gladys May Coleman, and one for the embezzlement of \$46.15 belonging to his ward, Nettie Alice Coleman. The defendant is now a fugitive from justice.

"The grand jury returned an indictment against Warren H. Brown, former county judge of Creek County, charging him with embezzling \$360 of the funds belonging to Nettie Alice Coleman and Gladys May Coleman, minors. The facts in this case will show that this sum of money was paid to Judge Brown as county judge by the Tamany Oil & Gas Co. and the Annex Oil & Gas Co. for the use of these two minors; that instead of turning this money over to the guardian of these minors, Judge Brown paid the same to James J. Mars, \$225 of which was a purported personal loan, the balance attorney fees.

"Another indictment was returned against Judge Brown charging him with perjury. I have heretofore forwarded to you the petition filed by Messrs. Ligon, Montgomery, and myself to require Bates B. Burnett to file his final report as the former guardian of Gracie I. Berryhill.

"On June 10, 1912, Bates B. Burnett filed his resignation as guardian of the estate of Gracie I. Berryhill, a minor. At this time Gracie I. Berryhill was living in Quanah, Tex., with her mother, and the probate court at Quanah, Tex., had appointed one J. E. Ledbetter as guardian of the estate of said minor. No final report has ever been filed by Bates B. Burnett as guardian of the estate of said minor. An investigation made by Probate Attorney Montgomery of the records of the probate court at Quanah, Tex., disclosed the fact that Ledbetter had failed and neglected to account for approximately \$70,000 of the funds of this estate which he should have received from Bates B. Bur-

nett, former guardian; further, that no accounting had been made by Burnett to Ledbetter for this sum.

"During the administration of Warren H. Brown as county judge of Creek County repeated efforts were made to require Burnett to file his final report, all of which efforts were unsuccessful, as Judge Brown repeatedly declined to take any action. While in Sapulpa on this investigation we filed before Hon. Vick S. Decker, present county judge of Creek County, a petition for a citation directing Burnett to appear in said court and show cause why he should not be required by said court to file his final report as guardian for said minor. On the day of the hearing of our motion Burnett filed with the clerk of the county court an order, dated June 10, 1912, signed by Warren H. Brown as county judge, which said order recited, in substance, that the resignation of Bates B. Burnett as such guardian was accepted; that said Bates B. Burnett was discharged from his trust as such guardian, and that the bondsmen of the said Bates B. Burnett as guardian were discharged and released from all liability. This order was filed by Burnett in answer to the citation directing him to appear and show cause why he should not be required to file said final report, he taking the position that said order released him and his bondsmen, and that the county court at this time had no jurisdiction to require him to make and file his final report. Judge Brown had prior to this time repeatedly stated to me, to Probate Attorneys Montgomery and Ligon, and to various other parties, that he had never signed an order releasing Burnett and discharging his bondsmen from their liability in this case.

"When Burnett filed the said order we called Judge Brown as a witness and he testified, under oath in the county court, that the order he signed contained an interlineation to the effect that same should not operate to discharge Burnett and his bondsmen until Burnett filed his final report and the same was approved by the county court. At the time he gave this testimony he evidently believed that the original order was lost, as it had been in the possession of Burnett during all of the time since the date of its execution and had never been filed or entered on the probate minutes in the office of the clerk of the county court and was not a part of the records in this case until the same was filed and was then immediately taken out of the files by me and was in my possession when Brown testified. After he had testified to the condition of the order made by him I confronted him with the original order and he then testified that it was not the order he signed. We presented all of these facts to the grand jury, with the result that an indictment was returned against Brown charging him with perjury * * *.

"An indictment was returned by the grand jury against P. B. France charging him with the embezzlement of \$2,131.71 of the funds of the estate of William McKinley Clayton, a minor. The administration of the estate of this minor very nearly parallels the administration of the estate of Gracie I. Berryhill, a minor. Bates B. Burnett was the former guardian of this minor and as such guardian squandered large sums of money belonging to the estate. A settlement of Burnett's accounts by the county court disclosed a shortage of approximately \$75,000. P. B. France was appointed as guardian to succeed Burnett and has been acting as such guardian for a period of about three years; during this time France and his attorneys have failed and neglected to recover the shortage due this estate from Burnett and his bondsmen. * * *

"An audit of the accounts of Mr. France as guardian of this estate, made by Probate Auditor Richardson, which audit is not yet fully complete, discloses the fact that France has continued to dissipate and squander this estate. Just as soon as this audit is completed we intend to ask for the removal of France and to take steps to recover the shortage in these accounts from France and his bondsmen, which shortage will run into thousands of dollars. Mr. France is one of the most prominent business men of Sapulpa.

"The grand jury returned two indictments against J. H. N. Cobb, one for preparing false evidence in connection with his final report as guardian of Mary Hutke, an incompetent full-blood Indian, and one indictment for perjury on account of testimony given by him in connection with the same matter.

"Specific reference to this case was made in my letter to you of September 18, 1915.

"The indictment for perjury is based upon testimony given by J. H. N. Cobb in the county court of Creek County upon the settlement of the final accounts of said defendant as guardian of the said Mary Hutke, to the effect that he, Cobb, had paid Elizabeth Sapulpa upon a claim of \$5,000 the sum of \$4,513.33 of

the funds of this estate when in truth and in fact he had only paid her the sum of \$3,850.

"The indictment for preparing false evidence is based upon a false receipt for \$4,513.33, which was offered by Cobb as a voucher for the payment of this sum to Elizabeth Sapulpa.

"Mr. Cobb was a member of the constitutional convention which wrote Oklahoma's constitution, was for a long time United States district Indian agent at Sapulpa, is now a member of the board of county commissioners of Creek County, secretary of the Commercial Club of the City of Sapulpa, and a minister of the gospel. * * *

"Two indictments were returned against James J. Mars, one charging him jointly with Micco Behen with offering false evidence in connection with the final report of Micco Behen as guardian of Thomas Robbins, a minor. This case has heretofore been fully reported to you by Probate Attorney Ligon, who, at the time of filing of said report, attempted to prosecute these parties for this offense by information, with the result that the defendants were whitewashed by the officers of Creek County, and Mr. Ligon severely criticized by the official organ of Creek County for his efforts in attempting to bring these parties to justice, the specific charge in this case being that Mars and Behen forged the name of Aney Tiger and Johnson Barnett to a receipt for \$100 and offered same as a voucher with the final report of Micco Behen. The other indictment against Mars charges him with forging the name of Martha Hagie, a full-blood Creek Indian woman, to a check for \$15 and procuring the money on said check from the bank in which Martha Hagie had her money on deposit. This defendant has long been a prominent lawyer in Creek County, and is now a member of the bar of that county * * *."

These are by no means isolated cases of graft and corruption. There have been hundreds of well-to-do Indian minors made paupers by improper and corrupt administration of their estates through the county courts of Oklahoma.

I have called your attention to the legislation that has been enacted during the past seven years, having for its purpose the relinquishment of departmental jurisdiction over the Oklahoma Indians. I have shown you the effort that was made in 1912 to do away with Indian agents who were the personal and direct representatives of the Secretary of the Interior and who were appointed in order that the Secretary of the Interior might be advised at first hand as to the needs and requirements of the individual Indian. I brought that matter to your attention because, as I view this matter, the same principle was involved in the fight as is involved here. There was but one argument advanced in opposition to the district agents. That was to do away with them would expedite the sale and leasing of Indian lands. The press and public, generally, in Oklahoma, supported the opposition to these agents.

The arguments here advanced that it would expedite transfer of lands and afford an easier and shorter way for those holding claims against Indians to receive their money. Again we find the same forces supporting this measure.

It was to expedite the sale and transfer of minors' lands that the county courts of Oklahoma were given jurisdiction over the estates of minors. I have called your attention to a few of the many cases of fraud which has resulted from this jurisdictional act. I do not believe that the argument is sound; that there would be a greater measure of protection afforded the Indians under the supervision of the superintendent to the Five Civilized Tribes, however honest, sincere, and capable he may be, than is now being afforded these Indian children under the administration of the county courts. The county judges of Oklahoma, as a rule, are honorable men; they are trained lawyers and have political ambitions. They would not knowingly permit a minor to be robbed, but, notwithstanding this protection, the insidious grafters of our State have, as shown by the records, by one device or another, been able to rob the minors out of millions of dollars. They would not undertake this practice in dealing with the Secretary of the Interior, and the knowledge of the fact that deeds, oil and gas leases, and restricted funds are now supervised by the Secretary of the Interior, is, itself, in my judgment, a great protection to the Indian.

In his report to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, dated June 11, 1915, the superintendent to the Five Civilized Tribes, calls attention to a report received from Mr. George R. Clements, which the superintendent says is one of the most illuminating and interesting documents that his office has received in connection with the poverty and destitution among the Indians, and the causes thereof. After discussing the many frauds committed in his section of the State, Mr. Clements concludes his report as follows:

"In conclusion please permit us to say, that when an evil is mentioned it seems pertinent always that some remedy should be suggested. Therefore, for the improvement of a condition of destitution now so prevalent among the Indians in this section that it is not for a moment disputed by anyone familiar with the real situation, we offer for consideration the following suggestions:

"1. The revocation of that part of section 9 of the law of May 27, 1908, which removes the restrictions from restricted land upon the death of an allottee. There are many cases in this district where Indians have received, say as much as \$1,000 for their interest in inherited land, and, after a sale has been consummated, have taken the first train for Fort Smith, Ark., or for Dallas, Tex., where intoxicants are freely dispensed, and returned from there in less than a week not only penniless, but suffering severely from the effects of their saturnalia. This condition is so well known that to descendant upon it would be superfluous. All land of deceased restricted allottees should be sold by the department, and the proceeds thereof disbursed for the benefit of the heirs in the same manner as are now disbursed the land-sale funds of restricted living allottees. This alone would not only relieve much destitution, but it would put a stop to the present wholesale debauching of so many of our Indians.

"2. The revocation of that part of section 23 of the law of April 26, 1906, as amended by sections 8 and 9 of the law of May 27, 1908, which permits as a restricted Indian, after his decease, to dispose of all of his allotment that he is not considered competent to dispose of to his best interest during his lifetime. How very inconsistent this appears to be. We have known of many cases of old and infirm Indians being induced in different ways to execute wills in favor of nefarious land speculators. Within a short time after these wills have been executed some of them have very suddenly died, for causes apparently unknown. While everything in connection with their death may be regular, yet it does not always appear so. Still, the evidence is so weak that it is utterly impossible to accomplish anything before courts that are largely in sympathy, we are bold to say, with those who follow this practice. It would reasonably seem that no restricted Indian should be permitted to dispose by last will and testament of any real estate that he is not considered competent advantageously to dispose of during his lifetime. Again let us say that all land of deceased restricted allottees should be sold by the department and the proceeds thereof disbursed for the benefit of the heirs in the same manner as are now disbursed the land sale funds of restricted living allottees.

"3. The revocation of that part of section 2 of the law of May 27, 1908, which permits a restricted Indian to lease for agricultural purposes, without departmental approval, his homestead allotment. To lease restricted homestead without departmental approval, an application should be filed, similar to that for removal of restrictions, which should require the allottee to make a showing as to why it is necessary to lease his homestead and as to whether he is capable of handling to his best interest the leasing of his homestead.

"The moment an attempt is made to revoke any of three provisions of law mentioned above a cry will go up from the whole of eastern Oklahoma that the Federal Government is attempting to retard the development of the State. Must we make prey and paupers of our Indians in order to develop the State of Oklahoma? Must we sit idly by and permit to be outrageously robbed and sacrificed a race of people for the sake of the so-called development of one State? A thousand times no! Most certainly the welfare of a race of human beings is of far greater importance than is the mere development of any State. Jesus Christ considered that one soul is of more value than the whole world. Surely, then, the saving of our Indians in Oklahoma is of more importance than is the development of a State.

"But the saving of our Indians will not retard the development of this State. That is only a hallucination of a band of predatory land speculators—a bunch of rapacious land pirates who by its employment seek to exert extraordinary influence over the powers that be for their own selfish gain. Other States and other countries have been developed, not by sacrificing and destroying, but by promoting the health, the wealth, and the happiness of their inhabitants. In like manner can Oklahoma also be developed. What we need back of this Indian problem more than anything else is not avaricious land pirates, but men—men that are big enough and strong enough to stand for truth and right—men who have faith that right makes might, and in that faith to the end dare to do their duty as they understand it.

"In closing I will add that all I have said in these pages is prompted only by a consciousness of the duty that I, by reason of my position, owe to these helpless people, in the protection of whose welfare we are so seriously hampered because of improper and inadequate laws. In many of the opinions that I have expressed I may be wrong. No man is infallible. But I have recited only the actual conditions as they appear to me in my work. If the slightest good comes as a result of these few well-intended remarks, then I shall consider myself amply rewarded."

Congress has for several years appropriated \$85,000 annually for the employment of probate attorneys. These attorneys have done a wonderful amount of good in ferreting out and bringing to justice delinquent guardians and in recovering estates for minors, but the beneficial results of this system arise largely from the fact that the public realize that these agents of the Department of the Interior are upon the ground and are watching the conduct of men dealing with minors, and therefore the grafter has been slow to attempt the frauds which were heretofore committed in county courts.

Mr. Hastings and Mr. Ferris, in discussing this proposed legislation, expressed great confidence in the ability, integrity, and fidelity to their trust of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. The high tribute paid to these officials by these two gentlemen, whose contact with them has been intimate, expresses the sentiment of every man who is familiar with the effort they are making to improve the conditions existing among the Indians of Oklahoma.

These gentlemen concede that the Secretary of the Interior now has authority to vest in the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes all of the powers proposed to be delegated to him by the Hastings bill. It seems to me that instead of Congress undertaking to experiment with the destinies of great tribes of Indians it would be wiser and safer to leave undisturbed the jurisdiction that is now vested in the Secretary of the Interior, that he might exercise this discretion, applying the experiences of the past in determining whether or not in specific cases his local representative in Oklahoma should be empowered to act finally.

With great respect, I remain,
Very sincerely,

R. C. ALLEN,
National Attorney Creek Nation.

Mr. MERITT. I think that is all I desire to say at this time. I will be glad to answer any questions.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Meritt desired that he be permitted to go through with his statement in order that it might be complete in the record. You may now ask him any questions you desire to ask. I think perhaps it would be a more orderly way to proceed if any member of the committee desires to ask questions, for him to proceed, and then others who are interested in the matter may ask questions. I think it would be advisable for the members of the committee to question Mr. Meritt first. Is there any member of the committee who desires to ask him questions?

Mr. KONOP. I would like to have an opportunity to read some of those reports and letters first.

Mr. CARTER. I should like to ask him a number of questions.

Mr. KONOP. I would like to ask this question: Is Mr. Meritt going to come up here after to-day?

The CHAIRMAN. That depends upon whether the committee decides to have him or not.

Mr. CARTER. I suppose Mr. Meritt will be willing to come back.

Mr. MERITT. I will be glad to come here any time.

Mr. CARTER. As this is not a personal contention, but is really a contest in regard to procedure, about which there seems to be a difference of opinion, and since the subject is strictly an impersonal one, I know you will not mistake our zeal and enthusiasm in pursuing inquiries as any reflection on your record in the Indian service. Now, I want to ask you first what is your official position?

Mr. MERITT. I am Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Mr. CARTER. How were you appointed?

Mr. MERITT. By the President.

Mr. CARTER. And confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. What is your salary?

Mr. MERITT. \$3,500 a year.

Mr. CARTER. How long have you been in the service?

Mr. MERITT. Ten years—approximately 10 years.

Mr. CARTER. What was your first position?

Mr. MERITT. My first position was clerk in the Indian Office.

Mr. CARTER. How were you appointed to that?

Mr. MERITT. By the Secretary of the Interior, at \$1,200 per annum.

Mr. CARTER. Is your official position subordinate to that of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; and also to the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. CARTER. Is the commissioner opposed to this bill?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Then, as Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs, it would be your duty to carry out the policy of your superior?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; I am here at his request in opposition to this bill.

Mr. CARTER. Then, you speak for the commissioner himself?

Mr. MERITT. I do.

Mr. CARTER. Why did not the Commissioner of Indian Affairs come?

Mr. MERITT. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has many duties to perform.

Mr. CARTER. He had too many duties to perform to-day to come?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Do you consider this a very important matter—this Hastings bill?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. And the commissioner so considers it?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. It marks a very radical and, you contend, a revolutionary change in the procedure of the Indian Office?

Mr. MERITT. We recognize that it is a very important bill and a very radical bill.

Mr. CARTER. Can you see any inconsistency on the part of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs by objecting to conferring on a subordinate some real jurisdiction, or transferring from himself some real jurisdiction, and at the same time calling upon a subordinate to justify his position before this committee?

Mr. MERITT. You will recall, Mr. Carter, that I have been doing the legislative work very largely for the bureau during the last five or six years.

Mr. CARTER. Why, of course. Somebody has had to do it. The commissioner could not do it all himself. That is precisely the point I wish to make. He can not possibly find time to pass upon the ability of each Indian to conduct his own affairs, yet finds fault with any plan giving a subordinate this power. How many Indians are there in the United States, did you say?

Mr. MERITT. About 325,000.

Mr. CARTER. All of them under the supervision of the Indian Bureau?

Mr. MERITT. Probably one-third of the Indians of the United States have had their restrictions removed or received patents in fee.

Mr. CARTER. How many restricted Indians are there in the United States?

Mr. MERITT. Probably around 200,000 whose property is absolutely under the jurisdiction of the Interior Department.

Mr. CARTER. Are any of the restricted Indians, so called, competent to manage their own affairs?

Mr. MERITT. I would say there are some restricted Indians who are competent to manage their own affairs. We recognize that fact, and Secretary Lane has recently, within the last year, appointed two commissions to visit various reservations; and he expects to appoint another commission to visit reservations for the purpose of determining who are competent Indians, so that they may have their restrictions removed.

Mr. CARTER. How many restrictions have been removed by the commissions?

Mr. MERITT. They have just begun the work, and the recommendations of the commissions have not been finally passed upon by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. CARTER. None have been removed to date?

Mr. MERITT. He has given them personal consideration.

Mr. CARTER. How many Indians are there in the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. There are enrolled in the Five Civilized Tribes, in round numbers, 101,000 Indians, freedmen and intermarried whites.

Mr. CARTER. How many Indians?

Mr. MERITT. I would say approximately 75,000 Indians enrolled.

Mr. CARTER. There are probably 25,000 freedmen?

Mr. MERITT. 23,405 freedmen.

Mr. CARTER. Then, there must be 5,000 or 10,000 intermarried citizens, are there not?

Mr. MERITT. I have the enrollment of the Five Civilized Tribes, showing 26,789 full bloods, 3,534 mixed bloods of three-quarters or more degree, 6,859 of one-half to three-quarters degree. That includes the restricted class, and makes a total of 37,182. Of the unrestricted class, less than one-half Indian blood, including intermarried citizens, there are 40,934, and there are 23,405 freedmen, making a total of 64,339 who are within the unrestricted class. That makes a grand total of 101,521 of the enrolled tribes.

Mr. CARTER. The line of demarcation is the line of blood.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; it is so declared by Congress.

Mr. CARTER. All Indians of one-half or more Indian blood are restricted?

Mr. MERITT. Partly restricted.

Mr. CARTER. I mean they have restricted land?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. A person enrolled as a Choctaw, or Chickasaw, who has one-half of Indian blood, has 160 acres of land, he can not sell, hypothecate, or lease without permission of the Secretary of the Interior, no matter how competent he may be.

Mr. MERITT. We have different laws applying to the different tribes in the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. CARTER. But that is the law I just stated, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Are any of these Indians self-supporting? Are any of these restricted Indians among the Choctaws and Chickasaws self-supporting?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; a number of them.

Mr. CARTER. Are any of them educated?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; a number of them.

Mr. CARTER. What percentage, would you say, of the Chickasaws and Choctaws is educated?

Mr. MERITT. I would say that a great many of them have received some education.

Mr. CARTER. Could you give us any idea of the percentage—an average? How many of them can read and write, would you say?

Mr. MERITT. I would not like to say offhand.

Mr. CARTER. I will say, for the information of the committee, that I am thoroughly familiar with this phase of the matter. I was born and raised among these Indians. I do not hesitate to say that between the ages of 15 and 40 there is not one Chickasaw or Choctaw out of 100 who can not read and write.

Mr. MURRAY. It is the old fellows that can not read and write?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir. The percentage of illiteracy, I would say, without fear of contradiction, is lower than that of any other people on the face of the earth.

You say some of them are self-supporting?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. And competent?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. And educated?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; some of them are self-supporting and competent and educated. A great majority have received some education.

Mr. CARTER. Are they not competent?

Mr. MERITT. I would not like to say that they are incompetent, but I would not like to say that they were competent to the extent of being able to handle their own affairs.

Mr. CARTER. I have written down here forty-odd names of Indians that I know personally, and I want to put those names in the record. I just thought of these names as we went along.

Capt. Chas. Le Flore, Kiowa, president First National Bank, Choctaw, half blood.

Paul E. Burney, Woodville, banker, Chickasaw, full blood.

S. J. Folsom, Heavener, banker, Choctaw, half blood.

Amanda Penner, Mill Creek, stockholder First State Bank, Chickasaw, half blood.

Columbus Ervin, Ardmore, capitalist, Choctaw, half blood.

Allen Wright, McAlester, attorney for Rhode Island Railroad, Choctaw, half blood.

Thomas Hunter, Hugo, attorney, Choctaw, half blood.

D. C. McCurtain, Poteau, attorney, Choctaw, half blood.

Joshua Anderson, Talihina, attorney, Choctaw, three-quarter blood.

Joe S. Maytubby, Wapanucka, attorney, Chickasaw, half blood.

George W. Burris, Stonewall, attorney, Chickasaw, half blood.

Walter J. Turnbull, Durant, county attorney, Choctaw, half blood.

Rev. Frank Wright, evangelist, Choctaw, half blood.
 James Frazier, Mill Creek, preacher, Chickasaw, full blood.
 James McCurtain, Enville, preacher, Chickasaw, full blood.
 Dr. E. N. Wright, Olney, doctor, Choctaw, half blood.
 Peter J. Hudson, Tnskahoma, farmer and stock raiser, Choctaw, full blood.
 Peter Conser, Conser, farmer and stock raiser, Choctaw, half blood.
 Emmett Ervin, Woodford, farmer, Choctaw, half blood.
 Gilbert W. Dukes, Talihiina, farmer, Choctaw, half blood.
 Lyman D. Worcester, Wapanucka, farmer, Chickasaw, full blood.
 Chicklin Brown, Madill, farmer, Chickasaw, full blood.
 Solomon H. Mackey, McAlester, farmer, Choctaw, half blood.
 Forbus Mosely, Bromide, farmer, Chickasaw, half blood.
 Thomas Underwood, Mill Creek, farmer, Chickasaw, full blood.
 Thomas Frazier, Mill Creek, farmer, Chickasaw, full blood.
 John Harris, Mill Creek, farmer, Chickasaw, five-eighths blood.
 Marvin J. Burris, Lula, postmaster, Chickasaw, half blood.
 H. H. Burris, Tishomingo, farmer and stock raiser, Chickasaw, full blood.
 William Le Flore, farmer, Choctaw, full blood.
 Michael Le Flore, stockman, Choctaw, full blood.
 David Folsom, Tishomingo, farmer, Chickasaw, three-quarter blood.
 Nancy Smith, Tishomingo, Chickasaw, three-quarter blood.
 Matilda Manning, Caddo, Choctaw, half blood.
 Abe Ervin, Woodford, oil speculator, Choctaw, half blood.
 Charles Townsend, Idabel, postmaster, Choctaw, half blood.
 Melissa White, Wynnewood, Chickasaw, half blood.
 Silas Bacon, Goodland, teacher, Choctaw, full blood.
 Robert Harrison, Atoka, capitalist, Choctaw, half blood.
 Wm. H. Harrison, Bokhoma, farmer, ex-representative Oklahoma Legislature, Choctaw, half blood.
 Albert S. Burney, Marietta, county commissioner, Chickasaw, half blood.
 Darius Reynolds, Kemp, farmer, Chickasaw, half blood.

Mr. NORTON. These gentlemen whose names you have given to the committee are restricted Indians?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. What is the extent of that restriction?

Mr. CARTER. They are restricted in lands to 160 acres. They are restricted in lands and funds.

Mr. NORTON. Has each one of these gentlemen whose names you are to give to the committee 160 acres of land that he is not permitted to sell?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir; he can not sell, lease, nor hypothecate.

Mr. NORTON. But he is the owner of the land at the present time?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Can you tell the committee whether or not they have asked for a removal of the restrictions?

Mr. CARTER. I think some of them have. I will mention one case. We finally got that restriction removed in the last week. That was the case of Matilda Manning. Her husband died some thirty-odd years ago and left an estate involved in debt. With a large family of children, she paid that estate out, with very little to start with. She has a competency herself now, has raised six or seven children, two of whom are bankers while another is a stockman. Her daughters have married men who are doing well. Another son is in the real estate business. She raised them and educated them. Now, she came to the department for a removal of the restrictions. She went to the field clerk; he recommended it. It was forwarded to the superintendent and he recommended it. It came to the Commissioner of the Indian Office and it was turned down. After several weeks I persuaded them that that woman ought to have her restrictions re-

moved, and I thought if that woman needed a guardian some of us should be in the insane asylum.

Mr. MILLER. If the restriction was removed from those gentlemen you spoke of, could they then sell their restricted land to whom they pleased?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. MILLER. Any white man?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir.

Mr. MILLER. Suppose they should sell to a shrewd, sharp, white man, what would be the effect? Would not the white man have the whole business in a little while?

Mr. CARTER. I will tell you exactly what would be the effect in my opinion. The shrew, sharp, white man would get skinned.

Mr. MILLER. Well, that is what ought to be done with them.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Miller, you understand that this bill does not provide for the removal of restrictions at all. This bill simply transfers the jurisdiction from one place to another.

Mr. NORTON. How long have you been in Congress?

Mr. CARTER. This is my ninth session.

Mr. NORTON. Do you believe in having these restrictions removed?

Mr. CARTER. I believe in having all restrictions removed on every competent Indian and letting him go home. I would not say I believed in removing the restrictions of those who cannot take care of themselves, of course.

Mr. NORTON. But of those who can?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir. Don't you believe in that?

Mr. NORTON. I think the gentleman knows I do.

Now, have you ever proposed any legislation or done anything during your service in Congress to have a law passed or placed upon the statute books to remove those restrictions?

Mr. CARTER. Yes, sir; the gentleman is doubtless aware of many of our activities in connection with these matters.

The removal of restrictions act of May 27, 1908, removed restrictions completely on all lands—both surplus and homesteads—of all allottees of less than one-half Indian blood, which is something more than one-half those now embraced on the rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes. The measure also removed restrictions on the surplus allotment of all other Indians of less than three-fourths Indian blood, which would embrace one-half the remainder. This would leave still remaining about one-half the membership of the tribes with restrictions on their homestead allotments and one-fourth of the original enrollment with restrictions on both surplus and homestead. Incidentally, I will say that the abstract division on the lines of quantum of blood is not a fair test, for many of those of one-half or more Indian blood are just as capable of caring for their affairs as any Yankee, Englishman, Jew, or anyone else, but the blood test was about all we could resort to at the time this law was enacted. Since the passage of this act I have introduced numerous bills seeking relief from these conditions. One of the most important was that for reducing the homestead allotments, introduced in every session of Congress since 1909 I think. During the Sixty-second Congress, I believe it was, we succeeded after a hard fight in having this bill favorably reported by this committee, but the fight before the

committee dragged out so long that by the time the bill was reported the calendar had become sufficiently congested to prevent its consideration before adjournment.

Of all the bills I have introduced to relieve our Indians from these conditions this bill was the only one to which I have ever succeeded in getting the stamp of approval of the department. In fact, all other bills we have proposed for such relief have met a similar fate to that of this Hastings bill now under consideration, to wit, not only an adverse department report, but vigorous opposition from the Indian Bureau, backed up by the further opposition of Members of this committee and of the House.

Mr. NORTON. I thought I understood the gentleman to say that the Hastings bill had no reference to the removal of restrictions.

Mr. CARTER. Certainly; I said that the bill would not remove restrictions. The Hastings bill does not remove restrictions; it simply transfers jurisdiction from this man to that man, but it cuts out the necessity for sending applications to the Washington city office.

Mr. NORTON. I want to say if he has any bill before Congress that will provide for the easy removal of the restrictions I shall support it, and I shall be glad to have my attention called to it.

Mr. CARTER. I have one now.

Mr. NORTON. What is that?

Mr. CARTER. A bill in reference to reducing homesteads.

Mr. KNOX. What is the law now pertaining to these restrictions?

Mr. CARTER. The present law provides restrictions on the entire allotment of all Indians of three-fourths or more Indian blood and restrictions on the homestead allotment of all Indians of one-half or more Indian blood running up to three-fourths. In addition to this the Secretary may remove restrictions on any part of these allotted lands or may sell any part and distribute the proceeds under rules and regulations of his department.

Now, let me go ahead with my questions. Mr. Meritt, you say that you believe these Indians who are competent should be turned loose?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; we will be very glad to remove the restrictions on those gentlemen whose names you have read.

Mr. CARTER. You have had nine years to make these removals. How many restrictions have you removed?

Mr. MERITT. The act of May 27, 1908, removed restrictions—

Mr. CARTER (interposing). How many have you removed under authority of the Secretary?

Mr. MERITT. The act of May 27, 1908, removed restrictions on more than 10,000,000 acres of land in eastern Oklahoma.

Mr. CARTER. You are mistaken about that. You are figuring on 320 acres to every Indian, and they did not actually get that much.

Mr. MERITT. Since that date the Secretary of the Interior has removed restrictions on between two and three million acres of land.

Mr. CARTER. On how many Indians?

Mr. MERITT. I do not know the exact number.

Mr. CARTER. You gave us a report for 1912, in which the Secretary said that restrictions had been removed on only 250,000 acres.

Mr. MERITT. I find here a table showing the removal of restrictions in the Five Civilized Tribes since 1909, under the act of May 27,

1908. We have removed restrictions on 7,788 tracts of land, making a total of 462,230 acres.

Mr. CARTER. How many Indians?

Mr. MERITT. It gives the number of tracts of land as 7,788.

Mr. CARTER. I want to ask you about procedure. Take the removal of restrictions applications. With whom must they be filed?

Mr. MERITT. With the field clerk.

Mr. CARTER. The application, then, is not originally filed with the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. In effect, then, your argument that the man who receives applications for removal of restrictions should not be given the right to remove restrictions would not apply, would it?

Mr. MERITT. The field clerk is a subordinate in the office of Superintendent Parker.

Mr. CARTER. And that field clerk is sometimes 150 miles away from the office?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. He is a civil-service employee?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Well, what does the field clerk do with the application?

Mr. MERITT. He makes an investigation and submits his report to Superintendent Parker.

Mr. CARTER. Then what does Superintendent Parker do with the application?

Mr. MERITT. He considers the report of the field clerk and submits a report to the Indian Office with his recommendation.

Mr. CARTER. Then what does the commissioner do?

Mr. MERITT. The commissioner recommends to the Secretary of the Interior—

Mr. CARTER (interposing). Now, let us be perfectly fair about this. Wait a minute. He does not recommend to the Secretary—

Mr. MERITT (interposing). As I stated in the Senate hearing, the application is received in the Indian Affairs office and it goes to the clerk who handles removal restrictions.

Mr. CARTER. How many clerks are there who handle them?

Mr. MERITT. There are two or three clerks in that office who pass on these matters.

Mr. CARTER. Who are they?

Mr. MERITT. Mr. George Reed and Mr. John Dawson and Mr. William Gould.

Mr. CARTER. What salaries do they get?

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Reed and Mr. Dawson get \$1,800, while Mr. Gould gets \$1,200.

Mr. CARTER. Then, what becomes of the application after these clerks act upon it?

Mr. MERITT. The removal of restrictions goes either to the desk of the commissioner or the assistant commissioner.

Mr. CARTER. Where does it go from there?

Mr. MERITT. To the Interior Department for the action of Secretary Sweeney.

Mr. CARTER. And then where does it go?

Mr. MERITT. He acts on it and returns it to the Indian Office.

Mr. CARTER. Then where does it go?

Mr. MERITT. To the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. CARTER. Then where?

Mr. MERITT. Each Indian is notified of the action of the department.

Mr. CARTER. According to your statement, it first goes to the field clerk, then to the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, then to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs for recommendation—

Mr. MERITT (interposing). It does not then go to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. It goes directly from the mailing room to the clerk who handles the removal of restriction cases.

Mr. CARTER. All right. It goes from the field clerk to the superintendent, and from the superintendent to the Indian Office, and from the Indian Office to the mailing room to the clerk who handles the restriction cases, and from that clerk to the commissioner, and the assistant commissioner—

Mr. MERITT. No, sir. It goes either to the commissioner or the assistant commissioner.

Mr. CARTER. From the field clerk to the superintendent, from the superintendent to the clerk, from the clerk to the commissioner, from the commissioner to the Secretary. Now, does it go to a clerk in the Secretary's office?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Does it go back to the commissioner?

Mr. MERITT. It goes back to the Indian Office, and from there it is mailed out to the superintendent.

Mr. CARTER. Eight times. You are talking about checks and balances. It seems to me that is checks and balances with a vengeance.

Mr. MERITT. You will remember, Mr. Carter, that Supt. Parker stated in the hearing in the Senate that these removals of restriction cases and the approval of oil leases were back in his office within 15 days, with either favorable or unfavorable action.

Mr. CARTER. I want to say, in justice to the commissioner, that I think they have been handling the oil and gas leases somewhat more expeditiously. But I can not say as much for your work on the removal of restriction cases and other matters. So, Mr. Meritt, according to your statement, the commissioner himself does not go into this report and analyze it?

Mr. MERITT. Not unless it is an unusual case.

Mr. CARTER. The clerk does that—the clerk in the Indian Bureau does that, and the commissioner usually acts on the clerk's recommendation, does he not?

Mr. MERITT. That is true, to a large extent.

Mr. CARTER. I know it is, because you said something about this in the Senate.

Mr. MERITT. You understand that the duties of the officials are so great that they can not investigate the details of each one of these cases.

Mr. CARTER. Now, with reference to Mr. Dawson—and he may be a splendid clerk—and these other clerks, who are splendid officials and perhaps should have more salary than they are getting—

Mr. MILLER (interposing). I do not think that is a fair statement. One might infer that salary influences a man's action.

Mr. CARTER. No; I simply say perhaps they should have more than they have.

We have here a proposition of a man whose action is really reviewed not by the commissioner himself but by a clerk.

Mr. MERITT. You will recognize immediately that that is why the clerks are furnished to these bureaus—so that they can pass on these cases. They have to work out these cases.

Mr. CARTER. Why, of course. It is necessary to have them. The commissioner could not do it himself.

Mr. MERITT. That is true. That applies also to Cabinet officers. They have to depend on bureau heads, and the bureau heads have to depend on clerks in the offices.

Mr. CARTER. In the last analysis, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs relies not on himself, but on Mr. Dawson, which I have no doubt is a safe thing to do.

Mr. MERITT. I want to say that there are in these departments able men who are never heard of, but who come nearer shaping the policy of a bureau than a great many people think, because they have had a long training.

Mr. CARTER. Yes. I understand that sometimes that does good and sometimes it does damage. Do you allow an application for removal of a restriction to be filed directly with your office?

Mr. MERITT. It is not the usual thing to do.

Mr. CARTER. How do you dispose of it?

Mr. MERITT. We refer it back to the superintendent for report and recommendations.

Mr. CARTER. Do you allow an application to be filed with the superintendent at Muskogee?

Mr. MERITT. Indians may file applications direct with the superintendent, but he would get the report of the field clerk.

Mr. CARTER. What have you to say about the cases of Turner and Ervin, and what about Mrs. Page? In that case an application was filed with the superintendent, and the application was returned because it had not been filed with the field clerk.

Mr. MERITT. I have sent a telegram to Mr. Parker in regard to that case.

Mr. CARTER. I asked him about it, but he was rather guarded in his answers.

Mr. MERITT. I will say that those papers are not now in the hands of the bureau.

Mr. CARTER. You, of course, believe that every competent Indian should be placed on his own responsibility?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. That is the principal purpose of the Indian Bureau, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir. We want to give everyone who is competent that privilege.

Mr. CARTER. Does your bureau undertake to remove restrictions without application?

Mr. MERITT. We are doing that now, in connection with the competency commission.

Mr. CARTER. You do not remove them without application?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; in some cases.

Mr. CARTER. Have you done that in the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. I think it is the purpose of the Secretary to send a commission to the Five Civilized Tribes to pass upon the competency of restricted Indians. I may say that the attitude of the office and the department is to require Indians who are competent, and men of the class you have named, to have their restrictions removed.

Mr. CARTER. Yes; we hear that quite often, but unfortunately we see very little of it.

Mr. MURRAY. If these restrictions are removed, some are conditional and some are unconditional?

Mr. CARTER. Yes.

If the Hastings bill is passed, it would be necessary for the Indians to file applications with the field clerk?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. And that would be sent to the superintendent?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. And the superintendent would then, himself, pass upon it instead of its coming through all these channels?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; he would have final authority.

Mr. CARTER. How is the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes appointed?

Mr. MERITT. He is appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. CARTER. What is his salary?

Mr. MERITT. \$5,000 a year.

Mr. CARTER. How is the Commissioner of Indian Affairs appointed?

Mr. MERITT. By the President and confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. CARTER. What is his salary?

Mr. MERITT. \$5,000 a year.

Mr. CARTER. There is absolutely no difference, then, either as to manner of appointment or salary?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Who is the present superintendent?

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Gabe Parker.

Mr. CARTER. Is he part Indian?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Had he ever been in the Indian Service before?

Mr. MERITT. He was at one time. He entered the service as teacher.

Mr. CARTER. As what?

Mr. MERITT. He entered the service, Mr. Carter, as a teacher in the school of the Chickasaws and Choctaws, and was later superintendent of the Armstrong Academy.

Mr. CARTER. He had a previous experience in the Indian Service?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Did he hold any official position when appointed superintendent?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; he was Register of the Treasury.

Mr. CARTER. How was he appointed to that position?

Mr. MERITT. He was appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate.

Mr. CARTER. When was he appointed superintendent?

Mr. MERITT. He went into office January 1, 1915.

Mr. CARTER. About how many applicants were there for that position, do you know?

Mr. MERITT. I know that there were a good many.

Mr. CARTER. Not less than 50, were there?

Mr. MERITT. A great many applicants.

Mr. CARTER. I know I sent down many applications myself. Was Mr. Parker himself an applicant?

Mr. MERITT. I think not.

Mr. CARTER. Did any member of the Oklahoma delegation recommend or request his appointment?

Mr. MERITT. I do not believe that he was recommended by either the Senators or the Representatives of that State.

Mr. CARTER. Did you say that he was so recommended?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; I do not believe that he was recommended.

Mr. CARTER. Did anyone acting in the capacity of public official, private citizen, or otherwise indorse him for the place?

Mr. MERITT. Not to my knowledge.

Mr. CARTER. Did any citizen or resident of Oklahoma know that he was to be appointed before he was decided upon?

Mr. MERITT. I believe it was a surprise to most of the officials.

Mr. CARTER. Did anyone in Oklahoma request the appointment of Mr. Parker?

Mr. MERITT. It was a personal appointment, I think.

Mr. CARTER. Do you mean to say it was a personal appointment of the Indian Bureau and the Secretary of the Interior?

Mr. MERITT. I think it was a personal appointment of Commissioner Sells and Secretary Lane.

Mr. CARTER. Before his selection they both doubtless looked into his past record to see whether it was good or bad, did they not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Is he an honest man?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Is he a capable man?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Is he an educated man?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. He is a graduate of a college, is he not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; I think so.

Mr. CARTER. Has he lived long in Oklahoma?

Mr. MERITT. He has lived practically all his life in Oklahoma, I believe.

Mr. CARTER. Does he know anything about Indians?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; he has a very intimate knowledge of their affairs.

Mr. CARTER. Has he an extensive acquaintance among them?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Now, Mr. Meritt, according to your statement, Mr. Parker is educated, capable, honest, painstaking, and efficient. He has had a successful experience not only in the Indian Service, but in other important public offices. He is himself part Indian, was born and raised among the Indians, understands their character and wants intimately, and has an extensive acquaintance among the

members of the Five Civilized Tribes. He was appointed to his present position as superintendent in the same manner as the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and draws the same amount of salary. He was also appointed without the recommendation, request, or even the knowledge and consent of any person in Oklahoma and is, in fact, a personal appointee of the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He is, then, responsible for his appointment and for his reappointment and retention in office not to any person—official, private citizen, or otherwise—in Oklahoma, but to the administration in power and specifically to the bureau chief whom he serves. In fact, you have given to Mr. Parker a clean bill of health as to efficiency, honesty, experience, knowledge of details, and manner of appointment. Now, let me ask you this further question. Why should not this man, according to your own statement, qualified, efficient, painstaking, honest, experienced in dealing with Indian affairs and other public office, intimately acquainted with the the Indians under his jurisdiction and himself an Indian, why should not this man who, you say, has been weighed in the balance and found not wanting, be just as safely trusted to sit down at close range, face to face, across the table and judge of the capabilities of one of these Indians as some law clerk 1,600 miles away, who perhaps never had an hour's conversation with a dozen real civilized Indians in his entire existence?

Mr. MERITT. My answer is found in the statement which I have already made this morning.

Mr. CARTER. I would like to have you answer that. Why could he not be trusted to pass on these matters? We would like to have your real reason.

Mr. MERITT. I would say that it would be unwise to invest Mr. Parker with this tremendous responsibility, first, because Mr. Parker is not a lawyer and has had no legal training or large experience.

Mr. CARTER. Why was not a lawyer appointed, then? Can you tell me that?

Mr. MERITT. For the simple reason that we did not anticipate that legislation would subsequently pass vesting in the superintendent all the authority vested in the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. CARTER. The commissioner simply passes upon Mr. Parker's recommendations. Mr. Parker makes the initial recommendation, and when he does it, it is his duty to look into the law and advise the commissioner on the law?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; but we have the record before us. We have the record before us and we are familiar with the laws and can determine for ourselves whether or not his opinions are correct.

Mr. CARTER. The superintendent's bureau is supplied with experienced law clerks. He makes conclusions under the laws, because I have seen his reports.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; and occasionally they are wrong.

Mr. CARTER. How do the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes regard this bill?

Mr. MERITT. I would say that both the citizens of Oklahoma and the Indian—

Mr. CARTER (interrupting). Why do you say "citizens"? I was asking about Indians.

Mr. MERITT. I would say that public opinion in Oklahoma is favorable.

Mr. CARTER. Can you not give a direct answer to a simple question? Did I ask you anything about public opinion or whether the Indians are in favor of this bill?

Mr. MERITT. I would not like to pass upon that, because I can not differentiate between public opinion and the Indians.

Mr. CARTER. Then you do not know how the Indians feel about it?

Mr. MERITT. I think part are in favor and part are opposed.

Mr. CARTER. Have you any protests at all from the Indians?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; we have heard that there are some who are opposed.

Mr. CARTER. Will you furnish the names?

Mr. MERITT. We have not received any written protests.

Mr. CARTER. I thought so. Mr. Meritt, do you think the superintendent should be given more jurisdiction than he has now?

Mr. MERITT. I think that the office and the department believe that there is certain legislation that should be enacted which would give the superintendent some additional jurisdiction.

Mr. CARTER. But you have never recommended legislation like that, although you believe in it?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; we have.

Mr. CARTER. To give the superintendent more jurisdiction?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. When did you make any such recommendation?

Mr. MERITT. There was legislation that we recommended to this Congress last year and the year before last. It was in regard to agricultural leases.

Mr. CARTER. Oh, you can transfer that jurisdiction without legislation.

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; we want the superintendent to have authority to approve agricultural leases where he does not have it now. I am talking now about the law that needs to be amended, so that we can protect the rights of the Indians.

Mr. CARTER. Oh, I understand you now. What you asked was more paternalism over the Indian and not a relinquishment of any of your power to the superintendent.

Mr. MERITT. I think the legislation that we recommended this morning would cover it.

Mr. CARTER. Do you think that the Secretary himself should pass upon these restriction matters?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; I do.

Mr. CARTER. You do not think it would be safe to trust the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to do that?

Mr. MERITT. I think someone should review the recommendation of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. CARTER. Do you think the commissioner could do that?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; I think that would be entirely satisfactory.

Mr. CARTER. You spoke a while ago of the Kagama case, and you quoted from that case. Can you turn to that?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Will you read that quotation?

Mr. MERITT (reading) :

These Indian tribes are the wards of the Nation. They are communities dependent on the United States. Dependent largely for their daily food. Dependent for their political rights. They owe no allegiance to the States and receive from them no protection. Because of the local ill feeling the people of the States where they are found are often their deadliest enemies. From their very weakness helplessness, so largely due to the course of dealing of the Federal Government with them and the treaties in which it has been promised, there arises the duty of protection, and with it the power.

Mr. CARTER. Does the Indian affairs office stand for the platform of the Kagama case; is that the position with relation to Indian affairs?

Mr. MERITT. That case does not apply to Oklahoma.

Mr. CARTER. Then why is it quoted?

Mr. MERITT. It does not apply as forcibly as to other reservations. It simply shows that the incompetent and restricted Indians need the protection of the Federal Government.

Mr. CARTER. Would you say that prejudice existed in a State where a United States Senator, the governor, the lieutenant governor, and the Speaker of the House were Indian citizens?

Mr. MERITT. The Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes have been given larger political rights than the Indians of many other tribes.

Mr. CARTER. The Kagama case was reported in 1883, was it not?

Mr. MERITT. It was quite a number of years ago.

Mr. CARTER. You spoke about the Mott report and the conditions existing down there. What connection has that with this bill?

Mr. MERITT. It resulted largely from legislation enacted by Congress, and also because of local conditions.

Mr. CARTER. Did you not find your Superintendent and the Commissioner for the Five Civilized Tribes, who was his predecessor, most active in fighting those cases?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. They were perhaps the most active, except Mr. Hastings, who now presents this bill?

Mr. MERITT. They all did splendid work.

Mr. CARTER. All these things occurred under the present system and under the present laws as they exist?

Mr. MERITT. I would not say that they occurred under the present system, because the Indian Bureau was not responsible for those conditions.

Mr. CARTER. They occurred under the present system of laws?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; it was the result of legislation enacted by Congress.

Mr. CARTER. Laws enacted by Congress in two acts—the act of April 26, 1906, and that of May 27, 1908?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. The act of April 26, 1906, was passed before Oklahoma was a State?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Who wrote the act of May 27, 1908, that you are condemning?

Mr. MERITT. A number of people had a hand in it.

Mr. CARTER. Secretary of the Interior Garfield and Solicitor Woodruff, did they not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. You spoke of political appointees. What did you mean by that?

Mr. MERITT. I meant by that that men appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate, who may be changed every four years, are necessarily political appointees.

Mr. CARTER. That is the way the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is appointed, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. That is the way the assistant commissioner is appointed, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. Not necessarily, because I have a civil-service status.

Mr. CARTER. But you are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir. Because of my previous work in the bureau I had a civil-service status when I was appointed assistant commissioner.

Mr. CARTER. Do you think that the appointment of Mr. Parker was more of a political appointment than the appointment of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir. I want to say that I think one of the greatest injustices that is done to the Indians of this country is changing the Commissioner of Indian Affairs every four years.

Mr. CARTER. I think, if I had my way, I would change them oftener. You spoke about having an Assistant Secretary of the Interior. What would be the difference between having an Assistant Secretary of the Interior and a Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. I said if we must have legislation along this line, that would be an improvement.

Mr. CARTER. Would calling a fellow Assistant Secretary of the Interior improve his status and capabilities?

Mr. MERITT. You understand, it is in addition to the present Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes. He would be there to supervise and check the work of the superintendent.

Mr. CARTER. Well, that is all. I believe we have nine different slots through which an application for the removal of restrictions must now pass with all the numerous delays at each slot. All that the Hastings bill attempts to do is to cut out some of those slots and expedite action. The Hastings bill does not remove restrictions on a single Indian.

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; it does not; but it makes possible an easier removal.

Mr. CARTER. And you think it is a good thing for men who are competent?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. You do not think it would be done for men who are not competent, do you?

Mr. MERITT. I have the highest regard for Mr. Parker. I do not want anything I say to be construed as a reflection upon Mr. Parker.

Mr. CARTER. He is an honest man?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. KONOP. What governs you before you are qualified to remove restrictions? Does it take any legal training to know whether an Indian is competent or not?

MR. MERITT. No, sir.

MR. KONOP. Can not a man without legal training know whether an Indian is capable of taking care of himself or his affairs?

MR. MERITT. No, sir; I would not say that it requires legal training.

MR. KONOP. In the removal of restrictions on land, does it require legal knowledge to say whether or not an Indian is competent to take care of his estate?

MR. MERITT. No, sir.

MR. KONOP. You have brought out the point that Mr. Parker is not an attorney or lawyer and that for that reason he was not competent to remove restrictions on Indians.

MR. MERITT. You must understand that the superintendent has a great many more things to do than to remove restrictions. He has to pass very frequently upon contest cases involving property rights where a quarter of a million dollars may be in question, and under this law he would be the final arbiter without any right of appeal in cases of that character.

MR. KONOP. Could you furnish for the record, by looking over the records down at the department, figures showing how many Indians—not how much property—have had restrictions removed in the last five years?

MR. MERITT. Yes, sir; I will be glad to include that in the record.

MR. KONOP. Now, about these field clerks—

MR. MERITT (interposing). I believe I have already furnished that information.

MR. KONOP. The number of Indians?

MR. MERITT. Inquiry has been made of the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in whose office are kept the records as to removal of restrictions on alienation of the allottees' lands. The superintendent is unable to furnish from his records at the present time, the information requested as to the number of members of the Five Civilized Tribes from whose allotments of land the restrictions upon alienation were removed by order of the Secretary of the Interior since the date of the act of Congress of May 27, 1908 (35 Stat. L., 312), or the number of said Indians from whose land the restrictions as to alienation were removed within the past five years.

MR. KONOP. Now, about these field clerks: They are civil service appointees?

MR. MERITT. Yes, sir.

MR. KONOP. Are they new men, or are they men who are experienced?

MR. MERITT. They have been employed for a number of years.

MR. KONOP. They have been detailed from the bureau here?

MR. MERITT. No, sir; they were appointed to the positions there direct, without service in the bureau.

MR. KONOP. When application is made to the clerk, what does he do? Does he take it to the commissioner, or does he go and make a personal investigation?

MR. MERITT. He is not located in the office of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee. He is located in the regular station in the field. When an Indian makes application he goes to the Indian himself, makes a personal investigation, and he submits a report to the superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes. That field clerk may be 150 miles from the agency.

Mr. KONOP. It is largely upon his recommendation that final action is taken—either favorable or unfavorable?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. KONOP. When the record gets to the department, all you have is the recommendation of the field clerk and the recommendation of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. We have also the rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes which show the degree of the Indian blood, and the facts are reported by the official.

Mr. KONOP. I can not understand what good that would do.

Mr. MERITT. It is very frequently the case that a full-blood Indian is not as competent as an Indian of half-blood. The degree of blood has a great deal to do with the competency in a great many cases.

Mr. KONOP. Then, to determine whether an Indian is competent or incompetent does not necessarily require a lawyer. Any person could do that?

Mr. MERITT. It is not contended by the bureau that it requires a lawyer to pass upon the competency cases.

Mr. KONOP. There was something said about a competency commission.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. It will be necessary for us to stop at this time. Mr. Meritt, if you can come back at 2 o'clock, we will appreciate it.

(Thereupon, at 12 o'clock m., the committee took a recess until 2 o'clock p. m. of the same day.)

AFTERNOON SESSION.

The committee reconvened, pursuant to the taking of the recess, at 2 o'clock p. m., Hon. John H. Stephens (chairman) presiding.

STATEMENT OF ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS E. B. MERITT—Resumed.

Mr. KONOP. I was asking you, Mr. Meritt, about these competency commissions. You stated there were three commissions to ascertain which Indians were competent and which were not, did you not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. KONOP. How many are out?

Mr. MERITT. There are two commissions.

Mr. KONOP. Which are out in the field now?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. KONOP. Who are the members of those commissions?

Mr. MERITT. Maj. McLaughlin is serving on one of the commissions. He has been in the service longer than any one else now in it at this time. He has been an inspector for the department for many years.

Maj. Thackery, superintendent of the Pima Reservation, in Arizona, is head of the other commission.

Mr. KONOP. These commissions are men from the service; they are not men from outside?

Mr. MERITT. They are men from the Indian Service, and also in the service of the Interior Department.

Mr. KONOP. You say one of these commissions has been out for some time. How long has it been out?

Mr. MERITT. Probably eight months.

Mr. KONOP. Where have they been detailed to, Oklahoma, or where else?

Mr. MERITT. They have been detailed to South Dakota, I think. One commission is now working on the Yankton Reservation. That is a reservation in the State of South Dakota.

Mr. KONOP. Thus far they have made no report at all?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; they have made reports to the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary has those reports under consideration, and it is expected that action will be taken on those reports and quite a number of patents in fee will be issued at an early date.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Dawson was to furnish the names of some Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes who had protested.

Mr. DAWSON. I could not find the paper on my desk when I went back. It is in the course of going around in the correspondence; but, in the short time I had, I was not able to lay my fingers upon it.

Mr. CARTER. Has the bureau received any papers from the Indians in favor of the bill—from the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. Not that I recall.

Mr. CARTER. I notice you say that Judge Allen filed a letter against the bill.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Have the tribal attorneys of the Choctaws and Chickasaws made any protests against the bill?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; they have not made any written protests.

Mr. CARTER. Have they made a verbal protest against it?

Mr. MERITT. I believe they have both expressed the view that they were not in favor of the bill as introduced.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Hurley and Mr. Bond both expressed that view, did they?

Mr. MERITT. Both have expressed to me the view that they did not believe that the bill would pass in its present form.

Mr. CARTER. Well, I do not mean whether it would pass, Mr. Meritt. I mean were they favorable to its passage or unfavorable?

Mr. MERITT. I do not believe that either one of them is favorable to the passage of the bill in its present form.

Mr. CARTER. They have expressed themselves to you as being opposed to the bill?

Mr. MERITT. I would rather they would speak for themselves, Mr. Carter. They are in the city, and I do not care to speak for them.

Mr. CARTER. Has either one of the tribal agents expressed himself about the bill—Locke or Johnston?

Mr. MERITT. I have not talked to either Principal Chief Locke or Gov. Johnston about the bill.

Mr. CARTER. You do not know how they stand?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir. I have talked with both of the tribal attorneys for the Choctaw and Chickasaw Nations.

Mr. CARTER. You do not have any objection at all to them coming before the committee and expressing their views?

Mr. MERITT. Not the slightest. I would be glad to have them come before the committee.

Mr. CARTER. In that event you would not attempt to coerce them into representing the views of the bureau as opposed to those of their people, would you?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Do you want to ask Mr. Meritt any questions, Mr. Gandy?

Mr. GANDY. I had just started a question about the competency commissions when we adjourned. How are competency commissions appointed?

Mr. MERITT. They are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. GANDY. How many members?

Mr. MERITT. Three members, I believe, constitute the commissions.

Mr. GANDY. Are they all appointed originally by the Secretary of the Interior, or some of them on the recommendation of the commissioner?

Mr. MERITT. I believe that one member of the commission was appointed on the recommendation of the commissioner.

Mr. GANDY. The other two were appointed by the Secretary?

Mr. MERITT. The superintendent on the reservation that they visit constitutes one member of the commission and the Secretary appoints one member.

Mr. GANDY. Then, the man that the commissioner appoints and the man that the Secretary appoints are not residents of the reservation?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir. The commissioner does not make the appointments, but makes his recommendation to the Secretary. The appointments are made by the Secretary.

Mr. GANDY. I understand. We might use the expression that one is appointed on the recommendation of the commissioner. Then at least two out of these three men who are appointed have no personal knowledge of the men and the reservations and conditions of all the reservations that they are going to investigate, have they?

Mr. MERITT. I would not make that statement, Mr. Gandy, for the simple reason that the members of these commissions have been in the Indian Service for a great many years and they have visited a large number of the Indian reservations. For example, Maj. McLaughlin is as familiar with the conditions on the Sioux Reservations as any superintendent of those reservations.

Mr. GANDY. That being true—that he would be generally and might be as to a very few specific cases of Indians—that would not apply generally to an intimate knowledge of a man and his conditions, would it, locally, on the reservations?

Mr. MERITT. These commissioners are sent there on the reservation for the purpose of obtaining intimate knowledge of local conditions.

Mr. GANDY. If you care to answer this question, please do so: Does it not usually work out that the local superintendent has a list of names that he submits, or a roll, and that to a greater or less degree that list becomes the recommendation of the board, and from the very nature of things it works out that way?

Mr. MERITT. Naturally the local superintendent would be looked to by the other members of the commission for information along that line.

Mr. GANDY. On the question as to the rapidity with which this work is being done, do you have any knowledge as to whether or not patents that were recommended last year, or early last year, by competent commissions have been delivered yet?

Mr. MERITT. This is a new work, and I think that very few patents in fee have yet been issued, but the matter is under consideration, and a form and a ceremony is now being worked out in connection with the issuance of these patents for them; but I think that the Secretary has decided that the patents shall be issued early this spring.

Mr. GANDY. So far as you know, none of them have yet been issued on the recommendation of the so-called competency commissions?

Mr. MERITT. None that I know of.

The CHAIRMAN. Are they issued under the competency law?

Mr. MERITT. They are issued under it. These allotments were made and patents were issued, and those were to be held for 25 years, but under the act of May 8, 1906, known as the Burke Act, the Secretary has authority to issue patents in fee to competent Indians.

The CHAIRMAN. Who determines the competency?

Mr. MERITT. The Secretary has appointed two competency commissioners and they are visiting the various reservations. We also receive recommendations from the various superintendents of the reservations throughout the United States for patents in fee for Indians.

The CHAIRMAN. You have three commissions, you say?

Mr. MERITT. It is planned to have three commissions. Only two have been appointed, but I think it is the purpose of the Secretary to send a commission to Oklahoma.

The CHAIRMAN. Under what act are they appointed? What authority have they for the appointment?

Mr. MERITT. Under the general authority vested in the Secretary of the Interior, who is given general jurisdiction over Indian matters, and who has general authority.

The CHAIRMAN. If he can appoint three commissions he can appoint five, or any number, can he not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; he could, provided there were funds available for that purpose.

The CHAIRMAN. For that purpose would it not be advisable to give a group of States—say one-third of the Indians in the United States are in Oklahoma, possibly one-fifth or more in Arizona and New Mexico; could you not group the States so as to give work to about five commissions and thus expedite this work very much?

Mr. MERITT. I think there would probably be room for five commissions.

The CHAIRMAN. By grouping the States properly?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir. Secretary Lane is very much interested in this movement, and it is his firm purpose to see that all Indians who are competent shall have their restrictions removed.

Mr. CARTER. You say one of these commissions will be sent to Oklahoma?

Mr. MERITT. I think that is the intention of the department.

Mr. CARTER. On what authority do you make that statement?

Mr. MERITT. I make it from my general knowledge of the conditions prevailing in the department.

Mr. CARTER. Have you been given to understand by the Secretary or by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that one will be sent to Oklahoma?

Mr. MERITT. The commissioner has conveyed that information to me, that a commission would be sent to Oklahoma.

Mr. CARTER. Will you guarantee this committee that one of them will be sent there within the next 12 months?

Mr. MERITT. So far as my authority goes, I can pledge that a commission will go there in the next 12 months.

Mr. CARTER. How far does that go?

Mr. MERITT. I believe that I am safe in saying that a commission will go to Oklahoma in the next 12 months.

Mr. CARTER. Again recalling what you were asked questions about, then do you not think it would be perfectly safe to permit the Secretary to pass upon the applications for removal of restrictions of all the Indians in the United States?

Mr. MERITT. Will you please repeat that question?

Mr. CARTER. Do you not think that after applications have been sent up to you in the regular way it would be perfectly safe to permit you to pass upon these applications for removal of restrictions, as a finality?

Mr. MERITT. Naturally, yes; I think it would.

Mr. CARTER. And then it would not be necessary to carry it above or beyond you in order to protect the Indians, would it?

Mr. MERITT. What was that question, please?

Mr. CARTER. I say it would not be necessary to carry the consideration of the applications beyond you in order to protect the Indians? If you were given final jurisdiction you could see that the Indian was protected?

Mr. MERITT. I believe that if the Commissioner of Indian Affairs were given final jurisdiction, the—

Mr. CARTER. How about the Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs? Do you not think he would be competent to pass upon those things?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. GANDY. In describing the working of this competency commission you used the expression "the removal of restrictions." Those commissions, so far as their work has gone thus far, have only had to do with the issuance of patents in fee, have they not, without regard to any other properties or any other interests that the Indians may have?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; that is true; and naturally when an Indian receives a patent in fee on the recommendation of the commissioner, we assume that he is also competent to receive his share of the fund.

Mr. GANDY. There has been no move in any way whereby the Indians would receive their prorated share of all funds of their tribe at the time of the handing over of the title in fee under the recommendations of this competency commission?

Mr. MERITT. We are constantly paying out to Indians their pro rata share of the tribal funds. We have authority now under the act of March 1, 1907, to pay to competent Indians, and to old and decrepit and sick Indians, their share of the tribal funds. That

law does not apply to the Five Civilized Tribes or to the Osage Nation or the Chippewa Indians, because we have special laws relating to those Indians.

Mr. GANDY. We have very naturally digressed far from Oklahoma on this, because this subject came up, and I want to inquire along that line now whether any Indian on any reservation in the State of South Dakota, at any time, upon the issuance of the patent in fee has been cleared and given all the rest of the pro rata share and the office of the department relieved from jurisdiction as to that man?

Mr. MERITT. We have paid to hundreds of Indians in the Sioux country their pro rata share of the tribal fund. Millions of dollars have been paid out within the last few years to Indians in the Sioux country.

Mr. GANDY. That still does not answer the question. Has any Indian been finally paid all the money that he has any interest in?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; we have paid to a great many Indians all the money that is due them and all the money that they have a right to share in at this time. Of course if there are additional lands sold and additional funds in the Treasury, that Indian would have a right to his pro rata share of those funds.

Mr. GANDY. The rolls have not decreased in any way, have they?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Meritt, I neglected to ask you in what capacity you first served when you first came into the Indian Service?

Mr. MERITT. I resigned a position in another department of the Government. At that time I was receiving from \$1,500 to \$1,800 a year, and I resigned that position to go into the Indian Service as a clerk at \$1,200 a year in order to get legal experience, with a view of ultimately going out of the service.

Mr. CARTER. You began at \$1,200 a year?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. What was the position?

Mr. MERITT. A clerk.

Mr. CARTER. Then what was your next position?

Mr. MERITT. I was assigned to a clerkship in the Five Civilized Tribes Division, and I handled miscellaneous correspondence, contest cases, and oil cases, and I stayed in that position until I was promoted to \$1,400.

Mr. CARTER. How long ago was the promotion you are now speaking of?

Mr. MERITT. That was about eight years ago.

Mr. CARTER. Now, then, go ahead.

Mr. MERITT. I was then transferred to another division and given what is considered a more responsible desk, a desk that had paid up to that time \$1,800 a year.

Mr. CARTER. When was that?

Mr. MERITT. That was eight years ago. I was transferred from a \$1,200 position in the Division of the Five Civilized Tribes to a \$1,400 salary and put on a \$1,800 desk.

Mr. CARTER. Eight years ago you were transferred from a \$1,200 position to a \$1,800 position but only allowed \$1,400?

Mr. MERITT. To an \$1,800 desk, at \$1,400 salary.

Mr. CARTER. What was your next promotion?

Mr. MERITT. That was what was known as the right of way and bond desk in land division. I was next promoted to \$1,600. That was about seven years ago. Then I was made chief of what is known as the contract section, where I not only did my own work but supervised the work of several other clerks.

Mr. CARTER. Just give the dates and then I will not have to interrupt you.

Mr. MERITT. That was about seven years ago.

Mr. CARTER. At what salary was that?

Mr. MERITT. That was at \$1,600.

Mr. CARTER. Now go ahead with your other promotions.

Mr. MERITT. I occupied that place for about a year and then I was made assistant chief of the land division, which included five or six sections. I was then given \$1,800.

Mr. CARTER. What year was that?

Mr. MERITT. That was about six years ago.

Then I served as private secretary to Commissioner Valentine for a few months, and upon my own application I was transferred to the land division as the acting chief of land division in order that I might handle law and administrative problems.

Mr. CARTER. When were you appointed secretary to Mr. Valentine?

Mr. MERITT. That was probably five years ago.

Mr. CARTER. At what salary?

Mr. MERITT. \$1,800.

Mr. CARTER. Go ahead.

Mr. MERITT. I served as the acting chief of land division for some time, and then there was a board of law review, which was created in the office to review all the important cases of the Indian Office, and I served on that board for probably a year, when I was appointed the chief law clerk of the bureau.

Mr. CARTER. At what salary?

Mr. MERITT. At \$2,000. I served as the chief law clerk of the bureau for probably three years, when I was appointed assistant commissioner.

Mr. CARTER. About three years ago you were appointed assistant commissioner?

Mr. MERITT. Between two and three years ago.

Mr. CARTER. So that when you came into the service your salary was \$1,200?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. That was when you came into the department?

Mr. MERITT. Yes. Mr. Parker, I believe, received \$100 a month, and that was during the school year, and I believe that the school year was for 10 months.

Mr. CARTER. Is your present position under the civil service?

Mr. MERITT. I have a civil-service status, but I do not believe my present position would be considered under the civil service.

Mr. CARTER. You are appointed by the President with the consent of the Senate?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. So that yours is now a political appointment?

Mr. MERITT. It might be construed that way.

Mr. CARTER. Did Mr. Parker ever have a civil-service status prior to that?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir. Mr. Parker has no civil-service status. Mr. Parker's position as a teacher in the Five Civilized Tribes did not place him under the civil service.

Mr. CARTER. His position as superintendent of the academy did?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Have you not a regulation in the Indian Bureau which gives to Indians in the service a civil-service status? Did not President Taft issue an Executive order something to that effect?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir. Indians by law are given the preference for employment in the Indian Service, and there are certain positions that are filled by Indians that are not required to be filled by civil-service appointment.

Mr. CARTER. There was a statement about civil-service employees in the bureau, mentioning an Executive order from Mr. Taft classing the employees of the Five Civilized Tribes in the Indian Service into the civil service.

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Parker has no civil-service status at this time, and I do not believe that he has ever had a civil-service status.

Mr. CARTER. The present commission has no civil-service status, has it?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs has no civil-service status, has he?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Nor the Secretary of the Interior? •

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. CARTER. And the President of the United States has none?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Chairman, I should like to ask unanimous consent to ask the witness a few questions.

The CHAIRMAN. I want to see first if some of the other members of the committee would not like to ask him some questions.

Mr. HASTINGS. All right.

Mr. JOHNSON. I have a few questions. Mr. Carter asked you if you thought you were competent to pass on the applications that would be made from Oklahoma on different things, and you stated you thought you were competent.

Mr. MERITT. I think I am competent, with the record that is made up when it comes to the Indian Bureau. The record, of course, would contain the report and recommendation of the field clerk who has interviewed the Indian, and also the recommendation of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. JOHNSON. And I take it you based that opinion on your familiarity with the situation in Oklahoma, your experience in the department, and your knowledge of the relations of the Oklahoma Indians to the department?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. JOHNSON. You would not think that one who had not had long experience in the department would be competent, would you?

Mr. MERITT. I would not like to make that statement, because I do not think it requires any intimate knowledge of the laws or the regulations to pass on a record regarding the competency of an Indian.

I believe that a man should have experience in the Indian Service and have a knowledge of Indian character to pass on a record of that kind, but I think that anyone else with similar experience to that which I have had in the service would be equally competent.

Mr. JOHNSON. Is it not the custom to fill the position of assistant commissioner and all the assistants to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs with men who have had experience in the department and who have a civil-service standing?

Mr. MERITT. That has been almost the universal practice, with the exception of one case.

Mr. JOHNSON. In answer to Mr. Carter's question when he asked you whether or not you were a so-called political appointee, you said perhaps you might be so considered. All of your other promotions were secured through a Republican administration, or during a Republican administration, were they not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; without the indorsement of a single Representative or Senator.

Mr. JOHNSON. The position of Commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes is secured as a matter of practice entirely upon the recommendation of the Senators from the State of Oklahoma, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. In this particular case the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes was appointed on the recommendation of Secretary Lane and Commissioner Sells to the President.

Mr. JOHNSON. Under ordinary circumstances it would be regarded as a political appointment from the State, the same as that of Commissioner of Internal Revenue and other political positions, would it not?

Mr. MERITT. Ordinarily, it would.

Mr. JOHNSON. That is all I want to ask.

Mr. CAMPBELL. The record you speak of is more than a recommendation of the field agent—the man on the ground—is it not? It states the facts, and these facts come before the Indian Office here; is that not true?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; it gives detailed facts regarding the Indian and his progress and the property he has and the advancement he has made.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Does the field agent, in addition to stating the facts, make a recommendation in the matter?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; he makes a recommendation to the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes and the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes makes his recommendation to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Does the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes do any more than simply to put his name on the document with his recommendation that it be approved or disapproved?

Mr. MERITT. The case is written up—the letter to the Indian Office is written up—in Superintendent Parker's office—by a clerk in that office—and Mr. Parker signs his name to the letter that is prepared in his office.

Mr. CARTER. Now, Mr. Meritt, getting back to the question that I asked you, under what administration was Mr. Parker first appointed in the Indian Service?

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Parker was appointed in 1899—

Mr. CARTER. That was under President McKinley?

Mr. MERITT (continuing). As assistant to the principal teacher at what was then known as the Spencer Academy.

Mr. CARTER. That was under President McKinley's administration?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. Then he was appointed superintendent of Armstrong Academy under what administration?

Mr. MERITT. He was appointed principal teacher in 1900 at the Armstrong Academy, and held that position until 1904 at a salary of \$100 a month. In 1905 he was appointed superintendent of the Armstrong Academy at a salary of \$1,500, and held that position until 1915.

Mr. CARTER. Just a word or two. You went over this this morning, but I know that Mr. Johnson, for instance, was not here. Did any member of your Oklahoma delegation press the appointment of Mr. Parker as superintendent?

Mr. MERITT. Not within my knowledge.

Mr. CARTER. Do you not know that they did not?

Mr. MERITT. It was a personal selection by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, so far as I know.

Mr. CARTER. As a matter of fact, Mr. Meritt, Mr. Parker was appointed, and his appointment was decided upon without consulting any member of the Oklahoma delegation in Congress or any person from Oklahoma, was it not?

Mr. MERITT. I am not competent to answer that question, because I do not know what conversation the commissioner may have had with any member of the Oklahoma delegation.

Mr. CARTER. I think you ought to know that fact. That is pretty generally known, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. It is my impression that Mr. Parker was a personal selection of Commissioner Sells.

Mr. NORTON. May I intervene at this time?

Mr. CARTER. Yes.

Mr. NORTON. The gentleman from Oklahoma this morning and this afternoon appears to me to be laying great stress upon the fact that the appointment of Mr. Parker was recommended by none of the Oklahoma delegation, and he appears to me to be using that argument as one in favor of the adoption of this proposed legislation. Let me ask the gentleman from Oklahoma, does he for a moment think that if this new power and authority is granted to the Commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes in the future, when an appointment of that kind is to be made down there to succeed Mr. Parker that the Oklahoma delegation will not take a very active part in recommending a new appointee?

Mr. CARTER. If you knew the facts about the case you would not ask that question, because there was never a position for which there was a stronger fight made than in this instance. I suppose every member of the Oklahoma delegation in the House and Senate, the governor of Oklahoma, and various other officials, and people of high standing in Oklahoma, presented some candidate, some applicant, and hundreds began to press the appointment of a man with all the stress at their command, but toward the latter part of the contest the fight narrowed down until more than half of these people

were indorsing one man, a man who is one of the highest class men in our State, and he was not given any consideration at all. The reason I have been asking these questions is because Mr. Meritt in his statements to us this morning attempted to lead the committee to believe that it was unsafe to give a man this power over whom people in Oklahoma had any jurisdiction. The burden of my question to Mr. Meritt is to show that the people of Oklahoma had nothing on earth to do with the appointment of this man; that he was a personal selection of the bureau and the Interior Department; that he does not owe his continuation in office, and will not owe his reappointment, to any person in Oklahoma; that he is not and will not be responsible to any person in Oklahoma for his appointment, and is and will be responsible to no person there for reappointment, if he is reappointed; and that he will be responsible only to the Interior Department, who, according to the procedure, have the sole power of appointment; and that he will be responsible specifically to the chief of the bureau that he is serving, and not to the people of Oklahoma.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. President, let me suggest that I do not think these matters should be inquired into now. These are political matters, and this is not a political proposition.

Mr. NORTON. I do not see the relevancy of it. I certainly do not think for a moment that if this gentleman is given new powers the delegation from Oklahoma will not be active in saying who is to be appointed down there next time.

Mr. CARTER. My reply is that they could not be any more active than they were last time.

Mr. NORTON. They just fell down, last time.

Mr. DILL. I have not been able to attend all these hearings. Mr. Meritt was speaking of the number of tracts of land from which restrictions have been removed. What other restrictions additional to the owner of the lands are there on the Indians under the Indian Service? In other words, when you remove the restrictions on the land of an Indian, does that remove his restrictions so far as the department is concerned?

Mr. MERITT. In the Five Civilized Tribes under existing law it requires special legislation before we can make a per capita payment of the funds to the credit of the tribe.

Mr. DILL. Is that true of Indians outside?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; it is not true of the Indians generally.

Mr. DILL. Generally, if there is no money particularly to the credit of any Indian, when the restriction as to his land is removed he is then free from any control of the Indian Department?

Mr. MERITT. Yes; he becomes a citizen, under the act of May 8, 1906 (34 Stat. L., 182), known as the Burke Act, and he can handle his property thereafter the same as a white man.

Mr. DILL. Did I correctly understand you this morning to say that you would put in the record the number of Indians of all classes in the United States from whom restrictions have been removed.

Mr. MERITT. I will be glad to put that in the record if you desire it.

Mr. DILL. That was what I understood was asked for this morning.

Mr. KONOP. That is what I asked for. I do not care how far it goes.

Mr. DILL. I did not understand whether it applied to the Five Civilized Tribes or to the Indians in general. I should like to have it as to all.

Mr. MERITT. We will be glad to put that in the record.

Mr. DILL. What is the date of the statute?

Mr. MERITT. May 8, 1906 (34 Stat. L., 182).

Mr. DILL. This morning objection was made to the passage of the Hastings bill on the ground that it was thought that it was removing too many checks; that it is not leaving enough checks on the removal of restrictions on Indians. Is there any other reason for not wanting this bill passed?

Mr. MERITT. I stated general reasons in my opening statement this morning. There are a great many reasons why this bill should not pass. You will find that statement in the hearing.

Mr. DILL. This sort of policy has never been followed, has it?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. DILL. If it is followed, it will be in the nature of an experiment?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. DILL. And if it should succeed it might mean an entire revolution of the method of handling the Indian affairs of the country, might it not?

Mr. MERITT. If the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes is given absolute jurisdiction over the individual affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes, the same reason would apply to every other Indian superintendent in the United States.

Mr. DILL. But I say if the adoption of that plan should be a success it would probably lead to the extension of the plan throughout the country?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. DILL. And the Indian Department, of course, does not think that is right?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. DEMPSEY. As I understand it, the reason for the passage of this bill is that there are interminable delays in the leasing of land, for instance, or in the making of oil leases, and while a customer is in hand at an advantageous price he is lost during the time consumed between the application and the time when the approval of Washington is secured. That is my understanding of the situation. That is simply preliminary to the question I want to ask.

If that is true, could not something intermediate between your present practice and what is proposed for this bill be adopted, and would not that, perhaps, both answer the purposes of the bill and test out the question whether something in the direction of this bill would not be an advantage? For instance, could you not have leases for short periods approved absolutely by the commissioner, leases for longer periods to be approved and actually to be effected unless disapproved within a certain time? Could you not have something of that kind that would be a compromise between the Hastings bill and your present practice that would solve what Mr. Hastings claims and thinks to be a hardship and a bad practice?

Mr. MERITT. In my opening statement this morning I quoted a part of the hearing before the Senate committee wherein it was con-

tended that because of the long delays and the red tape there was too much time wasted between the time the report of the superintendent was submitted to us and the time of final action; and Superintendent Parker was at that hearing, and he admitted in the record that oil leases and removal of restriction cases were back in his office within 15 days from the date on which they were mailed from his office to Washington.

Mr. CARTER. Did he say removal of restrictions cases were back in 15 days? Was not that only as to oil leases? Was not that the way the statement was made?

Mr. MERITT. Referring to the removal of restrictions cases and oil leases, I believe the records of our office will show that those cases were back in the office of the Five Civilized Tribes in 15 days. Of course, there are cases where there are contests involving large property interests and it requires much more time, but 90 per cent of the removal of restrictions cases and 95 per cent of the oil leases are back in the office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes within 15 days of the date when they leave his office.

Mr. CARTER. I have had, since I have been here, a number of cases concerning removal of restrictions, and I do not recall a single one having been finally approved, I am sure, within 30 days, and I doubt if one of them was approved within 90 days.

Mr. MERITT. Superintendent Parker made that admission to the Senate committee; and may I make a further statement?

Mr. CARTER. Yes.

Mr. MERITT. I also stated this morning that if legislation of this character must pass, it would be better for the Indian and much safer for his property protection if the Secretary of the Interior should be authorized to appoint an Assistant Secretary of the Interior to be located in Oklahoma to supervise the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes. We think it would be exceedingly dangerous to the interests of the Indians to have absolute authority over the property rights of so many Indians where so much money is involved.

Mr. DEMPSEY. How would such an Assistant Secretary of the Interior be appointed?

Mr. MERITT. In my judgment he should be a civil-service appointee, and not subject to change with each recurring administration.

Mr. DEMPSEY. If he was Assistant Secretary of the Interior he would be appointed in exactly the same way as the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes is appointed; he would be appointed by the President with the advice and consent of the Senate.

Mr. MERITT. Not necessarily so. Congress could pass legislation to cover that point, in my judgment.

Mr. DEMPSEY. He would not hold the office of Assistant Secretary of the Interior then. He would be an appointee, but he would not be the Assistant Secretary.

Mr. MERITT. It would not make any difference as to the title that should be given to him.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. Ryan's title was representative of the Secretary of the Interior?

Mr. MERITT. He was the representative of the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior several years ago appointed Mr. Ryan, who prior to his appointment to that position had been First Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. CARTER. What I understand you to say is this, that you think that if that is not done there ought to be a representative of the Indian Bureau and of the Interior Department put on the ground?

Mr. MERITT. Just one representative.

Mr. CARTER. You think this ought to be taken out of the Indian Bureau and made an Interior Department proposition independent of the Indian Bureau?

Mr. MERITT. The Indian Bureau, of course, is under the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of the Interior has authority—

Mr. CARTER. Please just answer my question. We do not get the information we ask for. I do not understand just exactly what you want. This morning when we had the same proposition here you told me finally, after a long colloquy, that you thought there ought to be two men; there ought to be one in addition to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; I did not make that statement this morning. You may have misunderstood me. My statement was that there should be a man who should supervise the official acts of the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. CARTER. That would be two men. The superintendent is there already, and what you want is an additional man in addition to the superintendent, Mr. Meritt?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. KONOP. Under that theory of procedure it would seem that no Government official could be trusted. Where are we going to stop if every Government official has a guardian over him to see whether he does the right thing or the wrong? The same thing would apply to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, to the Secretary of the Interior, and to the President of the United States. We have got to trust somebody, somewhere, with some duty, in this Government of ours. We can not have a guardian over every official act of every clerk or every appointee.

Mr. SNYDER. What I wanted to ask Mr. Meritt was this: Granting these matters are now handled in your department on a basis of 15 days or two weeks, as you state, would not the handling of them by a superintendent, as suggested in this bill, expedite that business and would it not be done at a great deal less expense?

Mr. MERITT. It could be done with less expense and the saving of some time; but we believe that the property rights would not be as carefully protected.

Mr. SNYDER. That is all I wanted to ask.

Mr. CARTER. I am surprised and startled at Mr. Meritt's statement. If what he says is true there is absolutely no use in the Hastings bill. If these matters are passed upon in 15 days there certainly ought to be no complaint from Oklahoma about it; but my experience about it has been that they are not only not passed on in 15 days, but they are not passed on in 30 days, and rarely, if ever, are they passed upon in 90 days, and sometimes they take one or two years.

Mr. DEMPSEY. Why can not Mr. Meritt very readily furnish us the data to show how they are dealt with.

Mr. CARTER. I would like to have all the restriction cases put in the record, showing when the application was filed, and all the rest of it.

Mr. DEMPSEY. They can get a clerk down there and he can make a tabulation in a week which will show you exactly.

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Chairman, would this be practicable, to furnish the committee a list of the removal of restriction cases and a list of the oil leases received by the Indian Office in the last six months, giving the exact dates when they left the office of the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes—

Mr. DEMPSEY. I do not think that six months would be long enough.

Mr. MERITT (continuing). Giving the date when they were approved by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the date when approved by the Secretary of the Interior?

Mr. SNYDER. If you did that there would be a recommendation for a few million dollars additional for more clerks.

Mr. DEMPSEY. It ought to cover a period of three or four years.

Mr. KONOP. From the time of the appointment of the commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. DEMPSEY. That office was created two years ago, was it not?

Mr. CARTER. Yes; two years ago.

Mr. MERITT. That statement under those conditions would not be fair to the office, because there was a contest in the department on the price of oil. About a year ago the price of oil was down to 35 cents, and the department was of the opinion that the Indians were not receiving what was a fair value for the oil, and the department refused, for a while, to approve leases under those conditions. The price of oil has since then advanced to \$1.55 a barrel, and I believe that the action of the department in holding up those leases was justified during that time.

The CHAIRMAN. You could just give a statement of the effect of the removal of the restrictions on the value of the oil, giving it as a reason why—

Mr. MERITT. We will be glad to furnish any information that the committee wishes.

The CHAIRMAN. Get that in the record, so that we may have it printed with these hearings and have it all in the same document, if possible.

Mr. MERITT. You want that since Superintendent Parker was appointed?

The CHAIRMAN. Yes.

Mr. MERITT. Since January 1, 1915. We will furnish that information to the committee. That covers the removal of restrictions cases and the gas and oil leases.

Mr. DEMPSEY. You could make it very much shorter if you would make it out with the date dispatched and the date received at the other place.

Mr. MERITT. We will be glad to furnish that information to the committee.

The information requested is as follows:

The following table contains a list of removal of restriction cases in the Five Civilized Tribes received in the Indian Office since January 1, 1915, showing the dates of application, when forwarded by the Superintendent for the Five

Civilized Tribes, the date received in the Indian Office, the date of department action, and the date returned to the superintendent.

It appears therefrom that during said year and three months 1,058 cases have been received, and that of said number 939, or approximately 90 per cent, have had department action taken thereon and been mailed to the superintendent within 10 days from the date of receipt by the Indian Office.

In reference to the other 10 per cent of said cases, I find that the delays were occasioned in most of said cases by some complication of law or question of general policy. In such cases there was either controversy or litigation concerning the title to the land or the land was valuable for oil purposes and covered by oil and gas leases, or some legal or other questions were involved necessitating more careful consideration, or the papers furnished by the superintendent were not sufficient to show the competency of the Indian, or that the removal of restrictions would be for the best interests of the Indian, and further reports from the superintendent were necessary to a proper understanding of the case.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915.

CHEROKEE.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Richard Russell	Dec. 15, 1914	Dec. 28, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	Jan. 5, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915
Mollie R. Gourd	Oct. 28, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 9, 1915
Mary Pumpkin	Oct. 7, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	do.	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915
Mollie Wolf	Oct. 29, 1913	do.	do.	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Ben Ridge	Nov. 28, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Lucy Lyman	Oct. 21, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	do.	Feb. 6, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915
Cindia Cochran	Apr. 4, 1914	do.	do.	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Setahnie Foreman	May 22, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Katie Foreman	Sept. 23, 1914	do.	do.	Feb. 9, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915
Samuel Chuwee	Nov. 2, 1914	do.	do.	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Homer Glass	Oct. 31, 1914	Jan. 7, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Jesse Vann	Aug. 14, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Wm. Christie	Dec. 11, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915	Do.
Ellen Fisher	Nov. 7, 1914	Jan. 14, 1915	do.	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915
Richard Scullawl	Nov. 4, 1914	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915
Willis J. Bluejacket	Oct. 20, 1913	Jan. 16, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 27, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915
Annie Hammer	Sept. 19, 1914	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915
John Doublehead	Dec. 22, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Davie Banguess	Aug. 28, 1914	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	Feb. 1, 1915	Feb. 1, 1915
Charles Bird	Oct. 30, 1914	do.	do.	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915
Charles Falone	Oct. 12, 1914	do.	do.	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Ned Packup	Apr. 22, 1914	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915
Sam Jones	Mar. 27, 1914	do.	do.	Feb. 9, 1915	Do.
Lillie Baugess, née Conseen	Nov. 15, 1915	Jan. 6, 1915	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 11, 1916	Jan. 11, 1916
Do.	July 10, 1914	Jan. 29, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
William Arrow	Oct. 30, 1914	Feb. 5, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915
Sarah Wood	June 12, 1914	Jan. 29, 1915	do.	Feb. 11, 1915	Feb. 12, 1915
Paul Swann	Oct. 12, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Nancy Sunday	Nov. 13, 1914	Feb. 2, 1915	do.	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915
Henry Walkabout	Jan. 4, 1915	do.	do.	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 27, 1915
Stephen Vann	July 17, 1914	Feb. 4, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Susan Hummingbird	Nov. 2, 1914	do.	do.	Feb. 16, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915
Thompson Frog	Jan. 5, 1915	Feb. 5, 1915	do.	do.	Feb. 20, 1915
Tim Duck	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
John Scrapper	Nov. 25, 1914	do.	do.	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915
Mary A. Tenner, née Mitchell	Nov. 28, 1915	Feb. 9, 1915	Feb. 15, 1915	Mar. 1, 1915	Mar. 1, 1915
Ed Fish	Dec. 15, 1913	Feb. 6, 1915	do.	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Jennie Wolf, née Budder	Sept. 4, 1914	Feb. 13, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Do.
William W. Augerhole	Oct. 20, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Henry Walkingstick	Aug. 10, 1914	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915
John Watts	Nov. 11, 1914	Feb. 18, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Mary Yeholah, nee Duck	Feb. 28, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Charles A. Blackieet	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 17, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	do.	Do.
Wat Sanders	Nov. 7, 1914	Feb. 19, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	do.	Do.
Edmond Tincup	Oct. 4, 1912	do.	do.	Mar. 4, 1915	do.
Betsy Greece	Jan. 4, 1915	Feb. 20, 1915	do.	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Elias C. Thorne	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
James Crittenden	Mar. 27, 1914	Feb. 20, 1914	Mar. 4, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915
Wolf Pettit	Dec. 12, 1914	Feb. 19, 1915	do.	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Daniel Turner	Nov. 28, 1914	Feb. 25, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915
Susie Price	May 10, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Do.	Oct. 31, 1914	Feb. 27, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915

¹ Report Feb. 1, 1915.

² Report Feb. 6, 1915.

³ Unconditional.

⁴ Report Mar. 5, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHEROKEE—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
George Cardy	Sept. 4, 1914	Feb. 27, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Dennis Ketcher	Jan. 25, 1915	Mar. 1, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 17, 1915
Henry Walkabout	Jan. 27, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915	Mar. 23, 1915
Alex Bunch	Nov. 2, 1914	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915
Isaac Houston	Jan. 10, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915
Katie R. Ingle	Jan. 8, 1915	do	do	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
Washington Beaver	Jan. 15, 1915	Mar. 12, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915
Wm. P. Downing	Oct. 16, 1914	Mar. 17, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915
Rachel Rogers	Feb. 17, 1915	May 26, 1915	June 1, 1915	June 5, 1915	June 7, 1915
Zeke Chucnerlate	Oct. 9, 1914	Mar. 22, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
Jesse Bushyhead	Feb. 25, 1914	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 29, 1915	do	Do.
Jennie Scudder, née Clark	Jan. 21, 1914	Mar. 23, 1915	Mar. 29, 1915	July 30, 1915	July 31, 1915
Soldier Keith	Dec. 29, 1914	Mar. 23, 1915	do	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
Squirrel Sequichie	Feb. 2, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 7, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915
Rachel Purcell, née Smith	Jan. 29, 1913	Mar. 29, 1915	do	Apr. 23, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Lella E. Robertson	Jan. 12, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Apr. 5, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915
John Peters	Nov. 27, 1914	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 6, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915	pr. 12, 1915
Tom Smith	Nov. 4, 1914	Mar. 27, 1915	do	do	Do.
Maria Masters, née Cheater	July 3, 1914	do	do	do	Do.
Nancy Sharp	Feb. 13, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915	Apr. 14, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915
Sarah E. Courts	Jan. 29, 1915	do	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 21, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915
Amos Vann	Sept. 5, 1914	Apr. 13, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Frank Swimmer	Apr. 13, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 27, 1915	Apr. 28, 1915	Apr. 28, 1915
Susan Youngduck	Feb. 19, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
William Bushyhead	Oct. 4, 1913	Apr. 27, 1915	May 3, 1915	May 6, 1915	May 6, 1915
Caleb S. Starr, jr.	Jan. 6, 1915	May 6, 1915	May 10, 1915	May 10, 1915	May 11, 1915
Francis McLaughlin	Apr. 1, 1915	May 5, 1915	do	May 11, 1915	May 12, 1915
Wahsinni Raven	Feb. 5, 1915	May 7, 1915	May 11, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 14, 1915
Henry Muskrat	Mar. 11, 1915	May 6, 1916	May 15, 1915	May 18, 1915	May 19, 1915
Fannie McClure, née Groves	Jan. 11, 1915	May 10, 1915	do	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Louvenna Foster (formerly Wiley), née Watts	Apr. 17, 1915	May 14, 1915	May 20, 1915	May 22, 1915	May 24, 1915
Louvanna Foster (formerly Wiley), née Watts	Nov. 10, 1914	do	do	do	Do.
Jos. D. Rowe	May 8, 1915	May 11, 1915	do	May 27, 1915	May 27, 1915
Lydia Scrapper	Mar. 25, 1915	May 22, 1915	May 27, 1915	May 29, 1915	June 1, 1915
Robert Woodall	May 8, 1915	June 15, 1915	June 18, 1915	June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
Rachel Snell	May 1, 1915	June 18, 1915	June 21, 1915	July 1, 1915	July 2, 1915
Celia Coleman, née Sanders	Oct. 16, 1914	do	do	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Sarah Smith (formerly Rice)	Oct. 1, 1914	do	do	do	June 29, 1915
Joseph Sanders	June 1, 1914	June 16, 1915	do	June 24, 1915	June 26, 1915
Henry Robbins	Feb. 6, 1915	June 21, 1915	June 23, 1915	July 1, 1915	July 3, 1915
Harrison Secondine	Apr. 7, 1915	June 26, 1915	June 29, 1915	do	July 1, 1915
James Pumkin	Feb. 6, 1915	July 8, 1915	July 12, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 27, 1915
Nancy Hawkins, née Downing	Nov. 23, 1914	July 13, 1915	July 16, 1915	July 22, 1915	July 23, 1915
Oscar Bear	Feb. 11, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Lucy Waterfalling	Mar. 25, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Charlotte Stard, née Walkinstick	Nov. 3, 1913	July 16, 1915	July 19, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 27, 1915
Ada J. Prowell	Feb. 13, 1914	July 20, 1915	July 23, 1915	July 26, 1915	July 26, 1915
Jennie Squirrel or Feather	July 24, 1914	July 19, 1915	July 24, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915
Benjamin C. Hawk	Aug. 10, 1914	July 21, 1915	July 26, 1915	July 28, 1915	July 28, 1915
Geo. H. Horn	May 8, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 30, 1915	July 31, 1915
Victoria Welch (formerly Seabolt)	Apr. 20, 1915	do	do	July 30, 1915	Do.
John Hogner	Apr. 10, 1914	July 26, 1915	July 30, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915
Nancy Ketcher, née Bird	Jan. 13, 1915	July 28, 1915	July 31, 1915	do	Do.
Kaheta Tehee	Jan. 29, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Simpson Dushane	June 21, 1915	Aug. 3, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915
Henry Watt	Nov. 6, 1914	do	do	do	Do.
Little Bird Tehee	May 22, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915
Sunday Hogtoater	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 23, 1915	Aug. 23, 1915
Mariah R. Gourd	Aug. 24, 1914	Aug. 16, 1915	do	Aug. 24, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915
Jennie Lewis (now Anderson)	Jan. 14, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 24, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915	Aug. 26, 1915
Peggy Johnson, née Stand	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Sept. 1, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915
Caroline Tracy	May 7, 1915	do	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916
Levi Warseat	May 14, 1913	Mar. 8, 1916	Aug. 30, 1915	Sept. 1, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915
Susie D. Coats	Aug. 19, 1910	Aug. 27, 1915	Aug. 31, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915	Sept. 3, 1915
Lucy Quinton, née Glass	June 5, 1915	do	do	Sept. 2, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915
Frank L. Daugberty	Feb. 20, 1914	do	do	do	Sept. 3, 1915
Bettie L. Alberty, née Rutherford	May 10, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Venie Johnson	June 16, 1915	Sept. 8, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915
President C. Reese	Mar. 2, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915	do	do	Do.
Thomas Vann	July 19, 1915	Sept. 9, 1915	Sept. 13, 1915	do	Do.

1 Unconditional.

2 Report, July 26, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHEROKEE—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Rebecca E. Smith.....	June 2, 1911	Sept. 13, 1915	Sept. 15, 1915	Sept. 15, 1915	Sept. 17, 1915
Annie Karney.....	Mar. 24, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Alsie Holmes.....	Feb. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
William Thornton.....	Mar. 8, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915
Leona M. Byers.....	Mar. 12, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915
Moses Lowrey.....	June 25, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	do.	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915
Lila Usrey, née Thornton.....	Dec. 4, 1914	Sept. 23, 1915	do.	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Maggie D. Conser.....	Dec. 4, 1911	Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915	do.	Do.
Cherokee Bread.....	Mar. 1, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	do.	Do.
Ellis Waterkiller.....	Mar. 20, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Annie Downing, née Turner.....	June 5, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915
Emma Mounts, née Bengé.....	Aug. 8, 1914	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915
Maggie White, née Cochran.....	Mar. 3, 1914	Oct. 4, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Artemus W. Rogers.....	Mar. 25, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915
Ollie Fixir, née Justice.....	July 24, 1915	do.	do.	Oct. 15, 1915	Do.
Hooley Sanders.....	Mar. 16, 1915	ct. 12, 1915	ct. 15, 1915	ct. 20, 1915	Ct. 21, 1915
William Tooley.....	Feb. 4, 1915	do.	ct. 16, 1915	ct. 21, 1915	Ct. 22, 1915
Susan Keener, née Butler.....	Aug. 17, 1915	ct. 13, 1915	do.	ct. 20, 1915	Do.
Robert Butler.....	Dec. 22, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Samuel Butler.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Steve Carey.....	July 20, 1915	ct. 14, 1915	ct. 18, 1915	ct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915
Nellie Reach.....	June 29, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Jack Bales.....	May 15, 1915	ct. 16, 1915	Ct. 19, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
Lila Blossom.....	Apr. 10, 1914	ct. 20, 1915	Ct. 25, 1915	Ct. 29, 1915	Ct. 30, 1915
Elizabeth Grass.....	Apr. 26, 1915	ct. 21, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Clem Treasurer.....	do.	do.	do.	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
Thomas Rowe.....	Feb. 26, 1915	ct. 23, 1915	ct. 26, 1915	Oct. 28, 1915	Ct. 29, 1915
Annie Flute, née Standing-deer.....	Aug. 28, 1915	ct. 26, 1915	ct. 29, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915
Ruth Glenn, née Palone.....	Apr. 12, 1915	ct. 27, 1915	Ct. 30, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915
Thomas Comtassel.....	Feb. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Cicero D. Toney.....	May 14, 1915	ct. 28, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 3, 1915	Do.
Lewis Woodall.....	Aug. 11, 1915	ct. 29, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	do.	Nov. 3, 1915
Susan I angley.....	Aug. 27, 1915	ct. 28, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915
Archie Smith.....	Mar. 18, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	do.	Nov. 8, 1915	Do.
Jennie Blossom.....	May 19, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Sallie Carey.....	Mar. 16, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	do.	Nov. 9, 1915	Do.
Mary Matr'y, née Bunch.....	Jan. 26, 1915	Nov. 3, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915
Looney Mills.....	Aug. 24, 1915	do.	do.	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 10, 1915
Samuel E. Adair.....	July 17, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Mink Drywater.....	Feb. 16, 1915	do.	do.	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915
Andy Hair.....	July 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Nov. 16, 1915
Sallie Stealer (now Ellis).....	May 16, 1914	Nov. 10, 1915	Nov. 12, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915
Alexander Tindle.....	Jan. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	do.	Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
Jesse Feather.....	Aug. 23, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Do.
Alice Fields (now Bucket).....	Feb. 13, 1915	do.	do.	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915
Gladys Adair.....	Aug. 30, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Johnson Houseberg.....	Dec. 8, 1914	do.	do.	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915
Bunch Drywater.....	do.	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915
Carrie E. Anspach, née Ketcher.....	July 21, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	do.	do.	Nov. 29, 1915
Susan Drywater.....	Apr. 9, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915
Margaret Woods.....	Aug. 20, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	do.	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 15, 1915
George Wilson.....	July 20, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
Joe Bett.....	do.	Nov. 23, 1915	do.	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915
Nancy Youngbird, née Scrapper.....	Aug. 20, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 7, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915
Isaac Hummingbird.....	Mar. 11, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	do.	Do.
Eli Bat.....	Sept. 1, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Isaac Hummingbird.....	Aug. 10, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Wall'er Cochran.....	Sept. 4, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915
Catherine Kaiser.....	ct. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Nellie Taylor, née Daugherty.....	June 3, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
Eliza A. Journeycabe.....	May 29, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	do.	Do.
Lelia Reeves, née Baldridge.....	ct. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Henry Lowry.....	Apr. 20, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
George Hooper.....	July 23, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	do.	Do.
Benjamin Knight.....	June 17, 1913	Dec. 17, 1915	do.	Dec. 23, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915
Betsy Parris.....	Aug. 3, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 30, 1915	Dec. 31, 1915
Charlotte Choate, née Sanders.....	Dec. 4, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 30, 1915	Jan. 12, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916
Peggy Freeman.....	Sept. 25, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Dennis Terrell.....	Sept. 27, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916	Jan. 11, 1916	do.	Jan. 12, 1916
Nellie Tippet, née Swimmer.....	Oct. 23, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916	Jan. 6, 1916	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 8, 1916
Carrie Glenn, née Tyner.....	Oct. 25, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 12, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916
Angie Reaves.....	Apr. 27, 1915	do.	do.	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916

1 Unconditional.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHEROKEE—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Jesse Duck	May 31, 1915	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916	Feb. 1, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
Katie Starr	July 11, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Peggy Doublehead	Sept. 28, 1914	Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 1, 1916
William Thirsty	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 28, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
Jennie Holland, née Morris	Sept. 16, 1915	Jan. 27, 1916	do	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 3, 1916
Eliza J. Secondine	May 14, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916
William Humanstriker	July 27, 1915	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916
Jennie Pan	Aug. 6, 1913	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916
Wm. L. Russell	Sept. 26, 1915	do	do	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916
Lucy Russell	do	do	do	do	Do.
Sallie M. Proctor	Oct. 22, 1915	do	do	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916
Maggie Snake	Jan. 2, 1915	do	do	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916
Sarah Spaniard	Sept. 29, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Jno. W. McCracker	Jan. 5, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916	Feb. 16, 1915
Chas. Bearpaw	July 19, 1915	do	do	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916
Fannia January, née Caywood	Aug. 11, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916
Polly Ketcher, née David	Oct. 19, 1915	do	do	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916
Lizzie Coming	Nov. 4, 1915	do	do	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916
Isaac Fisher	May 11, 1915	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Thomas Pegg	May 9, 1914	Feb. 15, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916
Joseph Proctor	May 18, 1915	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 25, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Eliza Chuculate	Oct. 16, 1915	do	do	Feb. 24, 1916	Do.
Hunter Runaway	Sept. 18, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
John Glass	Nov. 6, 1915	Feb. 19, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Nancy J. Shell	Mar. 17, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Nellie Ned	do	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	do	Do.
Abraham Pleasant	Apr. 30, 1915	Feb. 25, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916	do	Do.
Daniel C. Ross	Dec. 6, 1915	Feb. 26, 1916	do	do	Do.
John Christie	Dec. 27, 1915	Feb. 24, 1916	Mar. 1, 1916	do	Do.
Sarah Anderson	Jan. 28, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916	Mar. 2, 1916	do	Mar. 4, 1916
Eli Whitnire	Feb. 4, 1916	do	do	do	Mar. 6, 1916
Jeff Osage	Nov. 3, 1915	Mar. 3, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
George Vann	Nov. 18, 1915	do	do	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
John Leaf	Dec. 14, 1915	Mar. 1, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916	do	Do.
Maggie Smith	Dec. 30, 1915	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916	do	Do.
J. Ida Hicks	Jan. 10, 1916	do	do	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916
John Deerhead	June 17, 1915	do	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Thomas Whitewater	Jan. 30, 1915	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916
Dora M. Epperson, née Horn	Dec. 12, 1915	do	do	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916
Ollie Robin	Oct. 22, 1915	Mar. 8, 1916	do	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916
Jesse Ridge	Nov. 30, 1915	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 20, 1915
Alexander Love	May 25, 1914	do	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916
Stephen W. Peak	Jan. 2, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Dutch Whiteturkey	Feb. 26, 1915	May 25, 1915	May 28, 1915	(³)	June 7, 1915
Do.	do	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915
Jennie King, née Doublehead	May 25, 1915	Aug. 24, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915
William Downing	May 14, 1915	do	Aug. 28, 1915	do	Do.
Wilson Cummings	Oct. 11, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Bird Knight	Nov. 26, 1915	Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Cynthia Herrod, née Colston	Jan. 13, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916
Charlotte Hogner	Oct. 19, 1915	Mar. 2, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
Looney Gointosleep	Oct. 20, 1915	Mar. 3, 1916	do	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Amanda Brown	do	do	do	do	Do.
Jacob Watts	Nov. 11, 1914	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915
Urban Miller	Dec. 22, 1914	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 6, 1915	Apr. 7, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915
Diana Bendabout	Dec. 5, 1914	Feb. 12, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915
Sam Bigknife	May 9, 1914	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Nancy Griffs, née Pelone	Jan. 9, 1914	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915
Charley Osage	Aug. 3, 1914	Jan. 28, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 5, 1915	Feb. 5, 1915
Becky Crittenden	Nov. 10, 1914	Jan. 25, 1915	do	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915
John Spade	Nov. 19, 1913	Jan. 27, 1915	do	Feb. 9, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915
Taylor Cockrum	Feb. 16, 1909	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915
Lucy Sarcopie	do	Oct. 26, 1914	Nov. 2, 1914	(³)	Do.
Marcie Chair	June 20, 1914	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915
Annie Cochran	Jan. 14, 1915	May 8, 1915	May 11, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 14, 1915
Ella Hildebrand	Mar. 24, 1915	Apr. 5, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915	Apr. 12, 1915
Richard Wilkerson	May 27, 1914	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 30, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 31, 1915
Lucinda Moore, née Secondine	Feb. 16, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915
Samuel O. Fields	Nov. 1, 1911	Mar. 30, 1915	do	Apr. 7, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915
Mary Hendricks, née Watts	Jan. 30, 1915	do	Apr. 6, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915

¹ Unconditional.² Report Mar. 17, 1916.³ Disapproved.⁴ Report, Apr. 3, 1915.⁵ Returned with list of cases where land had oil value, Mar. 5, 1915, not approved.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHEROKEE—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Albion S. Robertson.....	Jan. 25, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Apr. 6, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915
William Taylor, jr.....	Jan. 7, 1915	Mar. 23, 1915	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
Katie Fourkiller.....	Dec. 15, 1913	Mar. 17, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 30, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915
Charlie Webber.....	Feb. 9, 1915	Mar. 13, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
Looney Hammer.....	Mar. 27, 1915	May 22, 1915	May 27, 1915	June 1, 1915	June 2, 1915
Amanda Colston, née Young.	Mar. 6, 1915	May 14, 1915	May 18, 1915	May 21, 1915	May 22, 1915
Fannie Dew, née Hawkins.	Mar. 5, 1915	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Betsy Vann, née Shade.	Aug. 17, 1914	Apr. 16, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915	Apr. 23, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Jennie Carey.....	Feb. 5, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915	Apr. 14, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915
Arthur Armstrong.....	Dec. 23, 1914	May 14, 1915	May 20, 1915	May 24, 1915	May 25, 1915
George Conner.....	May 9, 1914	May 11, 1915	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Nancy Bigknife.....	Mar. 29, 1915	May 10, 1915	May 15, 1915	May 18, 1915	May 20, 1915
Sammel Bright.....	Feb. 26, 1915	May 8, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 14, 1915	May 15, 1915
Jacob Parks.....	Sept. 1, 1913	Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	Feb. 1, 1916	Feb. 2, 1916
Annie Flint.....	Aug. 16, 1915	Jan. 26, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 3, 1916
Patracow.....	Sept. 29, 1915	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916	Jan. 19, 1916
Dora Gibson.....	Sept. 30, 1914	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916
Stephen A. Miller.....	Aug. 1, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Jan. 19, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916
James Muskrat.....	Jan. 19, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915	.....do.....	Dec. 30, 1915	Dec. 31, 1915
Arch Looking.....	Dec. 7, 1915	Dec. 15, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915	Dec. 24, 1915
Susan Bobb.....	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915
Henry Spymbuck.....	Oct. 1, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Elmira Roach.....	June 29, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 8, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915
Joel B. Mays.....	Oct. 28, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915
Agnes Cheney, née Foreman.	Aug. 2, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915
Joel Downing.....	Mar. 4, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915
Webster Wickett.....	June 20, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	.....do.....	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915
Cornelius Treasurer.....	Apr. 27, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 11, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915
Sam Squirrel.....	June 4, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	.....do.....	Oct. 1, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915
David E. Smallwood.....	May 12, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	.....do.....	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Jesse Jumper.....	Apr. 1, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	.....do.....	Oct. 7, 1915
Blue Runaboth.....	July 16, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915
Richard Ketcher.....	May 12, 1915	Sept. 16, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
William Harvey.....	July 20, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Sept. 1, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915
Mary Dirteater.....	Mar. 2, 1915	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....
Wilson Hair.....	Mar. 20, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 23, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915
Jennie Shell.....	Jan. 21, 1914	Apr. 21, 1914	Apr. 23, 1914	July 22, 1915	July 25, 1915
John Watermelon.....	Mar. 12, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 30, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915
Robin Mike.....	Feb. 20, 1915	.....do.....	July 31, 1915	.....do.....	Do.
James Pumpkin.....	Feb. 6, 1915	July 8, 1915	July 12, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 27, 1915
Groundhog Drug.....	Feb. 24, 1915	June 24, 1915	June 28, 1915	July 1, 1915	July 2, 1915
Charlie Glass.....	Feb. 25, 1915	June 19, 1915	June 22, 1915	June 28, 1915	June 29, 1915
Rachel Rogers.....	Feb. 17, 1915	May 26, 1915	June 1, 1915	June 5, 1915	June 7, 1915
Henry Scrapper.....	Mar. 25, 1915	May 22, 1915	May 27, 1915	May 29, 1915	May 31, 1915
Lillie Wilson.....	Dec. 30, 1914	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
George Mills.....	Aug. 25, 1915	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Eva Taylor.....	Sept. 6, 1915	Feb. 25, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Thomas Williams.....	Oct. 23, 1915	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916
Joseph Daughterty.....	June 21, 1915	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Louisa Chuculate.....	Aug. 15, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916
Charles Foreman.....	Nov. 7, 1912	Feb. 25, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Jennie Nenger, née Bailey.	June 4, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916
Thomas Stealer.....	Dec. 14, 1914	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
James Still.....	Dec. 28, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Wm. Scullaw.....	Nov. 23, 1914	Jan. 9, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Zeke McCoy.....	Oct. 8, 1914	.....do.....	.....do.....	Jan. 20, 1915	Do.
Riley Scott.....	Oct. 30, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 27, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915
James Washington.....	Sept. 31, 1915	Mar. 21, 1916	Mar. 25, 1916	Mar. 27, 1916	Mar. 29, 1916
Jane A. Brackett, née Batt.	Dec. 9, 1913	July 31, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915
Henry Brown.....	Nov. 27, 1915	Mar. 22, 1916	Mar. 28, 1916	Mar. 31, 1916	Apr. 3, 1916
Lizzie Nakedhead.....	Sept. 11, 1915	Mar. 24, 1916	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Banjamin Knight.....	Jan. 18, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916	.....do.....	Do.
Samuel Leach.....	Oct. 19, 1915	Mar. 24, 1916	Mar. 28, 1916	.....do.....	Do.
John Looney.....	Oct. 31, 1914	Sept. 8, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915
Jack Bluebird.....	July 28, 1915	Mar. 27, 1916	Mar. 30, 1916	Apr. 3, 1916	Apr. 4, 1916
John Houseberg.....	Nov. 16, 1914	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Do.
Lizzie Bell Houseberg.....	July 13, 1915	.....do.....	.....do.....	.....do.....	Apr. 5, 1916
Bear Scullaw.....	Apr. 28, 1915	Sept. 8, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915
Snsie Price.....	May 10, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915

¹ Unconditional.² Suit instituted, May 20, 1914; decree rendered in suit July 13, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CREEKS.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
James White	Oct. 17, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	Jan. 5, 1915	Jan. 6, 1915
Jennette Foster, née Johnson	June 25, 1914	do	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 9, 1915
Zenie Brown	Apr. 29, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915
Irene Stock, née Childers	Nov. 23, 1914	Jan. 14, 1915	do	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915
Miller Tarpelechie	Mar. 12, 1914	Jan. 16, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915
Alice Nave	Aug. 7, 1914	Nov. 28, 1914	Dec. 8, 1914	do	Do.
Mollie Fixico	July 25, 1914	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Do.
Ah-co-con-ney	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 29, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915	do	Apr. 30, 1915
Ta-co-ney		Feb. 5, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915	do	Mar. 5, 1915
Tahsacconhteney Brown (now Washburn)	Jan. 31, 1914	do	do	do	Apr. 30, 1915
Janie Grayson	July 20, 1914	Feb. 3, 1915	do	do	Mar. 5, 1915
Sallie Sone	Dec. 15, 1913	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 27, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915
Molleanna Berryhill	July 7, 1914	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915
Thos. Jefferson	Dec. 2, 1914	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	do	Feb. 5, 1915
Martha Boon, née Adams	Nov. 24, 1914	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	do	Mar. 16, 1915
Phenia White	Oct. 15, 1914	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915
Little Fish	Sept. 15, 1914	Jan. 29, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915
Kogee Harjo	June 15, 1914	Feb. 5, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Jonas Hinneha	Oct. 22, 1913	Feb. 4, 1915	do	Feb. 24, 1915	Do.
Wesley Barnett		Feb. 12, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915
Thomas Atkins		Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	do	Do.
Sam Bosen	Oct. 24, 1914	Feb. 12, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Mar. 6, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915
Co-ke thar-ney tiger		Feb. 19, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915
Edmond Burgess	Nov. 6, 1914	Feb. 20, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 12, 1915
Sampson Seber	Oct. 28, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
Jemima Colbert, née Taylor	Feb. 17, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915
Melissa B. Emery	Sept. 18, 1913	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915
William Fisher	Sept. 29, 1913	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915
Nora Mickey, née Nelson	May 12, 1914	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 6, 1915	Apr. 13, 1915	Apr. 14, 1915
David Barnett	Apr. 1, 1915	May 11, 1915	May 17, 1915	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Albert Brown	Apr. 7, 1915	Apr. 14, 1915	Apr. 16, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915
James Boney		Apr. 1, 1915	do	Apr. 29, 1915	Apr. 30, 1915
Martin Gout		Apr. 13, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915	Apr. 21, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915
Thomas Sarty	July 22, 1914	Apr. 16, 1915	do	Apr. 24, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Jeanetta Hill	Jan. 27, 1915	May 8, 1915	May 11, 1915	May 12, 1915	May 13, 1915
Kizzie Long	Feb. 13, 1914	May 10, 1915	May 17, 1915	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Mandy Simon	Apr. 23, 1915	May 20, 1915	May 24, 1915	May 26, 1915	May 26, 1915
Lena McNair, née McNac	July 6, 1914	June 2, 1915	June 5, 1915	June 8, 1915	June 9, 1915
Fannie Bear	Apr. 22, 1915	June 15, 1915	June 18, 1915	June 19, 1915	June 19, 1915
Liza Farmer	May 4, 1915	June 16, 1915	July 21, 1915	July 1, 1915	July 2, 1915
Selver Long	Mar. 29, 1915	June 23, 1915	June 26, 1915	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Eliza Taylor		May 8, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 15, 1915	May 15, 1915
Do	Sept. 8, 1914	June 23, 1915	June 26, 1915	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Richard L. Morton	Jan. 22, 1915	July 16, 1915	July 19, 1915	July 21, 1915	July 21, 1915
Do	Mar. 28, 1914	July 14, 1915	July 21, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 27, 1915
Alice Hooks	June 11, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 17, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915
Watty A. Palmer	July 23, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Millie Scott, née Foster	Mar. 15, 1915	July 27, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915
John Foley	Feb. 15, 1913	do	July 30, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915
Sam Miller	June 15, 1915	July 29, 1915	July 31, 1915	do	Do.
Lucy Henry, née Colbert	Dec. 15, 1914	Aug. 3, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 4, 1915	Aug. 4, 1915
Nellie Barnett	Feb. 12, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915
Samuel Herrod	July 24, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915	Aug. 17, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915
Joe Wisener	Apr. 26, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915	Aug. 23, 1915	Dec. 7, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915
Albert Sloan	Aug. 25, 1914	Sept. 27, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Sept. 1, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915
Maudie Harjo	June 26, 1914	Sept. 29, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915
John McGirt	Dec. 28, 1914	do	Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Do.
Darwin Posey	Jan. 15, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	do	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Edmond Harry	Sept. 30, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915
Emma Bell, née Checote	July 26, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 11, 1915
Thomas Williams	Feb. 8, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 20, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915
Edward Hickey	Aug. 24, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 18, 1015	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Butler Deer	Apr. 21, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915
Lucy Tiger	May 3, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915
Tony Chuxco	June 18, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	do	do	Do.
Thomas Kelly	Mar. 10, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915
Hannah Tecumseh	July 26, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915
			Nov. 23, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915

¹ Disapproved.

² Unconditional.

³ Not approved.

⁴ Report, Mar. 11, 1915.

⁵ Apr. 29, 1915, approved.

⁶ Approved.

⁷ Unapproved.

⁸ Report, Dec. 4, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CREEKS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Carrie Bruner, née Brinton	July 15, 1914	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Lena Freeman, née Starr	Nov. 10, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
Martha Monahwee, née Beaver	Sept. 20, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915
Wilson Brown	June 9, 1914	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915
Lizzie Brown	Oct. 25, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915	do	Dec. 8, 1915	Do
Sanger Beaver	Aug. 24, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
Albert Lee	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 24, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Jan. 4, 1916	Jan. 5, 1916
Jeff Simmons	Dec. 3, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916	Jan. 6, 1916	Jan. 8, 1916	Jan. 10, 1916
Solomon McIntosh	Dec. 28, 1915	Jan. 11, 1916	Jan. 15, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 19, 1916
Ben Peters	Oct. 21, 1915	Jan. 12, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 21, 1916
Micco Behen	{ Oct. 31, 1914 Dec. 11, 1915 }	Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 2, 1916
Abraham Pin Samuel	Dec. 3, 1915	Jan. 26, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
Bennie Bear	Sept. 28, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916
George Tiger	Aug. 16, 1915	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916
Alexander George	Aug. 23, 1915	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916
Annie Canard, née Carr	Nov. 4, 1915	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916
Joe Smith	Mar. 18, 1915	Feb. 26, 1916	Mar. 2, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916
Sarah Herod, née Bear	Aug. 25, 1915	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Rachel Grimes	Nov. 13, 1915	Mar. 7, 1916	do	Mar. 14, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916
Miller Bighead	Oct. 11, 1915	do	do	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
James Bigpond	Jan. 21, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916
Mary Godwin, formerly Harkness, née Perryman	June 30, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 9, 1915
Thomas Tiger	Nov. 9, 1914	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915
Co-cotah-la-ney	June 19, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	Aug. 17, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915
Amos Partridge	Apr. 1, 1915	May 28, 1915	June 1, 1915	(⁹)	
Micco Coffee	Aug. 13, 1914	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 5, 1915	Apr. 6, 1915
Nancy Lee (now Harkey)	Feb. 19, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915
Mary Martin, née Fnsua	July 25, 1914	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 27, 1915	Apr. 28, 1915
Washington Kanard	Sept. 9, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915	Dec. 24, 1915	Dec. 28, 1915	Dec. 28, 1915
Addie Davis, née Perryman	{ Jan. 13, 1915 Jan. 21, 1916 }	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
David McIntosh	Aug. 31, 1915	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Winey Grayson	Jan. 16, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Daniel Robison	do	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 26, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915
Amy McKellop, née Fife	Apr. 9, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	do	Mar. 3, 1915
Alice Colbert	Jan. 5, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915
Enoch Bunger	Sept. 17, 1914	Oct. 20, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Sandy Long	do	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 20, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915
Alberd Tiger	Mar. 12, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Emma Gibson	Nov. 8, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 27, 1915	May 8, 1915	May 8, 1915
Dick Greenwood	May 24, 1915	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Mar. 27, 1916	Mar. 29, 1916
Nathan Dunzy	do	June 2, 1915	June 5, 1915	June 7, 1915	June 8, 1915
Dallas Dunzy	do	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	(⁹)	Apr. 6, 1915
Celia Robison	do	do	do	do	do
Louisa Harkey	Jan. 6, 1915	July 14, 1915	July 19, 1915	July 21, 1915	July 21, 1915
Reuben L. Partridge	Mar. 5, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915	Apr. 30, 1915	May 6, 1915	May 6, 1915
Rider Chenewee	Aug. 12, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915
Enoch Bunger	Sept. 17, 1914	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 20, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915
Janie Gammill, née Foster	Feb. 1, 1911	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916

SEMINOLES.

Hardy	Feb. 25, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 17, 1915	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Jimsey	Oct. 22, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 9, 1915
Chosey	June 22, 1914	Dec. 31, 1914	do	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Fekhoniye	Nov. 12, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 27, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915
Ada Harjo, née Caesar	Nov. 20, 1914	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	Feb. 1, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915
Tommy	do	Mar. 10, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915
A-ha-la-ko-chee	Jan. 20, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	June 4, 1915	June 5, 1915
Sissy Palmer (now West)	Jan. 5, 1915	Mar. 23, 1915	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915
Elsie	Jan. 13, 1914	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915
Pin Harjo	July 29, 1914	Apr. 17, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Wilsey Palmer	Mar. 12, 1915	June 16, 1915	June 21, 1915	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Koley Concharty	Mar. 9, 1915	June 23, 1915	June 26, 1915	do	Do

¹ Report, Jan. 7, 1916.² Unconditional.³ No record.⁴ Report, Nov. 8, 1915.⁵ Report, May 8, 1915.⁶ Returned to superintendent for further report; not resubmitted.⁷ Reports, Apr. 30, 1915; May 18, 1915; June 1, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

SEMINOLES—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Mouney	Mar. 9, 1915	June 24, 1915	June 28, 1915	July 1, 1915	July 2, 1915
Abey Harjo	Feb. 10, 1915	July 13, 1915	July 16, 1915	July 22, 1915	July 23, 1915
Jimmy Factor	Mar. 6, 1915	July 23, 1915	July 26, 1915	July 30, 1915	July 31, 1915
Ut-tley	Feb. 13, 1914	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915
Sunday Davis	Mar. 30, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915
Lizzie Walker	Mar. 9, 1915	Dec. 11, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
Louis Catcher	Apr. 5, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 30, 1916	Jan. 3, 1916	Jan. 4, 1916
Chas. Lena, guardian of Sampson	Sept. 27, 1915	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916
Ella Factor	Sept. 3, 1915	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Martha Harjo	Dec. 13, 1915	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916
Lowmie Johnson	Nov. 11, 1915	Mar. 10, 1916	do	do	Do.
Isaac Jones	Aug. 31, 1914	Feb. 25, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Joshua	Nov. 7, 1914	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916

CHICKASAWS.

Thos. J. Miller	Nov. 18, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915
Mina Ayakutubby	July 28, 1915	Oct. 19, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Do	Nov. 5, 1913	Dec. 31, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915
Lee Greenwood	Aug. 15, 1914	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	Feb. 1, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915
Molliean Immotichey	Dec. 2, 1914	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915
Malinda Wolf	Oct. 6, 1914	Feb. 20, 1915	Mar. 4, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
John Thomas	Dec. 4, 1914	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915
Robinson Wolf		Jan. 29, 1915	Feb. 1, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915
Malvina Stick, née Illete-wahke	Dec. 16, 1914	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915
Jesse Bond	Nov. 4, 1914	Jan. 29, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915	² Feb. 10, 1915	Do.
Dawes Tandy Columbus	Jan. 12, 1915	Feb. 5, 1915	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915
Martin Brown	Dec. 12, 1914	Feb. 9, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Nannie Parnascher	Nov. 4, 1914	Feb. 12, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Do.
Ida Capen, née Anoatubby		do	do	³ Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915
Lem Greenwood	Nov. 18, 1914	Feb. 13, 1915	do	² Feb. 24, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Sallie Turner, née Duckworth	Nov. 15, 1914	do	Feb. 20, 1915	² Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915
Eli Perry	Oct. 13, 1914	Feb. 26, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	(¹)	
Cornelius Alexander	Jan. 18, 1915	Mar. 1, 1915	do	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 12, 1915
Silsey Johnson, née Stick	Jan. 20, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 12, 1915	Do.
Fannie Curlee	Oct. 28, 1914	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 30, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915
Mollie Owens, née Underwood	Jan. 20, 1915	Mar. 17, 1915	do	do	Do.
Siney Thompson	Feb. 24, 1915	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 7, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915
Sinie Bean	Mar. 2, 1915	Apr. 12, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915	Apr. 21, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Emma Willis		May 3, 1915	May 8, 1915	² May 11, 1915	May 12, 1915
J. Hamp Willis		do	do	do	Do.
Mary Russell, née John	Oct. 5, 1914	May 6, 1915	May 15, 1915	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Acey Johnson		May 12, 1915	May 20, 1915	May 25, 1915	May 26, 1915
Elihu Bennett Maytubby	May 17, 1915	³ May 21, 1915	June 25, 1915	² July 16, 1915	July 17, 1915
Eddie Stick	Dec. 16, 1914	May 22, 1915	May 27, 1915	May 29, 1915	June 1, 1915
Lizzie Wade	May 15, 1915	June 21, 1915	June 23, 1915	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Wesley Lomer	Jan. 3, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 29, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915
Joe M. Love	Mar. 1, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 9, 1915	² Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915
Eastman Killcrease	Nov. 12, 1913	Aug. 5, 1915	do	Aug. 12, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915
Elsie Weaver, née Byfield	Nov. 26, 1914	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915	² Aug. 24, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915
Albert Sidney Burney	Sept. 12, 1915	Sept. 16, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	² Sept. 22, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Bettie L. Johnson	Aug. 24, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	² Sept. 28, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915
Earnest Howard Williams		do	Sept. 28, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915
Dixon Ayakutubby	July 14, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Willie B. McLane	Sept. 25, 1915	Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Amanda Albersn, née John	July 19, 1915	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916
Minnie E. Good (now Atkins)	Jan. 18, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916
Noah Barris	Jan. 9, 1915	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916
Minnie McCurtain	Jan. 17, 1916	do	Mar. 17, 1916	do	Do.
Phillip Nelson		May 20, 1915	May 24, 1915	June 11, 1915	June 11, 1915
Lottie Jeff, née Stick	May 10, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915
Andrew L. Brown	Mar. 3, 1914	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915
Heck Thomas	Sept. 16, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	² Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915
Do	Oct. 28, 1914	Dec. 19, 1914	Dec. 24, 1914	² Jan. 2, 1915	Jan. 5, 1915
Walton Harris	Oct. 18, 1915		Dec. 30, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916	Jan. 4, 1916
Johnson Porter	July 19, 1915	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916
Mary Allison, née Chastain	Oct. 22, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	² Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915
Wilson Roberts	Dec. 22, 1915	Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Amy Perry	Jan. 13, 1915	Feb. 9, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915

¹ Report, Feb. 23, 1915.

² Unconditional.

³ Not approved.

⁴ Missed by superintendent Dec. 14, 1915.

⁵ Report.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHICKASAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
J. M. Perry.....	Dec. 23, 1914	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915
Joe H. Burns.....	Oct. 21, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Davidson Alexander.....	Sept. 13, 1915	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 18, 1916	Nov. 20, 1916
William Fillmore.....	May 11, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
Emily A. Moit.....	July 7, 1915	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916
Susan Lawrence, née Leader.....	Jan. 25, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Kitty Jackson, née Purtle.....	Oct. 28, 1914	Sept. 29, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Sylva Lee, née James.....	July 14, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915
Abel Brown.....	Feb. 24, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Nelson Hawkins.....	Apr. 28, 1915	do.....	do.....	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915
Isaac Burris.....	July 16, 1915	Oct. 27, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Nov. 3, 1915	Nov. 3, 1915
Maud Turner, née Duckworth.....	Apr. 29, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915
Ludie Napoleon Goins.....	Apr. 17, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Mary Ayakattubby.....	Sept. 27, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	do.....	Do.
Ida Fillmore, née Ayakattubby.....	July 26, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Sophia Apala.....	July 19, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915
Lou Duckworth.....	Jan. 28, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 7, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915
Nellie Fillmore (now Robinson). James E. Bolen.....	Sept. 6, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	do.....	Do.
Minnie Akers, nee Colbert.....	Aug. 18, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	do.....	Dec. 8, 1915	Do.
W. J. Bray, guardian Frankie Kemp.....	Aug. 4, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
Lena Immotichey, nee Underwood.....	July 16, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	do.....	Dec. 30, 1915
Jewel Jones, nee Worsham.....	Aug. 30, 1915	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916
Colbert Miller.....	Aug. 27, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916
James J. Grawson.....	Jan. 26, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Maulsey Williamson, nee Keener.....	Aug. 2, 1915	Feb. 24, 1916	Mar. 1, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Jas. Cotton McCurtain.....	Dec. 6, 1915	Feb. 28, 1916	Mar. 3, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916
Felix Wisdom.....	Dec. 4, 1915	Mar. 1, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916
Morris H. Hawkins.....	Aug. 2, 1915	Mar. 7, 1915	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Do.....	Feb. 3, 1915	Mar. 30, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915	Apr. 10, 1915
Do.....	Oct. 17, 1913	Dec. 17, 1914	Dec. 21, 1914	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915
Johnson Leader.....	Oct. 30, 1915	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916
James Nolattubbee.....	Nov. 20, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916
Fletcher Frazier.....	Dec. 27, 1915	Jan. 29, 1916	Feb. 1, 1916	do.....	Do.
Mason Brown.....	Oct. 5, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916
Elonzo Tyson.....	July 10, 1914	Dec. 31, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Mark Burris.....	July 27, 1914	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Caroline Sealy, nee Leader.....	Jan. 12, 1915	July 17, 1915	July 20, 1915	July 22, 1915	July 23, 1915
Moses James.....	May 19, 1915	July 23, 1915	July 29, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915
Jesse Immotichey.....	Sept. 16, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915
Bennett Lavers.....	May 10, 1915	Jan. 26, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
Jacob James.....	May 15, 1914	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915
Nannie Brown, inc. by J. C. Ladd, guardian.....	Sept. 20, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915
Carrie Bowman, nee Brown.....	Mar. 14, 1914	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
Lynch Arpaler.....	Jan. 30, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915
J. F. Jackson, guardian of Laura D. Colbert.....	do.....	Feb. 13, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Mar. 6, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915
Abner Atkins, guardian of Mulford Jackson.....	Oct. 15, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Holmes Immotichey.....	Sept. 9, 1914	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
James E. Bolen.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Sylva Gipson, nee Williams.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Catherine Frazier, nee Greenwood.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Emma Walker, minor, Inc. C. Chapman, guardian.....	Dec. 2, 1914	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 19, 1915
Lucy Brown.....	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915
do.....	May 20, 1909	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915
Daniel Hays.....	do.....	June 12, 1915	June 17, 1915	do.....	do.....
do.....	do.....	Feb. 28, 1916	Mar. 3, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916

CHOCTAWS.

Selena Jones, nee Phillips.....	Apr. 11, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915
Gilbert Nelson.....	Oct. 8, 1914	do.....	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915
Lucy Sampson.....	Sept. 4, 1914	do.....	do.....	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915

1 Unconditional.

2 Not approved.

3 Resubmitted.

4 Report.

5 Approved.

6 Report Jan. 18, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHOCTAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Anderson, Elliott.....	Oct. 20, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915
Edna Simmons, nee Jefferson	July 28, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	do	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 11, 1915
Zona Logan, nee Free	.....	do	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 15, 1915
Betsey Thompson.....	Sept. 26, 1914	Dec. 31, 1914	do	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Levi Dwight.....	Sept. 24, 1913	Jan. 6, 1915	Jan. 11, 1915	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Betty Morris, nee Billery.....	Nov. 13, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	do	Do.
Dora Pope, nee Jefferson.....	Nov. 19, 1914	do	do	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Lem Taylor.....	Nov. 30, 1914	Jan. 9, 1915	do	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Tobias Christy.....	Dec. 16, 1913	Jan. 5, 1915	do	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Gibson Cobb.....	Nov. 22, 1913	Jan. 9, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	do	Do.
Lena Wesley, nee John.....	Aug. 12, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 8, 1915
Amy Carney.....	Sept. 20, 1914	do	do	do	Do.
Nancy Ebu-hotubbi.....	Oct. 10, 1913	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915
Gibson Anderson.....	Aug. 17, 1914	Jan. 11, 1915	do	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915
Joel Dyer.....	Dec. 10, 1914	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
Robinson McKinney.....	July 26, 1913	Jan. 15, 1915	do	Jan. 27, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915
Henry Byington.....	Sept. 14, 1914	Jan. 19, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915
Sampson Beams.....	Nov. 6, 1914	Jan. 21, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915
Wilburn Dena.....	July 31, 1914	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	(⁴ Mar. 2, 1915) (⁵ Apr. 29, 1915)	Apr. 30, 1915
Jacob Smith.....	Dec. 16, 1914	Jan. 25, 1915	do	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 12, 1915
Philip Thompson.....	Nov. 20, 1914	Jan. 9, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Mary Garland, nee McCurtain.....	.....	⁶ Jan. 7, 1915	do	.....	.....
Matthew Henry.....	Feb. 17, 1914 May 4, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 19, 1915
Molsey Pisachubbi, née Austin.....	July 22, 1914	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915
Cistin McKinney.....	July 20, 1914	do	do	Jan. 25, 1915	Jan. 26, 1915
George Tisho.....	July 28, 1914	do	do	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915
Jemima Willis, née Cepbus.....	Dec. 24, 1913	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915	Jan. 27, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915
Easter Lewis.....	June 19, 1914	Jan. 16, 1915	do	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915
Marlin Billy.....	July 3, 1914	Jan. 15, 1915	do	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 28, 1915
Emiline Heams.....	July 25, 1914	Jan. 16, 1915	do	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915
Frank Deneal.....	Dec. 5, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	do	Do.
Elsie Wallin, née Tom.....	(Nov. 5, 1913 Jan. 7, 1915)	Jan. 20, 1915 Mar. 18, 1915	Jan. 22, 1915 Mar. 24, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915 Apr. 3, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915 Apr. 3, 1915
Sophia Dash, née Cochnauer.....	Nov. 24, 1914	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 28, 1915	Feb. 1, 1915	Feb. 1, 1915
Stephen Tarney.....	Sept. 11, 1914	do	do	do	Feb. 2, 1915
Jessee McGee.....	Nov. 6, 1914	do	do	do	Do.
Austin Moore.....	Apr. 30, 1914	Jan. 21, 1915	do	do	Do.
Johnson Bacon.....	Nov. 22, 1914	do	do	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 4, 1915
Emma Mills, née Gardner.....	Nov. 18, 1914	Jan. 27, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 9, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915
Davis Potts.....	June 17, 1914	do	do	do	Do.
Viola Tillman, née Ervin.....	Oct. 30, 1914	do	do	do	Do.
Mary Hndson, née Anderson.....	Oct. 2, 1914	Jan. 26, 1915	do	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915
Lucy England, née Forest.....	May 18, 1914	Jan. 29, 1915	⁸ Feb. 4, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915
Malena Wilson.....	Oct. 7, 1914	do	do	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915
Lillie Adams, née Going.....	Jan. 11, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Agnes, Turner, née Graman.....	Sept. 3, 1914	do	do	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915
Lewis Page.....	June 29, 1914	do	Feb. 18, 1915	do	Do.
Allen Brown.....	Dec. 2, 1914	do	Feb. 8, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Susan Edward.....	July 21, 1914	Feb. 1, 1915	do	do	Do.
Sophia Jones.....	Sept. 4, 1914	Feb. 3, 1915	do	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915
Silman Thomas.....	Jan. 4, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	do	Feb. 13, 1915	Feb. 15, 1915
Phelena Shoney.....	Dec. 17, 1914	Feb. 11, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Esa Watson, née John.....	July 28, 1914	Feb. 13, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Do.
Theodore Benton.....	Dec. 29, 1913	Feb. 11, 1915	do	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 17, 1915
Jefferson Gardner.....	Jan. 20, 1915	Feb. 12, 1915	do	Feb. 24, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Edward Knight.....	Nov. 25, 1914	Feb. 13, 1915	do	Mar. 3, 1915	Mar. 4, 1915
John Gibson.....	Jan. 9, 1915	Feb. 12, 1915	do	Feb. 24, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915
Ella Gross, née Robinson.....	Oct. 8, 1914	Feb. 13, 1915	Feb. 20, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915
Sim Folsom.....	Dec. 26, 1914	Feb. 19, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	do	Do.
Dora Cooper.....	Dec. 16, 1914	Feb. 3, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 15, 1915
Lillin Ishteka.....	Jan. 5, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
Leister Reed.....	Apr. 24, 1914	do	do	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915
Selina Le Flore.....	Oct. 29, 1914	do	do	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915
Ivy Christie, née Taylor.....	Nov. 10, 1914	Feb. 6, 1915	do	do	Do.
Mary Roberts, née Le Flore.....	July 1, 1914	do	do	do	Do.

¹ Unconditional.

² Report Mar. 4, 1915; Mar. 9, 1915.]

³ Report Mar. 11, 1915.

⁴ Not approved.

⁵ Approved.

⁶ Report Feb. 16, 1915; Feb. 23, 1915.

⁷ Denied by superintendent.

⁸ Report Mar. 26, 1915; Mar. 30, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHOCTAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Leonidas King.....	Oct. 23, 1913	Feb. 11, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915
Martha Tubbee.....	Sept. 26, 1914	Feb. 12, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915
Nancy Nelson, née Maytoki.....		do.	do.	(²)	Mar. 16, 1915
Logan Harlan.....	Jan. 29, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
John A. Garland.....	May 28, 1915	Oct. 28, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915
Lizzie Wesley.....	Dec. 4, 1914	Feb. 13, 1915	Feb. 20, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915
Jesse Hattensty.....	July 10, 1914	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	do.	Mar. 3, 1915
Niecey Jefferson, née Allen.....	Nov. 21, 1914	Feb. 20, 1915	Mar. 4, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Sallie Battice.....	Jan. 25, 1915	Feb. 26, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915
Annie Graham, née Bohanan.....	Jan. 18, 1915	Mar. 1, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
Sissie Push, née McGee.....	Oct. 22, 1914	Mar. 6, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915
George Isaac.....	Sept. 25, 1914	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915
Melena Fobb, née Thomas.....	Nov. 16, 1914	Mar. 12, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915
Callis Peter.....	Aug. 1, 1914	do.	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915	Mar. 23, 1915
Eleat Myer.....	Apr. 21, 1914	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915
Sillin Harris.....	Feb. 1, 1915	Feb. 29, 1915	Mar. 4, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Effie M. Garrison.....	June 19, 1914	do.	do.	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 12, 1915
Sealy Jefferson.....	Jan. 9, 1915	Feb. 26, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	do.	do.
Betsy James.....	Nov. 13, 1914	do.	do.	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915
Luey Jones, née Baker.....	Dec. 11, 1914	Feb. 27, 1915	do.	Mar. 12, 1915	Feb. 12, 1915
Simon Atohko.....	Oct. 9, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Loring Harner.....	Nov. 24, 1914	Feb. 26, 1915	do.	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Losan Hitcher, née Washington.....	Jan. 26, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915
Bud Billy.....	Feb. 5, 1915	Mar. 1, 1915	do.	Mar. 13, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915
Samuel R. Oliver, guardian of Lucy Henderson.....	Oct. 9, 1914	Feb. 27, 1915	do.	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 11, 1915
Elsie Loman, née Nelson.....	Aug. 17, 1914	Mar. 3, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915
Lizzie Meashintubby.....	Oct. 14, 1914	Mar. 1, 1915	do.	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915
Isaac Nelson.....	Dec. 12, 1914	Feb. 27, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915
Noble Lewis.....	June 9, 1914	Mar. 10, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915
Jackson McKinney.....	Nov. 1, 1913	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Diekson Solomon.....	Feb. 10, 1915	Mar. 8, 1915	do.	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
George Jones.....	Nov. 7, 1914	do.	do.	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915
Forbis Folsom.....	Dec. 15, 1914	Mar. 11, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	do.	Do.
Amanda J. Hudson.....	Aug. 16, 1913	Mar. 12, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Wesley Baker, as guardian of Simpson and Grace.....	Jan. 25, 1915	do.	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915	Mar. 23, 1915
Marvin Ned.....	Mar. 20, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Wesley Brown.....	Sept. 25, 1914	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915
Emerson Wesley.....	July 2, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 29, 1915
Edmund Jackson.....	Oct. 31, 1914	Mar. 18, 1915	do.	do.	Mar. 27, 1915
Alice Hudson, née McCoy.....	Dec. 31, 1914	Mar. 16, 1915	do.	Mar. 31, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915
Alfred Noah.....	Dec. 9, 1914	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	do.	Do.
Annie Moore.....	Jan. 25, 1915	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915
George Robinson.....	July 3, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Isom Dansby.....	Dec. 4, 1914	Mar. 29, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 15, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
Louie M. Leflore.....	Feb. 3, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915	do.	Apr. 1, 1915	Do.
Byington Bond.....	Feb. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Caldwell Coley.....	Dec. 8, 1914	do.	Mar. 26, 1915	Apr. 7, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915
Margaret Bohanan.....	Feb. 3, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
Sibbel Grammer, née Collin.....	Feb. 23, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Wilsey Clay.....	Jan. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Emmett Anderson.....	Jan. 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Sophia Noah.....	July 31, 1915	Sept. 8, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915
Josiah James.....	Jan. 25, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 28, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
Mary Homer, née Battiest.....	Oct. 30, 1914	Mar. 26, 1915	Mar. 30, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915
Mullein McCoy.....	June 8, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 7, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915
Edna John.....	Oct. 12, 1914	Mar. 26, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Harriet Pace.....	Oct. 5, 1914	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 6, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915	Apr. 26, 1915
Wilson Farmer.....	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 30, 1915	do.	Apr. 12, 1915	Apr. 13, 1915
Agnes Samuel.....	Feb. 11, 1915	do.	do.	Apr. 10, 1915	Apr. 12, 1915
Allington Hall.....	Sept. 8, 1914	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915	Apr. 12, 1, 15	Apr. 13, 1915
Eastman McNoel.....	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	Apr. 16, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915
William C. Simpson.....	Jan. 21, 1915	Apr. 13, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Eastman Jacob.....	Oct. 18, 1913	May 17, 1915	May 20, 1915	May 22, 1915	May 23, 1915
Viecy James, nee Fobb.....	Feb. 20, 1915	Apr. 17, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Sophronia E. Thompson, nee Nall.....	Nov. 25, 1914	do.	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 21, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915
Sissy Tonibka, nee Wade.....	Jan. 20, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915	Apr. 14, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915
James Billy.....	June 13, 1913	Apr. 9, 1915	Apr. 19, 1915	Apr. 21, 1915	Apr. 21, 1915
J. Harvey Randall, guardian, Solomon Folsom.....	Sept. 6, 1913	Apr. 13, 1915	do.	Apr. 26, 1915	Apr. 27, 1915
David Frazier.....	Apr. 5, 1915	Apr. 17, 1915	do.	Apr. 21, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915
	Nov. 12, 1914	Apr. 13, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915

¹ Suit to remove cloud.² Not approved.³ Report, Mar. 15, 1915; Mar. 22, 1915.⁴ Unconditional.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHOCTAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Hilbon W. McCoy	Oct. 12, 1914	Apr. 13, 1915	Apr. 20, 1915	Apr. 21, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915
Hannah Isaac	Mar. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Mary Nakishi	Oct. 1, 1914	Apr. 10, 1915	do.	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Sophia Pickens, nee Lewis	Oct. 10, 1914	Apr. 16, 1915	do.	Apr. 24, 1915	Apr. 24, 1915
Dave Lawrence	Jan. 4, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 27, 1915	May 1, 1915	May 3, 1915
Nelson Wall	Nov. 13, 1913	do.	Apr. 30, 1915	May 4, 1915	May 5, 1915
Elizabeth Hale	Apr. 28, 1915	May 5, 1915	May 10, 1915	May 11, 1915	May 12, 1915
Implin Ben, nee Nelson	Aug. 20, 1914	May 10, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 17, 1915	May 18, 1915
Thomas Sockey	Apr. 6, 1915	May 22, 1915	May 27, 1915	May 29, 1915	June 1, 1915
Susan Sanders, nee Willis	Apr. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	May 31, 1915
Israel Byington	Oct. 3, 1914	Apr. 27, 1915	May 3, 1915	May 6, 1915	May 6, 1915
Martin Camp	Jan. 15, 1915	May 7, 1915	May 11, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 14, 1915
Mason Ludlom	Dec. 12, 1914	do.	do.	May 12, 1915	May 13, 1915
Pierce Homer	Dec. 30, 1914	May 10, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 14, 1915	May 15, 1915
Jesse Bohanan	Mar. 10, 1915	May 8, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Felice Baptiste	Jan. 4, 1915	May 7, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Peter J. Hudson	Feb. 8, 1915	May 8, 1915	do.	May 14, 1915	Do.
Wismon Bohanan	July 5, 1913	May 10, 1915	May 15, 1915	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Maggie Lewis, nee Simmons	Nov. 12, 1914	May 7, 1915	do.	June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
Wynie Peter	Jan. 15, 1915	May 6, 1915	do.	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Joseph Brashears	May 16, 1913	May 10, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Davis Sockey	Apr. 15, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 17, 1915	June 7, 1915	June 8, 1915
Frances Bell	Jan. 30, 1915	do.	May 20, 1915	June 7, 1915	May 22, 1915
Frances Bohanan, now Foster.	Oct. 6, 1914	Sept. 10, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 16, 1915	Sept. 17, 1915
David E. Roebuck	Feb. 24, 1915	do.	do.	May 22, 1915	May 24, 1915
Willis Willie	Dec. 7, 1914	May 22, 1915	May 27, 1915	May 29, 1915	June 1, 1915
Liney Hotinlubi	Jan. 14, 1915	do.	do.	June 1, 1915	June 2, 1915
Sissie B. Turley	Feb. 6, 1915	do.	do.	May 29, 1915	June 1, 1915
Jeffie Lewis	Sept. 10, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
William Billey	May 14, 1915	June 17, 1915	June 21, 1915	June 23, 1915	June 24, 1915
Charles Walker	June 16, 1915	July 13, 1915	July 19, 1915	July 20, 1915	July 21, 1915
Walton James	Apr. 27, 1915	June 18, 1915	June 19, 1915	June 24, 1915	July 24, 1915
Amanda Tindell	Mar. 17, 1915	June 16, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Helen Hooser, nee Hudson	Apr. 6, 1915	do.	do.	July 16, 1915	July 17, 1915
Wilson Homer	Feb. 8, 1915	do.	do.	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Jesse Porter	Nov. 24, 1912	June 19, 1915	June 22, 1915	June 28, 1915	June 29, 1915
Josephine Bohanan, nee Anderson.	May 27, 1915	June 7, 1915	June 11, 1915	June 12, 1915	June 12, 1915
Charles C. Turnbull	May 7, 1915	June 14, 1915	June 17, 1915	June 19, 1915	June 21, 1915
Ellis W. Thompson	May 10, 1915	June 15, 1915	June 21, 1915	June 24, 1915	June 24, 1915
Fena McConnell, formerly Dill, nee Surratt.	Sept. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Chully Homer, nee Lewis	May 3, 1915	June 21, 1915	June 23, 1915	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Simon Isaac	Mar. 22, 1915	June 24, 1915	June 28, 1915	July 1, 1915	July 2, 1915
Mary Jane Smith	Dec. 15, 1913	June 19, 1915	June 22, 1915	June 29, 1915	June 30, 1915
Milton Hawkins	do.	June 22, 1915	June 24, 1915	do.	Do.
Wilkin Wall	Apr. 19, 1912	June 23, 1915	June 25, 1915	do.	Do.
Lervina Leflore	Jan. 13, 1915	June 24, 1915	June 28, 1915	do.	Do.
Lilium McCoy	May 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Lucy Nohio	Apr. 14, 1915	July 3, 1915	July 8, 1915	July 10, 1915	July 12, 1915
J. Andrew Sumpter	Apr. 30, 1915	do.	July 13, 1915	July 16, 1915	July 17, 1915
Wellington Haiakanubbi	Aug. 4, 1914	July 16, 1915	July 19, 1915	July 22, 1915	July 23, 1915
Sophia John, nee Carnes	Oct. 20, 1914	July 21, 1915	July 26, 1915	July 28, 1915	July 28, 1915
Stephen Parker	Dec. 20, 1912	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Mary James, nee Harkins	Mar. 2, 1915	July 23, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 29, 1915	July 29, 1915
Jefferson Bacon	May 1, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 29, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915
Sampson Folsom	Feb. 20, 1915	do.	do.	Aug. 2, 1915	Do.
Agnes Lewis	Nov. 14, 1914	Aug. 5, 1915	Aug. 9, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915
Elizabeth Jefferson	Nov. 3, 1914	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915
Emiline Terrell	May 1, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 17, 1915	Aug. 20, 1915	Aug. 20, 1915
Betsy Porter	May 26, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915
Lorena Johnson	June 3, 1915	do.	do.	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 9, 1915
Elias C. Ward	May 22, 1915	do.	do.	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915
Ada Tubbee Bell	Mar. 17, 1915	Aug. 3, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
Robinson Wade	Jan. 28, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915	Aug. 9, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915
William Kinches	Feb. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Minnie Bohanan	Oct. 14, 1914	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	do.	Do.
Betsy Oo-se-wee, nee Grass	May 29, 1914	Aug. 13, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915
Elizabeth, John	Mar. 3, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 17, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915	Do.
Elam, Charley	Jan. 4, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 24, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915
Leasin Wade, now Charley	May 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.
Mary Hickman, nee Lewis	July 7, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915	Aug. 23, 1915	Aug. 30, 1915	Aug. 31, 1915
Solomon Ott	May 8, 1915	Aug. 27, 1915	Aug. 31, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915

1 Unconditional.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHOCTAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Annie Pusley, nee Collin.....	May 1, 1912	Aug. 30, 1915	Sept. 1, 1915	Sept. 4, 1915	Sept. 7, 1915
Nellie Perkins.....	Dec. 18, 1914	Aug. 13, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915
Esias Washington.....	Feb. 6, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Mineua McKinney.....	Mar. 6, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 17, 1915	Aug. 20, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915
Robert L. Gardner.....	Apr. 10, 1915	do	do	Aug. 19, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915
Johnson Walker.....	Apr. 5, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 21, 1915	Aug. 24, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915
Chubby Scott.....	Nov. 4, 1913	Aug. 25, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	Sept. 1, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915
Lucinda King.....	July 28, 1909	Aug. 27, 1915	Aug. 31, 1915	Sept. 2, 1915	Sept. 3, 1915
Morris Carney.....	Jan. 15, 1914	Sept. 4, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915
Jameson Jackson.....	Jan. 24, 1915	Sept. 8, 1915	do	do	Do.
Lucinda Blackwood, nee Gibson.....	Oct. 28, 1913	Sept. 4, 1915	do	do	Do.
Joe Sam.....	Feb. 3, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Kingsberry Wade.....	Feb. 6, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Sampson Wilson.....	June 10, 1915	Sept. 10, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 15, 1915	Sept. 16, 1915
Lawrence Taylor.....	Aug. 19, 1914	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Martha Charley, nee Hopson.....	July 9, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Benjamin Edwards.....	Oct. 29, 1914	Sept. 20, 1915	do	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Barnabas Peter.....	July 6, 1914	do	do	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Ransia Wade, nee Wright.....	Dec. 11, 1914	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915
Viola Thompson, now Adams.....	July 7, 1914	Sept. 18, 1915	do	do	Do.
Kelisin Amos.....	Oct. 10, 1914	Sept. 20, 1915	do	do	Do.
Wilton Jefferson.....	Apr. 30, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	do	Do.
Reuben Homma.....	June 24, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	do	Do.
Simpson Folsom.....	Apr. 17, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915
Frances Shaw, nee Burnett.....	July 25, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915
Davis Peter.....	July 30, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915
John Williams.....	May 7, 1915	do	do	Oct. 8, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915
Germain Fisher, nee Phillips.....	Aug. 13, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	do	do	Do.
Nora Bybee, nee Williams.....	July 23, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
Lottie Bacon, nee Noah.....	Feb. 2, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915
Louise Gardner, nee Baptiste.....	Feb. 4, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Bessie Jefferson.....	Sept. 9, 1914	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915
Illis Thompson.....	July 17, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Talvatona.....	July 9, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915
Nelson Wesley.....	July 18, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Carrie Bowman.....	Mar. 4, 1914	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
Reason Colbert.....	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915
Kizzie Battiest.....	July 22, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	do	Sept. 30, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915
Jerry H. Samuel.....	Mar. 5, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Peter Nail.....	Oct. 8, 1914	do	do	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915
Kitsie Loman.....	June 23, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Chatman Thompson.....	July 17, 1915	do	do	do	Oct. 7, 1915
Moses Chubee.....	Jan. 21, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Andrew Battiest.....	Feb. 5, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915	do	Oct. 6, 1915
Boyd Bob.....	Nov. 16, 1914	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915
Sarah Harris, nee Loman.....	Mar. 19, 1915	do	do	Oct. 7, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915
Elus Alemonthubi.....	Sept. 20, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Lizzie Pisachubbee, nee Austin.....	Dec. 28, 1914	Nov. 3, 1915	Nov. 8, 1915	Nov. 10, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Licksey McGee.....	Mar. 20, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915	Oct. 11, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915
Raymond Wilson.....	May 28, 1914	Oct. 11, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915
Sorena Phillip, nee Wright.....	May 13, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
John Woolery, jr.....	July 16, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	do	do	Do.
Antlin Noatabbi (now Jacob).....	Nov. 7, 1913	Oct. 13, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Kitsie Myers, nee Jefferson.....	July 17, 1915	do	do	Oct. 21, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915
Impson Bohanan.....	Sept. 7, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Hall Greenwood.....	June 7, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Siney Billy (now King).....	July 24, 1915	do	do	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915
Sarah Anderson.....	Apr. 10, 1915	do	do	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Maleum Leflore, nee Carterby.....	Sept. 8, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Salenna Noah.....	Jan. 12, 1915	Oct. 31, 1915	do	do	Do.
Jeffery Jones.....	May 5, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915	do	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915
Roxie Crews, nee Jacob.....	Oct. 4, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Wallace Benjamin.....	May 26, 1915	Oct. 15, 1915	do	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
Joseph Onahantubbee.....	Jan. 21, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
Oscar Kreble.....	Jan. 29, 1915	Oct. 17, 1915	Oct. 19, 1915	do ¹	Do.
Mattie Ladner, nee Johnson.....	Aug. 6, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915
Samblin Bathest.....	July 27, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915	do ²	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Susie A. Homer, nee Sexton.....	May 13, 1915	Oct. 23, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915	do	Oct. 30, 1915
Emma Austin, nee Thomas.....	Sept. 23, 1915	do	do	do	Oct. 29, 1915
William Edwards.....	Aug. 30, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	Nov. 3, 1915
Nellie Billey, nee Sexton.....	Sept. 17, 1915	do	do	Nov. 2, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915
Joseph Cole.....	Mar. 25, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915
William Guynes.....	July 13, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915

¹ Unconditional.² Report, Nov. 18, 1915; Nov. 22, 1915.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHOCTAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
John Willis.....	Aug. 7, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Jan. 29, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916
Thompson Eyachabbe.....	Jan. 13, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	do.....	Nov. 8, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915
Sophie Jefferson.....	Oct. 6, 1914	Nov. 1, 1915	do.....	Nov. 9, 1915	Do.
George Isaac.....	Feb. 2, 1914	Nov. 3, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Steson Alemohutubbi.....	July 31, 1914	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915
Louisa McClure (now Billey).....	Sept. 11, 1915	do.....	do. ²	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
Levi Taylor.....	July 6, 1915	do.....	do.....	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Billy Boling.....	Aug. 19, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Peter Cole.....	Aug. 25, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Aggie Bucket.....	Feb. 13, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915
Selissa Jefferson, née Jones.....	Sept. 22, 1915	do.....	do.....	Nov. 18, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
Jessie Collin.....	Apr. 9, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915
Mollie Chubee, née Durant.....	Aug. 11, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915
Pearl M. Folsom (now Jenkins).....	Apr. 29, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Felix Noatabbe.....	Mar. 10, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Caroline Bohanan, née James.....	June 12, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Malina Gray, née Dick.....	Sept. 15, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	do. ³	Do.
Sam Wolfe.....	July 1, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	do.....	do.....	Do.
Joel Leader.....	Apr. 24, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
Sallie McDaniel, née Harkins.....	Dec. 20, 1913	do.....	do.....	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
John King.....	Feb. 4, 1915	do.....	do.....	Dec. 2, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915
Mary Hudson.....	Aug. 28, 1908	Nov. 23, 1915	do.....	do.....	Do.
Jackson Graman.....	Apr. 28, 1915	do.....	do.....	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
Ben Carterby.....	Sept. 26, 1914	Nov. 24, 1915	do.....	do.....	Do.
Amos Sam.....	Sept. 15, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	do.....	do.....	Do.
Frances Tilles, née James.....	Oct. 28, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	do.....	Do.
Martha Brokesoulder.....	July 21, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 7, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915
Raynie Anderson.....	Aug. 14, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	do.....	Do.
Jesse Beams.....	Oct. 7, 1915	do.....	do.....	Dec. 8, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915
Jasper Colbert.....	Jan. 4, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Jim Willis.....	Aug. 10, 1915	do.....	do.....	Dec. 9, 1915	Do.
Steen Mose.....	Dec. 26, 1913	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	do.....	Do.
Ephriam Beams.....	Feb. 27, 1915	do.....	Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 15, 1915
Edward Christie.....	do.....	Dec. 4, 1915	do.....	do.....	Do.
Mary Bacon, née Potts.....	Mar. 7, 1914	Dec. 6, 1915	do.....	do.....	Do.
Molsey Felma (now Gibson).....	Apr. 30, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	do.....	do.....	Do.
Steward Wright.....	Apr. 29, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
Jincy Camp.....	July 17, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	do.....	Do.
Dave Yota.....	Mar. 27, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
William Free.....	Apr. 13, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
Sarah Roberts, née Simpson.....	May 26, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Emiline Wade.....	July 20, 1914	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
McGee Johnson.....	Nov. 19, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
Lee Folsom.....	do.....	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 30, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916	Jan. 4, 1916
Sidney A-me-ah-tubbee.....	Sept. 28, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Estias Willie.....	July 31, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Natt Fry.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
Jesse Colbert.....	Mar. 21, 1914	Feb. 27, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915	Mar. 9, 1915	Mar. 10, 1915
Sophia Carley, née Cobb.....	Oct. 22, 1914	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 30, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915
Sim McGee.....	Feb. 15, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915
Hudson Lemon.....	Oct. 28, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915
Silas Turner.....	Oct. 13, 1915	do.....	do.....	Dec. 2, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915
Steve Sampson.....	July 23, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915
Colbert Wesley.....	Feb. 25, 1913	Oct. 27, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915
Sarah McCoy, nee Woods.....	Aug. 23, 1913	Apr. 30, 1914	May 5, 1914	Apr. 16, 1915	Apr. 17, 1915
Simon Tom.....	June 9, 1914	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Dec. 11, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915
Mack King.....	Feb. 10, 1915	Oct. 19, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915
William Garland.....	Feb. 12, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 12, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
Green Wesley.....	(Nov. 9, 1915)	do.....	do.....	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915
Alice Folsom.....	July 27, 1915	Sept. 16, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Daniel Perry.....	Oct. 10, 1914	Jan. 7, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 20, 1915	Jan. 21, 1915
Frances Colbert, nee Miller.....	Jan. 20, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915
Achafatubbi Ward.....	Dec. 26, 1914	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 21, 1916
Zack T. Carshall.....	May 23, 1914	Feb. 5, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915
Silan Homer.....	Sept. 19, 1914	May 26, 1915	May 29, 1915	June 5, 1915	June 6, 1915
Allan C. McCurtain.....	Aug. 6, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	Jan. 5, 1915	Jan. 6, 1915
Abe Golden.....	Jan. 11, 1915	Feb. 12, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915
Joel McCurtain.....	Oct. 26, 1915	Mar. 3, 1915	Mar. 15, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 22, 1915
Joseph Wade.....	May 30, 1914	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916
Wm. Baxter.....	July 22, 1914	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	Jan. 25, 1915
	June 9, 1914	do.....	do.....	Feb. 23, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
		Mar. 17, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915	Mar. 31, 1915

¹ Report, Jan. 20, 1915; Jan. 24, 1916.

² Report, Dec. 15, 1915; Dec. 18, 1915.

³ Unconditional.

⁴ Report, Dec. 8, 1915; Dec. 10, 1915.

⁵ Report, Mar. 30, 1915; Apr. 3, 1916.

⁶ Report, Jan. 12, 1916; Jan. 17, 1916.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHOCTAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Osborn Carr	Jan. 5, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915	Feb. 24, 1915	Mar. 4, 1915	Mar. 5, 1915
Frances McCaffery, nee Williams	Dec. 22, 1914	May 6, 1915	May 15, 1915	May 19, 1915	May 20, 1915
Jane Moore, nee Burns	Apr. 18, 1914	Sept. 29, 1914	Oct. 3, 1914	Feb. 5, 1915	Feb. 6, 1915
Sophia John	Nov. 26, 1913	Dec. 31, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Willie Carnes	Aug. 12, 1914	Sept. 9, 1915	Sept. 13, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 15, 1915
William Isaac	Jan. 5, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	Nov. 3, 1915
Frances Kemp, nee Carter	May 11, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
Culberson J. Hudson	June 11, 1913	Oct. 26, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915
Bettie Anderson (now Nelson)	July 8, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915
Lena Colbert	May 20, 1915	Oct. 21, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915
Isham Christie	Aug. 16, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Nov. 2, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915
Mollie Bacon	Aug. 28, 1915	Oct. 30, 1915	do.	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915
Eliza Fletcher	May 26, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
Edna Bob	Mar. 16, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915
Robert Cass	Aug. 3, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915
Martha Wilburn	Nov. 8, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 28, 1915
Melina Quincy	Mar. 23, 1915	July 28, 1915	July 31, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915	Aug. 5, 1915
Columbus C. Ervin	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915
Turner L. Ervin	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	² Dec. 21, 1915	² Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916
Abraham A. Ervin	do.	do.	do. ²	do. ³	Do.
Emmet Ervin	do.	do.	do. ²	do. ³	Do.
Myrtle M. Page, nee Ervin	do.	do.	do. ²	do. ³	Do.
Peter Wright	July 10, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915
Sam Bench	Dec. 30, 1915	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 25, 1916	Jan. 26, 1916
Selina Carnes	Aug. 20, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915
Robinson Wilson	July 12, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915
Adeline Ashbalintul, nee Ward	July 5, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915	Aug. 14, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915
John Lewis	Apr. 22, 1915	Oct. 27, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915
Frances Hampton	Aug. 27, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915
Silas James	July 14, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
Minnie J. Conn, nee Robinson	Oct. 3, 1914	Feb. 10, 1915	Feb. 14, 1915	Feb. 17, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915
Bettie Lewis, nee York	July 22, 1915	Jan. 6, 1916	Jan. 10, 1916	³ Jan. 12, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916
Arten White	Mar. 13, 1915	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916	Jan. 19, 1916
Arbis Coff	Mar. 5, 1915	Jan. 15, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916	Jan. 21, 1916	Jan. 22, 1916
Alice Anderson, nee McElroy	Oct. 26, 1915	Apr. 22, 1916	Apr. 27, 1916	Apr. 29, 1916	May 1, 1916
James B. Wright	Nov. 13, 1915	Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 1, 1916
Wellington L. Gardner	Nov. 29, 1915	Jan. 28, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	³ Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 3, 1916
Sam Kaniatoli	Oct. 31, 1915	Jan. 26, 1916	do.	³ Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
Jefferson D. Folsom	Dec. 4, 1915	do.	do.	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 3, 1916
Davis Wesley	Mar. 10, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916
Turner Berry	Oct. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do. ³	Do.
Preston Bob	Oct. 25, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916	do.	Jan. 7, 1916
Ella Jones, Amanda Jones (minors)	Dec. 23, 1915	Jan. 11, 1916	Jan. 15, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916
Mary Jane Williamson, nee Robinson	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 24, 1916	Feb. 1, 1916	Feb. 2, 1916
Calvin Bond	Apr. 3, 1915	Jan. 26, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
Sampson Cole	June 5, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916
Marlow Case	Oct. 3, 1915	do.	do.	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916
McCasson Anderson	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916
Lewis Armstrong	June 16, 1915	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916
Shepard Sexton	Oct. 1, 1915	do.	do.	do. ³	Do.
John McKinney	Apr. 2, 1915	do.	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916
Willie Jones	July 26, 1915	Feb. 5, 1916	do.	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916
Ada Winlock, nee Jefferson	Oct. 23, 1914	do.	do.	do. ³	Do.
Jane Morris Rasba	Mar. 15, 1915	Feb. 4, 1916	do.	do.	Do.
Mary J. Dodson	Apr. 5, 1915	Feb. 5, 1916	do.	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916
Cecil Gallamore	Sept. 2, 1915	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916
Frank H. Wright	Sept. 18, 1915	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	³ Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 25, 1916
Annie Wilson (formerly Armstrong)	Jan. 26, 1916	do.	do.	³ Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Minnie J. Conn, nee Robinson	Nov. 6, 1915	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Wm. H. McKinney	July 22, 1915	Jan. 6, 1916	Jan. 10, 1916	³ Jan. 12, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916
Martin Parnell, nee Free	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	³ Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Martin Bohanan	Apr. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Frank Battiest	June 1, 1915	Feb. 23, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916	do.	Mar. 4, 1916
Sampson Folsom	Oct. 23, 1915	Feb. 24, 1916	Mar. 1, 1916	do.	Do.
Milton Brown	Nov. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 6, 1916
Ella Carney	Aug. 5, 1915	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916
Ellis Ramsey	Apr. 21, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 15, 1916
Edward Jones	Oct. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
	Oct. 29, 1915	Feb. 5, 1916	do.	do.	Do.

¹ Report, Jan. 26, 1915; Feb. 2, 1915.² Report, Mar. 11, 1916; Mar. 14, 1916.³ Unconditional.

Removal of restriction cases received in the Indian Office since Jan. 1, 1915—Continued.

CHOCTAWS—Continued.

Name of allottee.	Application.	Forwarded by superintendent.	Received.	Approved or disapproved.	Returned to superintendent.
Silas James.....	Oct. 3, 1914	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916
Jamison Lewis.....	Sept. 26, 1914	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Eliza Wallery.....	Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Alice M. Elliott, née Anderson.	June 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Julia Bryant (now Phillips).....	May 13, 1915	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916
Sim Colbert.....	July 26, 1915	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916
Winnie Patterson, née Wall.....	Aug. 12, 1915	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Isham Emeyabbi.....	May 7, 1915	Feb. 24, 1916	Mar. 1, 1916	do.	Do.
Simpson Byington.....	Dec. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Sallie Bond.....	Aug. 17, 1914	Feb. 29, 1916	Mar. 3, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916
Esias Johnson.....	Aug. 23, 1915	Mar. 3, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
Easton Johnson (minor son of I. Johnson).....	Dec. 17, 1915	Mar. 1, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916
Willie Roebuck.....	June 16, 1915	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916
Grave Lively, née Ellis.....	Nov. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do. ²	Do.
Sallie Ann Bohanan.....	July 23, 1915	do.	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
Joseph Lewis.....	Dec. 31, 1914	Mar. 7, 1916	do.	do.	Do.
Gipson Lewis.....	Oct. 8, 1915	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916
Jane McDonald.....	Dec. 22, 1915	do.	do.	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916
Jennie Perry Cooper.....	do.	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916
Allen Greenwood.....	Dec. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Thomas Graham.....	Oct. 28, 1915	Feb. 17, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
Annie Wilson, formerly Armstrong.	Nov. 6, 1915	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916	do.	Do.
John Rasha.....	do.	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916
Abe Golden.....	Oct. 26, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 16, 1916
Elum Baker.....	Sept. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
Joseph R. H. Ward.....	Nov. 15, 1915	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916
Edgar Benton.....	Oct. 14, 1915	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 24, 1916	Mar. 25, 1916
Carney Ott.....	Sept. 2, 1915	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	do.	Do.
Henrietta Thompson, née Gana.....	Nov. 13, 1915	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 24, 1916	Mar. 25, 1916	Mar. 27, 1916
John A. Garland.....	Feb. 7, 1916	do.	do.	Apr. 3, 1916	Apr. 4, 1916
Lizzie Pistubbee.....	July 21, 1915	Mar. 22, 1916	Mar. 25, 1916	Mar. 31, 1916	Apr. 3, 1916
Battice Taylor.....	Feb. 9, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Mar. 28, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	Do.
Fannie James, née Taylor.....	Nov. 21, 1914	May 7, 1915	May 11, 1915	May 13, 1915	May 14, 1915
Madlina Baptiste Farve.....	May 1, 1915	Oct. 29, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 8, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915
Israel Gage.....	May 19, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 14, 1915	Jan. 16, 1915
Agnes Samuel, nge James.....	Apr. 12, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
Daniel Terrell.....	Dec. 26, 1914	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 1, 1915	Apr. 2, 1915
Implin Ben, née Nelson.....	Aug. 20, 1914	Mar. 18, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	May 17, 1915	May 18, 1915
Alice Chubbu, née Isaac.....	Oct. 19, 1914	Feb. 2, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	Feb. 13, 1915	Feb. 15, 1915
Nellie Samuel, now Stechi.....	Dec. 21, 1914	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 3, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915
Josephine Clark.....	July 10, 1914	Nov. 21, 1914	Nov. 27, 1914	Apr. 17, 1915	Apr. 17, 1915
Emmett Anderson.....	July 31, 1915	Sept. 8, 1915	Sept. 11, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915	Sept. 14, 1915
William Billey.....	June 16, 1915	July 13, 1915	July 19, 1915	July 20, 1915	July 21, 1915
Jim Andy Sumpter.....	Apr. 20, 1915	July 3, 1915	July 13, 1915	July 16, 1915	July 17, 1915
Logan Harlan.....	May 28, 1915	Oct. 28, 1915	Nov. 1, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915
Issac Nelson.....	Sept. 27, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915
Pierce Homer.....	Dec. 30, 1914	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915
Minnie Taylor, née Ayakutubby.....	Feb. 8, 1915	Apr. 29, 1915	May 4, 1915	May 6, 1915	May 7, 1915
Lizzie Jefferson.....	Feb. 23, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 23, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915	Mar. 28, 1915
Mary Tims.....	Dec. 7, 1915	Mar. 17, 1915	Mar. 20, 1915	Mar. 24, 1915	Mar. 27, 1915
Laura Bryant.....	Sept. 4, 1915	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 16, 1915	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916
William Hicks.....	Nov. 13, 1915	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	do.	Do.
Arthur Talbert.....	Jan. 10, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 24, 1916	Mar. 25, 1916
Hannah Nowabbi.....	Apr. 8, 1915	do.	Mar. 18, 1916	do.	Mar. 24, 1916
Emmerson Sexton.....	May 22, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915
John Simpson.....	do.	Nov. 28, 1914	Dec. 4, 1914	May 18, 1915	May 19, 1915
Calvin Anderson.....	Feb. 3, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 24, 1916	Mar. 25, 1916
Siglon Carterby.....	Dec. 15, 1915	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Mar. 27, 1916	Mar. 28, 1916
Lymon Frazier.....	July 19, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916
Wesley Baker.....	Mar. 20, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
Do.....	Feb. 20, 1915	Apr. 22, 1915	Apr. 30, 1915	May 5, 1915	May 6, 1915
Smallwood Folsom.....	May 1, 1914	Mar. 24, 1916	Mar. 28, 1916	Apr. 3, 1916	Apr. 5, 1916
Joseph Thompson.....	Sept. 7, 1915	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	Mar. 28, 1916	Mar. 29, 1916
Turner Berry.....	Oct. 25, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 7, 1916
Matilda Manning.....	July 24, 1915	Jan. 11, 1916	Jan. 15, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 22, 1916
				Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916

¹ Unconditional.

² Report, May 10, 1915; May 13, 1915.

³ Report, Apr. 7, 1915; Apr. 13, 1915.

⁴ Suit instituted.

⁵ Further report requested, but not yet received.

⁶ Conditional.

⁷ Unconditional; reconsidered.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
310	Louisa Miller.....	Devonian Oil Co.....	Dec. 1, 1914	Dec. 28, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	June 15, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915.	June 22, 1915
310	Wiley Buckner.....	do	Dec. 12, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
310	Edmund Deere.....	do	Dec. 1, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
310	N. Cris Harjo.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
549	Kizzie Canard.....	H. T. Wilcox.....	Nov. 3, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	June 16, 1915	do	do
549	Yarketa Harjo-che.....	do	Dec. 8, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
652	Jennie Davis.....	Sperry Oil & Gas Co.....	Nov. 21, 1914	Dec. 29, 1914	do	June 15, 1915	do	do
964	{Adair Marley.....	{A. E. Lewis.....	{Dec. 3, 1914	{Dec. 30, 1914	do	do	do	do
965	Serib Barf.....	Duquesne Oil & Gas Co.....	Dec. 14, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
986	Hers Louisa Constance.....	Chas. J. O'Keefe.....	July 26, 1913	do	do	Jan. 6, 1915	Disapproved Jan. 8, 1915.	Jan. 9, 1915
966	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1087	Ledie West.....	Burke-Hoffield Oil Co.....	Dec. 3, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1088	Clinda Harjo.....	Gladys Belle Oil Co.....	Nov. 25, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1089	Martie Johnson.....	J. A. Hull.....	Nov. 24, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1090	Sissy.....	V. S. Douglas.....	Dec. 15, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1091	Chessie.....	E. B. Lawson.....	Dec. 16, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1093	Enannah Tilly.....	H. C. Pender.....	Dec. 11, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1094	Milly.....	Weyona Oil Co.....	Dec. 10, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1094	Salina.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1097	Sunda Taylor.....	W. H. Tammeray.....	Dec. 5, 1914	do	do	June 16, 1915	do	do
1098	R-sannah Brown.....	J. M. Pine.....	Dec. 9, 1914	do	do	June 16, 1915	do	do
1098	do	do	Sept. 8, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1099	Susie Harjo.....	Seth Ely.....	Dec. 40, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
137	Arthur Sorch.....	James Devine.....	Dec. 11, 1914	Dec. 31, 1914	do	do	Disapproved June 21, 1915.	do
1099	Susie Harjo.....	Seth Ely.....	Dec. 10, 1914	Dec. 30, 1914	do	do	Approved June 21, 1915.	do
138	N'elly Yahola.....	Lea Oil Co.....	Dec. 8, 1914	Dec. 31, 1914	do	do	do	do
1141	Moley's.....	J. A. Hull.....	Dec. 18, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1141	Pahoka Harjo.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1141	Okashe Harjo.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1141	Martin Ch. Harjo.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1141	Jackson Miller.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1141	Wallace.....	do	Dec. 18, 1914	Dec. 31, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	June 15, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	do
1141	Lucinda Miller.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1142	Susie Johnson.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1142	Mahala Roberts.....	Lerna Oil & Gas Co.....	Nov. 18, 1914	do	do	do	do	do
1142	Kutchussee Hoye.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
1142	Caesar Johnson.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
2084	Leske Kernal (minor).....	New York Oklahoma Oil Co.....	Dec. 1, 1914	Jan. 2, 1915	Jan. 7, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	Disapproved Aug. 5, 1915.	Aug. 6, 1915
2096	Mary Simmons.....	J. M. Babritt.....	Dec. 40, 1914	Dec. 31, 1914	do	June 17, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915.	June 22, 1915

2097	Peere Scott.....	Oct. 31, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3645	Yannah Marperyeoher.....	Dec. 8, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3646	Narlune.....	Dec. 7, 1914	do.	Jan. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3679	Mulford.....	Aug. 19, 1914	Sept. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3687	Emma Bell.....	Dec. 19, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3782	Minnie Mitchell (minor).....	Nov. 24, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3789	Louisa Benden (minor).....	Dec. 3, 1914	Jan. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3792	William Givens.....	Dec. 14, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3799	Geo. Simmons.....	Dec. 7, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3799	Martha Simmons.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3800	James Marshall.....	Nov. 23, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3876	Kellen Jacks n.....	Dec. 19, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3877	W. M. Mitchell.....	Nov. 24, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3876	Mollie Fixico.....	Dec. 19, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3879	Tulmas Yahola.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3081	Tustumkoche.....	Dec. 27, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3888	Waitey.....	Dec. 18, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3882	Hopsy Bibie.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3882	Cessar Buckley.....	Dec. 8, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5218	Emmra Talanass.....	Dec. 9, 1914	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5339	John Tiger.....	Nov. 27, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5884	Charley Deerinwater.....	Oct. 16, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5884	Sally Deerinwater.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6311	Alice Mitchell.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6364	Robt. Graysaw, Jr.....	Jan. 12, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6423	Jefferson Hill (minor).....	Nov. 14, 1914	Jan. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6424	osa Starr.....	July 8, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6425	Albert Lewis (minor).....	Nov. 18, 1914	Jan. 9, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6492	Sussana Tiger (minor).....	July 20, 1914	Jan. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6492	oman Sarty.....	July 8, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8174	Lewis Bible.....	Mar. 6, 1914	Jan. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	Amos Ellis.....	Aug. 19, 1914	Jan. 16, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	Ella Factor.....	Nov. 23, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	Jonas Harjo.....	Dec. 28, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8244	Cancellation.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8244	Emma James (minor).....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8247	Henry Creshell Brown (minor).....	Sept. 25, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8247	Juanita Brown.....	Apr. 3, 1914	Jan. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8258	Lacy Squire.....	Dec. 23, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8267	Miny Hessehockee.....	Dec. 28, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8267	Wanchee Wahola.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8268	Lena Tiger (minor).....	July 20, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8284	John Charly (minor).....	Dec. 10, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8287	Nocas Harjodche.....	Dec. 23, 1914	Jan. 13, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8288	Louisa Benden (minor).....	Dec. 3, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8289	Eddie Bask.....	Dec. 12, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8293	Frank Colbert (minor).....	Apr. 4, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8377	Joe Wilson.....	Dec. 27, 1914	Jan. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8380	Bettie Hicks.....	Dec. 28, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
2097	Cree Oil Co.....	Oct. 31, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3645	Vernon V. Harris.....	Dec. 8, 1914	do.	Jan. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3646	A. L. Founshee.....	Dec. 7, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3679	Frontier Oil Co.....	Aug. 19, 1914	Sept. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3687	E. R. Black.....	Dec. 19, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3782	New York Oklahoma Oil Co.....	Nov. 24, 1914	Jan. 4, 1915	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3789	Harry H. Rogers.....	Dec. 3, 1914	Jan. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3792	Iron Mountain Oil Co.....	Dec. 14, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3799	Sherman Mortor and L. G. McIntosh.....	Dec. 7, 1914	Jan. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3799	Terma Oil & Gas Co.....	Nov. 23, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3800	Harry H. Rogers.....	Dec. 19, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3877	J. A. Hull.....	Nov. 24, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3876	Burke Hoffield Oil Co.....	Dec. 19, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3879	Henry T. Harwell.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3081	John H. Markham, Jr.....	Dec. 27, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3888	H. H. Medlin and I. Medlin.....	Dec. 18, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3882	E. M. Kennedy.....	Dec. 8, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5218	Fred A. Chapman.....	Dec. 9, 1914	Jan. 8, 1915	Jan. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5339	W. F. Edwards.....	Nov. 27, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5884	C. E. Taylor.....	Oct. 16, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5884	Fred A. Chapman.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6311	Ira Anders n.....	Jan. 12, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6364	Lema Oil & Gas Co.....	Nov. 14, 1914	Jan. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6423	Iron Mountain Oil Co.....	July 8, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6424	Lema Oil & Gas Co.....	Nov. 18, 1914	Jan. 9, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6425	Lema Oil & Gas Co.....	July 20, 1914	Jan. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6492	Lewis, Harris & Thomas.....	Mar. 6, 1914	Jan. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8174	J. M. Semmman.....	Aug. 19, 1914	Jan. 16, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	Vernon V. Harris.....	Nov. 23, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	Ella Factor.....	Dec. 28, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	Jonas Harjo.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8244	Cancellation.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8244	Henry, Wolverton & Hannington.....	Sept. 25, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	Jan. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8247	Henry Creshell Brown (minor).....	Apr. 3, 1914	Jan. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8247	Juanita Brown.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8258	Lacy Squire.....	Dec. 23, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8267	Miny Hessehockee.....	Dec. 28, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8267	Wanchee Wahola.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8268	Lena Tiger (minor).....	July 20, 1914	Jan. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8284	John Charly (minor).....	Dec. 10, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8287	Nocas Harjodche.....	Dec. 23, 1914	Jan. 13, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8288	Louisa Benden (minor).....	Dec. 3, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8289	Eddie Bask.....	Dec. 12, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8293	Frank Colbert (minor).....	Apr. 4, 1914	Jan. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8377	Joe Wilson.....	Dec. 27, 1914	Jan. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8380	Bettie Hicks.....	Dec. 28, 1914	Jan. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
2097	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3645	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3646	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3679	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3687	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3782	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3789	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3792	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3799	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3799	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3800	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3877	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3876	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3879	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3081	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3888	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3882	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5218	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5339	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5884	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
5884	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6311	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6364	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6423	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6424	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6425	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6492	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8174	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8199	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8244	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8244	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8247	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8247	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8258	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8267	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8267	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8268	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8284	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8287	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8288	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8289	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8293	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8377	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8380	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
2097	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
3645	do.	do.						

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15079	Tema Harjo.....	F. C. Henderson.....	Dec. 31, 1914	Jan. 30, 1915	Feb. 8, 1915	June 16, 1915	Disapproved June 21, 1915.	June 22, 1915
15079	Kessie Walker.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Sam Walker.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Loley Cooper.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Lemeha Litka.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Charley Lena.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Eliza McCoy.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Possake.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Davis Yahola.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Lucinda Walker.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Albio Litha.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Maggie Caker.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Dacey Harjo.....	do	Jan. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Siava Davis.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Puliooka.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Epsie McCoy.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Johnsey McCoy.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Nellie Powell.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15079	Lasche Harjo.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15107	Alice John.....	Bailey, Holt, Winemiller & Osler.	Nov. 3, 1914	Feb. 1, 1915	do	do	Approved June 21, 1915.	Do.
15144	Daniel Hays.....	W. S. Shelly.....	Jan. 15, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
15145	Stanton.....	Chas. B. Shafter.....	Jan. 14, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
15157	Charley Simons.....	Sim C. Claner.....	Jan. 15, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
15173	Aharlock Fixco.....	O. F. McCarnell.....	Dec. 5, 1914	Feb. 3, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
15173	Freadland Wolf.....	do	Dec. 22, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
15173	Myrtle M. Bratcher.....	Rigdon & Bruen.....	Dec. 1, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
15175	Chas. J. Perry.....	Chas. A. Lockard.....	Jan. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
15175	Albert Perry.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15182	Tyler Wolf.....	Lawrence Gas Co.....	Dec. 26, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
15183	Jessie Long.....	Pew & Markham.....	Nov. 30, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
15200	Lela Derisaw.....	Altus Oil Co.....	July 24, 1914	{ Aug. 27, 1915	Sept. 7, 1915	Mar. 19, 1915	Disapproved Mar. 22, 1915.	Mar. 23, 1915
15232	Peter Johnson.....	H. I. Grimes.....	Jan. 16, 1915	Jan. 30, 1915	do	June 16, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915.	June 22, 1915
15327	Sunda Taylor.....	Geo. F. Getty.....	Dec. 30, 1914	Feb. 3, 1915	do	Mar. 19, 1915	Disapproved Mar. 22, 1915.	Mar. 23, 1915
15341	Bowman Childers.....	R. E. Lynch.....	Jan. 19, 1915	Feb. 2, 1915	do	June 16, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915.	Sept. 12, 1915
15365	Heirs of Nertahneeayah.....	J. L. Haines.....	Dec. 10, 1912	Jan. 30, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
15407	Martha Factor.....	Chas. B. Shafter.....	Jan. 4, 1915	Feb. 3, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
15407	Hayga Morgan.....	do	Jan. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
15408	Mahaley Lowe.....	Frank Barnes.....	Jan. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
16519	Willeya Johnson.....	F. C. Henderson.....	Dec. 31, 1914	Feb. 6, 1915	Feb. 11, 1915	June 15, 1915	do	Do.

45703	Melvina Amos, minor	A. A. Apple	June 3, 1914	Feb. 2, 1915	July 17, 1915	Approved July 20, 1915	July 22, 1915
16520	Challey Ross	Akin Oil Co.	Jan. 22, 1915	Feb. 6, 1915	June 16, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
16901	Francis Aaron	Gardner & Carter	Sept. 29, 1914	Feb. 11, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Disapproved Feb. 17, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915
16904	James Snap	P. F. Smith	Dec. 20, 1914	do	do	do	do
16923	Billie Grant	Wilburn C. McIntosh	Dec. 16, 1914	do	July 19, 1915	Approved July 23, 1915	July 24, 1915
17959	Sissie Monhooe	M. J. Sullivan	Apr. 9, 1914	Feb. 15, 1915	Feb. 16, 1915	Disapproved Feb. 17, 1915	Feb. 19, 1915
18000	Adam Wiley	Barrie H. Hoffeld Oil Co.	Nov. 19, 1914	do	June 17, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
18076	Lucy Wiley	Famous Oil Co.	Dec. 16, 1914	do	do	do	do
18077	Larvessaw Welch	Orange Oil Co.	Jan. 4, 1915	do	June 16, 1915	do	do
18086	Marie Beever, minor	J. H. Markham, Jr.	Dec. 16, 1914	Feb. 4, 1915	July 17, 1915	Approved July 20, 1915	July 22, 1915
18206	James E. Bolen	Tex. & Okla. Syndicate	Sept. 2, 1914	Feb. 8, 1915	June 17, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
18207	Senthe Williams	A. L. Funk	Jan. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do
18207	Hopyoche	do	Jan. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do
18207	Sakoca	Chas. B. Shafer	Jan. 22, 1915	do	do	do	do
18209	Buddy	Chas. Owen	Jan. 25, 1915	do	do	do	do
18210	Bettie Hays	W. G. Skelly	Jan. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do
18211	Lydia Wesley	Harry H. Rogers	Jan. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do
18212	Lizate John	Walter Hennig	Jan. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do
18212	Sunny	do	do	do	do	do	do
18212	Legus Clark	do	do	do	do	do	do
18212	Soloman Tarney	do	do	do	do	do	do
18212	Jocothee	do	do	do	do	do	do
18212	Jemima	do	do	do	do	do	do
18212	Noeus Elochee	do	do	do	do	do	do
18338	Nancy Wright	Wright Prod. Co.	Nov. 21, 1914	Feb. 5, 1915	June 15, 1915	do	do
18393	Graven Ebahotubbi	J. W. Gladney	Sept. 22, 1913	do	Feb. 18, 1915	Disapproved Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 25, 1915
18596	Billy Wilson	John S. Ellinghausen	Dec. 18, 1914	do	June 15, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
19700	Tarpie Harrod, minor	W. B. Fine	Jan. 23, 1915	Feb. 18, 1915	July 17, 1915	Approved July 22, 1915	July 23, 1915
19783	Mary McCulla	D. W. Franchot	Jan. 23, 1915	do	June 17, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
19783	Chiley Ross	do	do	do	do	do	do
19784	O-ha-la-ko-che	O. F. McConnell	Dec. 5, 1914	do	do	do	do
19785	Pleasa S. Chissoe	Hugh King, Jr.	Jan. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do
19786	Sunka	John H. Markham, Jr.	Nov. 21, 1914	do	do	do	do
19819	Marwallis	Phil W. Samuel	Dec. 30, 1914	do	do	do	do
19828	Joseph Miller	Cummings & Keltner	July 21, 1914	do	do	do	do
19829	Bennie Hampton	Henry, Wolvertine & Har- rington.	Sept. 18, 1914	do	do	do	do
20596	Wm. Anderson	Castlebrook Oil Co.	Feb. 6, 1914	do	Feb. 20, 1915	do	do
20596	Cilia Anderson	do	do	do	do	do	do
20594	Korzie Bighead	R. E. Lynch	Apr. 18, 1914	do	do	do	do
21013	Bernie Jefferson	S. A. Apple	Dec. 29, 1914	Feb. 26, 1915	July 10, 1915	Approved July 14, 1915	July 15, 1915
21013	Charley Charty	do	Jan. 22, 1915	Feb. 20, 1915	June 17, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
21014	Ellis Childers	do	do	do	do	do	do
21014	Ellis Childers	Glady's Bell Oil Co.	Feb. 5, 1914	do	do	do	do
21016	Chemaria, incompetent	A. E. Lewis	Jan. 2, 1915	do	Feb. 26, 1915	Disapproved Mar. 2, 1915	Mar. 4, 1914
21016	do	Big Fifty Oil Co.	do	do	June 24, 1915	Approved June 25, 1915	June 28, 1915
21534	Elsie Beans	Henry, Wolvertine & Har- rington.	Nov. 10, 1914	do	do	do	do
21537	Molly Little Warledo	H. F. Wilcox	Feb. 4, 1915	Feb. 7, 1915	June 17, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
21540	Eliza Deer	Minhama Oil Co.	Jan. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do

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21545	John W. Parker	Phillips, Douglass, Caulk, Mooney, Cal & Holtzendorf.	Oct. 12, 1914	Feb. 20, 1915	Feb. 23, 1915	June 17, 1915	Approved June 21, 1915	June 22, 1915
21545	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21547	Utaie, Martha.	Barrett, Barrett & Buchanan	Dec. 1, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21652	Morgan Boten.	W. E. Ambrister.	Jan. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21999	Iena Fox.	Esco Oil Co.	Dec. 28, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21999	Walter Marshall.	J. Markowitz.	Jan. 7, 1915	do.	Feb. 24, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
22000	Nellie Sawyer.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22030	Bennie Bear.	E. M. Kennedy.	Jan. 25, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22177	Sarna Fixico.	E. A. Sawyer.	Dec. 2, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22177	Martha Riley (minor).	Lake Moore.	Dec. 5, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22180	Emma Hanney.	do.	Jan. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22181	Ivey Deer.	Hama Oil Co.	Feb. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22182	Wah-la-we-Little Head.	H. V. Bartlett.	Feb. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22188	Wimney Lasley.	Oren Ashton.	Feb. 4, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22188	Joanna Kaney.	Akin Oil Co.	Dec. 31, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
29004	Louis Parker.	Smith-Coleman Oil & Gas Co.	May 14, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
29004	Hers Lewis Long and Lammie Long.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
32810	do.	James E. Hogan Oil Co.	June 29, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
35508	John Robinson (minor)	Davis-Staley Oil Co.	Oct. 17, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
36242	John D. Welch (minor)	Julius Singer.	May 22, 1914	do.	Mar. 29, 1915	Apr. 8, 1915	Disapproved Apr. 10, 1915.	Apr. 15, 1915
37081	Charley Litka.	Lucas Oil Co.	Oct. 25, 1912	do.	Mar. 30, 1915	do.	do.	Apr. 14, 1915
37081	Wilbert Bremer.	L. D. Ladd.	Jan. 4, 1913	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
37081	Charley Litka.	Hanna Oil Co.	Apr. 26, 1913	do.	do.	do.	do.	Apr. 15, 1915
37128	Mitchell Compter.	Brunswick Oil Co.	Nov. 5, 1912	do.	do.	do.	do.	Apr. 14, 1915
37128	Louis Kenard.	Marston Oil & Gas Co.	Dec. 11, 1913	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
37128	Andrew Anderson.	Merrimac Oil & Gas Co.	Jan. 29, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
37128	Abraham Leader.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
38006	Charley Fields.	M. C. French.	Mar. 3, 1914	do.	Apr. 1, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
39549	Christy Francis (minor).	Lena Oil & Gas Co.	Dec. 1, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
138736	Resubmitted when allottee reached majority.	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 31, 1915	Jan. 4, 1916	Approved Jan. 5, 1916.	Jan. 6, 1916
138736	Charley Harjo.	Lena Oil & Gas Co.	Oct. 30, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
38666	Sweeney Bostash.	D. C. Fitzgerald.	Apr. 11, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Apr. 14, 1915
38697	Marwale.	State Lumber Oil & Gas Co.	Jan. 1, 1914	do.	Mar. 27, 1915	Apr. 9, 1915	Disapproved Apr. 10, 1915.	Do.
38698	Aber Harjo.	W. H. McCracken.	Dec. 21, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
43758	Wm. Paskonyark (minor)	H. E. McElgation.	Nov. 16, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Apr. 26, 1915
46860	Foy Perry (minor)	T. S. Loffler.	Mar. 8, 1915	do.	Apr. 5, 1915	Apr. 23, 1915	Disapproved Apr. 23, 1915.	Apr. 27, 1915
46860	Green M. Choate (minor)	W. E. Watkins.	Feb. 2, 1915	do.	Apr. 28, 1915	Apr. 28, 1915	Disapproved Apr. 28, 1915.	Apr. 29, 1915

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82001	Dexarto Gibson.	Joseph F. Myers	May 12, 1915	July 24, 1915	July 27, 1915	Aug. 4, 1915	Approved Aug. 6, 1915.	Aug. 7, 1915
82001	Thos. Gibson.	do.	May 26, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
82001	Isove Gibson.	do.	May 29, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
82001	Dacey	do.	June 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
82012	Susan Philatka.	E. A. Ross.	Mar. 17, 1915	July 29, 1915	do.	July 29, 1915	Approved July 31, 1915.	Aug. 3, 1915
82012	Geo. William.	do.	Mar. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
82013	Sissy Kernells.	W. C. Nelson.	Feb. 25, 1915	July 22, 1915	do.	do.	Disapproved July 31, 1915.	Do.
83083	Petsy Harola.	Burke-Hoffield il Co.	Mar. 30, 1915	July 27, 1915	July 30, 1915	Aug. 3, 1915	Approved Aug. 5, 1915.	Aug. 6, 1915
83083	Louey Scott.	do.	May 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Yaney	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Faldot'a Wilson.	do.	Apr. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Ilba Fixico.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Mary	do.	Apr. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Molly	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Joe Bunnit.	do.	May 29, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Nancy Marshall.	do.	June 1, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83083	Eliza Tiger.	W. C. Elliott.	Apr. 12, 1915	July 28, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Approved Aug. 10, 1915.	Aug. 14, 1915
83965	John Long	C. A. Hunt and W. W. Wins- ton.	Dec. 7, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Aug. 12, 1915
83966	Nany Harjo.	Fred A. Chapman.	Jan. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83966	Casey Brown.	do.	Feb. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
83966	Eliza Daniel.	do.	Apr. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
84044	Wm. Frank.	New York il Co.	Apr. 17, 1914	July 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85476	Heirs Joe Davis.	Fred A. Chapman.	Mar. 18, 1915	July 28, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 18, 1915	Approved Aug. 19, 1915.	Aug. 19, 1915
85477	Peggy Gibson.	S. C. Redd.	May 4, 1915	July 31, 1915	do.	Aug. 10, 1915	Approved Aug. 12, 1915.	Aug. 13, 1915
85477	Eliza Beasley.	do.	Feb. 29, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85496	Fannie Jasley	M. Beard.	July 2, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Aug. 16, 1915
85502	Larry Mills.	Frank Barnes.	Jan. 22, 1915	July 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Aug. 13, 1915
85502	Willie Hany.	do.	Mar. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Aug. 13, 1915
85512	Winnie Pope (minor)	M. B. Leonard.	May 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85512	Ellen Campb'ell (minor).	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85516	Ella Little Harjo.	A. L. Funk	Feb. 5, 1915	July 31, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85516	Tous Beer.	do.	Feb. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85516	Sally tractor	do.	July 25, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85518	Heirs Wantay Davy	Chas. A. Ludey	May 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Aug. 12, 1915.	Do.
85519	Francis Johnson.	J. E. McCarty	May 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Aug. 12, 1915.	Do.
85976	Cena Killcrease.	B. F. White.	Feb. 8, 1915	Aug. 2, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	do.	do.	Aug. 13, 1915
85976	Eastman.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85976	Malfreau Immotichy	do.	Feb. 26, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85976	Bern V. Hampton.	do.	Mar. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
85976	Maudsey Williamson.	do.	Mar. 25, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.

86869	Maggie Berry.....	McDaniell & Urquhart.....	Apr. 12, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Approved Aug. 15, 1915.	Aug. 16, 1915
86870	Marsie Dickson.....	J. Paul Setty, Geo. F. Sety.....	May 22, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
95240	George Blackburn (minor).....	George Owe.....	Feb. 8, 1915	Aug. 24, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915	Oct. 8, 1915	Approved Oct. 8, 1915.	Oct. 9, 1915
95241	Hiram Johnson.....	J. E. McCarthy.....	July 8, 1915	Aug. 25, 1915	Sept. 7, 1915	Sept. 3, 1915	Approved Sept. 4, 1915.	Sept. 7, 1915
95241	Lizza Kelly.....	do	July 6, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
95241	Joe Kelly.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Hulder Deer.....	Marion Oil & Gas Co	Mar. 23, 1915	do	do	Sept. 2, 1915	do	do
95243	Meuter Baker.....	do	Mar. 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Sunday Harjo.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Kogell Fisher.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Joseph Canard.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Henry Buckley.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Billie Canard.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Dick Frei.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Polly Buokley.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Narhela Fife.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Jacob Cabbie.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Kentucky Wesley.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Winney Scott.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Ellen Deer.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
95243	Ira Simmons.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
75719	Helen May Tiger (minor).....	Joe Burns.....	May 20, 1915	Aug. 31, 1915	Sept. 7, 1915	Sept. 8, 1915	Approved Sept. 10, 1915.	Sept. 12, 1915
75719	Bryan Tiger.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
75719	Ada M. Tiger.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
75719	De Witt T. Tiger.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
96720	Alice Leader (minor).....	Donald P. Oak.....	do	do	do	do	do	do
96720	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
96721	Savra Flint.....	Wm. M. Ross, C. E. Ramorey.....	May 3, 1915	Sept. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do
96721	do	do	Apr. 19, 1915	Aug. 31, 1915	do	do	do	do
96722	Heirs Sarah Holden.....	E. O. Crawford and Geo. D. Roster.....	Aug. 18, 1915	Aug. 30, 1915	do	do	Disapproved Sept. 10, 1915.	do
96762	Patsye Tourtabbe.....	L. F. Crowell.....	Aug. 3, 1911	do	do	Sept. 9, 1915	do	do
96764	Jarunie Hawkins.....	Du Quesne Oil & Gas Co.	July 2, 1915	Aug. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do
96765	Ethel Folk (minor).....	Henry F. Wilcox.....	May 5, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Sept. 10, 1915.	do
96765	Naney (minor).....	do	Apr. 1, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
96765	Jackie (minor).....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
96765	Summer (unny).....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
96765	Henderson (minor).....	do	Feb. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
96765	Eliza Sarney.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
96882	Gilbert Gibson.....	E. T. McDowell.....	Feb. 1, 1915	Aug. 6, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Approved Aug. 13, 1915.	Aug. 16, 1915
97830	Tommy.....	E. I. Newblock.....	Feb. 4, 1915	Aug. 7, 1915	Aug. 12, 1915	Aug. 17, 1915	Approved Aug. 18, 1915.	Aug. 20, 1915
97830	do	do	Feb. 25, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
88896	Lydia Phillips (minor).....	Orange Oil Co.....	do	do	do	do	do	do
88896	Nara Frank.....	Hanis & Johnson.....	Dec. 8, 1914	Aug. 10, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915	do	Approved Aug. 17, 1915.	Aug. 19, 1915
90282	Lizae McIntosh.....	Thompson & Sittler.....	May 12, 1915	Aug. 11, 1915	Aug. 16, 1915	do	Disapproved Aug. 19, 1915.	do
90284	John Wats.....	Sam F. Wilkinson.....	June 4, 1915	Aug. 10, 1915	do	do	do	Aug. 20, 1915
90284	Kate Hawkins (minor).....	John S. Service.....	May 8, 1915	Aug. 13, 1915	Aug. 19, 1915	Aug. 23, 1915	Approved Aug. 25, 1915.	Aug. 26, 1915
90285	Washington Taylor.....	Republic Oil & Petroleum Co.	Mar. 8, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
90285	do	do	Dec. 3, 1914	Aug. 14, 1915	do	do	do	do
90285	Billie Harjo.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
90285	Rota Natokor.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	do

96817	Willie Yarnie	do	Apr. 22, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
96818	Elmer Johnson	Selby Oil & Gas Co.	June 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
96818	Esjess Edward	do	Aug. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
96818	Charley Guy Perry	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
96818	Alice Scott	do	July 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97082	Amos King	A. S. Guiley	June 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97082	Susie Harie	do	May 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97082	Sunday Hill	do	May 25, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97082	James Watcash	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
97083	Lucy Swaney	S. E. Bell	Apr. 14, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97083	Cobb, Jene	do	June 5, 1911	do	do	do	do	Do.
97083	Taylor Eli	do	June 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97090	Sallie Sewell	Wodir Barly	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
97135	Moses Gray	Fred A. Chapman	Sept. 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97135	Joseph Stockard	do	Aug. 31, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97135	Abraham Yahola	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
97150	Wallace Sau	J. W. Newcomb	Sept. 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97150	do	Caral Oil Co.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
97154	Willie Seely	Higgin Oil Fuel Co.	July 2, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97185	Car R. Johnson	E. I. Newblock	Aug. 29, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
97238	Oelhe A. Smith (minor)	State Line Oil & Gas Co.	Sept. 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97238	T ochie Caesar	E. I. Newblock and A. N. Applemar.	Sept. 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97238	do	do	Sept. 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
97947	Cessay Brow	Robt. L. Simpson	Jan. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
98056	Litche Coker	W. E. McKinney	Jan. 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
98883	George Factor	V. V. Harris and H. S. Johnson.	Nov. 19, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
98883	Cogee Factor	V. V. Harris and H. S. Johnson.	Nov. 19, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
98884	Wm. Beaver	E. R. Perry	Sept. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
98977	Hattie Jones	Joseph O'Grady	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
99186	Willie Vance (minor)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
99186	Eliza Renard (minor)	John Owen	Apr. 18, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
99187	Susan Perry	P. W. Truck, W. G. Enlos	June 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101194	Lucy Davis	W. E. Reynolds, S. T. Pichford.	Jan. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101195	Betsy Myer	Mike Mead, B. S. Wigton	Aug. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101196	E. Norrey Penn	A. L. Funk	Sept. 8, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101280	Peggie Bolya	A. B. Preston Straight	Sept. 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101281	Sarnu Wolf	Loa Oil Co.	Sept. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101281	Susan Yahola	do	Feb. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101282	Thomas Yahola	Jan. 8, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
101283	Thomas Halfmoon	W. C. Nelson	Jan. 4, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
101283	Freddie Halfmoon	M. J. Brice	May 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101283	Sarah Allen	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
101289	Janakto Larney	Frank Barnes	Apr. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101291	Adam Yata	do	Dec. 31, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101294	Mary Johnson	Roy M. Johnson	July 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101294	Joseph Yardy	T. D. Detson	July 29, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101294	do	A. A. Bierson and L. L. Bersion.	Sept. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101294	do	do	Sept. 8, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
101671	Joseph Wells.	C. M. MacMahon.	July 23, 1915	Sept. 13, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	Approved Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915
101671	John Barnette (minor)	do	Mar. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101671	Alice Barnette (minor)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
101672	Sissie Johnson.	V. D. Houston.	Mar. 24, 1915	Sept. 15, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
101673	Simpson Thompson (minor)	Wiley Lowrey.	June 11, 1915	Sept. 13, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
101673	Carrie Thompson	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
101673	Garbert Villy	do	Apr. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
101674	Zim Beaver.	James Bowen.	Apr. 8, 1915	Sept. 15, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
101237	Alfr Allen Sunwig.	Walter W. Morton.	Feb. 17, 1915	Sept. 17, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	do	do	Do.
101237	Walter Sunwig.	do	Feb. 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102446	Betsie Smith.	Ass. D. Morton.	May 18, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102446	Wisley Scott.	do	Apr. 29, 1911	do	do	do	do	Do.
102447	Villie Harrison.	The Akin Oil Co.	Aug. 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102447	Rhoda Tiger.	do	July 1, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104373	Melissa Hawkins.	Walter Henig.	Feb. 18, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104374	Joshua Cunny (minor)	J. L. Bruce.	Mar. 16, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Approved Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915
104374	Yarnash (minor)	do	Feb. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104374	Charley Harjo.	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
104375	Rossan Tate (minor)	James H. Wright.	May 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104375	Stella Tate.	do	Apr. 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104375	Charley McNac.	do	May 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103763	Katie Harjo.	S. W. Parish.	Mar. 1, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	Approved Oct. 1, 1915	Do.
103763	David Villy.	do	June 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103785	Louis Sourcok.	Orange Oil Co.	Apr. 28, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
104932	Jorney (minor)	H. G. Grimy.	Jan. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104932	Susie Blackwood.	Thos. R. Shaw.	July 8, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	Approved Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
104933	Dave Russell.	do	Apr. 2, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	do	do	Do.
104934	Lizzie Sartie.	do	July 22, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104934	Carchoo.	S. C. Redd.	July 6, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	do	do	Do.
104934	Joshua Browning	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
104934	Abbie Harjo.	do	May 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104934	Susan Cargo.	do	July 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104940	Isaac Walky (minor)	S. W. Land and A. E. Walker.	Jan. 14, 1915	Sept. 23, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	do	Approved Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915
104941	Billie Grant (minor)	R. J. Ketch.	Mar. 11, 1915	Sept. 24, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
104942	Hully Martha.	Royalty Oil Co.	Feb. 13, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	do	do	Disapproved Oct. 4, 1915	Do.
105075	Nancey Beaver, nee Diski.	A. Gruffy.	Mar. 23, 1915	Sept. 24, 1916	do	do	Approved Oct. 4, 1915	Do.
105126	Wm. McK. McNac.	Harry H. Roger.	Jan. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
105460	Hardy Yhola.	Cland Kayburne.	Dec. 16, 1914	Sept. 25, 1915	Sept. 30, 1915	do	Disapproved Oct. 4, 1915	Do.
105496	Geo. Riley.	do	May 4, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Oct. 4, 1915	Do.

105531	Arthur E. Postoak	O. R. Howard, C. E. Duff	June 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
105853	Taylor Field (minor)	Hanna Oil Co.	Mar. 9, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	do	do	do	Oct. 9, 1915
105854	Alice Hunter	Fred A. Lahn	Mar. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
105855	Lewi Washington	T. B. Wall and H. G. Fowler	June 15, 1915	Sept. 25, 1915	do	do	do	Oct. 12, 1915
105862	Winnie Burigton	Foxaway Oil Co.	June 11, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	do	do	do	Oct. 9, 1915
106870	Hugston Beaver	J. Paul Getty	Feb. 27, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
106876	Hugston Hill	do	Feb. 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
106876	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
106976	Salena Jim	G. W. Strawn	Aug. 11, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
106976	Thornis Jim	do	June 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102451	Frank Sevier	Fenton Gas Co.	Mar. 4, 1915	Sept. 16, 1915	do	do	do	Sept. 28, 1915
102451	Jesse La Swimme	do	Mar. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102452	Joe Larney (minor)	B. W. Franchot	Feb. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102452	E. Choille	do	Mar. 2, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102458	Sis Sam	T. H. Dunn	Apr. 30, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102458	Delia Cooper	do	Mar. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
102612	Cherry Wildcat	F. B. Jordan	Apr. 8, 1915	Sept. 10, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
102612	Mary Sam	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
102363	Wiley Grayson	A. J. Combes	Feb. 24, 1915	Sept. 17, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
102398	Jos. Ferryman	Earl T. Mueller and Walter Brown	Mar. 4, 1915	Sept. 18, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
102398	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
102621	Rufus Lucas	James E. Hogan Oil Co.	Apr. 16, 1915	Sept. 16, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
103199	Frank Bender	Republic Oil Products Co.	Dec. 9, 1914	Sept. 18, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
103200	Ida Vendor	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103200	Thompson Looney (minor)	N. V. Barnsdall	May 6, 1915	Sept. 27, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
103200	Betsey Looney	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103198	Louis Bender	Republic Oil & Petroleum Co.	Dec. 9, 1914	do	do	do	do	Do.
103246	Lucinda Fields	Jos. O'Grady	Apr. 16, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103246	Miles Fay	do	Mar. 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103248	Looney Sloan	R. J. Collins	Mar. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103249	Bessie Wilson (minor)	W. M. Black	Feb. 16, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Manie Curneh	Putaski Oil Co.	Aug. 9, 1915	Sept. 20, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Eliza Sewell	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Jessie Loany	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Martha Harjo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Chinel Yakola	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Susanna Louie	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Wm. Dear	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
103608	Toney Good	Sperry Oil & Gas Co.	Aug. 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103675	John Kag	do	June 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103677	Sallie Pruitt	Parafin Oil Co.	June 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
103677	Silla Mico	do	Feb. 15, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
104372	Jessie Grayson	Geo. P. Sullivan	Mar. 14, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
104784	Jaires Maraton	John L. Wisler	Mar. 9, 1915	Sept. 21, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
104573	Willie Harjo	Walter Heng	Feb. 16, 1915	Sept. 22, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
106977	Sincor Thorne	Fred C. Ryburn	Feb. 20, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
106978	Mahala Starr	Walter M. Strunkard and Charles Strunkard	Mar. 1, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for-warded to Indian Office.	Date re-ceived.	Date for-warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re-turned to Five Civil-ized Tribes.
106877	Louise Island (minor)	Chas. O. Laddy and J. E. Washington.	Apr. 19, 1915	Sept. 28, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 6, 1915	Approved Oct. 7, 1915	Oct. 9, 1915
106880	Amos Deer	Jacob Pliffler	Aug. 26, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	do	do	Approved Oct. 8, 1915	Do.
106880	Thompson Davis	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
106880	Sallie Rutwell	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
106880	Lina Davis	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
106880	Simbich...o Harjo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
106880	Charlie	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
106880	John Hulwa	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
106886	Edward Wheeler	A. F. Vandaventer	Dec. 14, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
106979	Pettie Horpe	Joe P. Cappsaver	Apr. 6, 1915	Sept. 29, 1915	Oct. 4, 1915	Oct. 7, 1915	do	Do.
106979	Miley Harjo	do	Apr. 21, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Oct. 7, 1915	Do.
106979	Miller Hill	do	Feb. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
106979	Ilba Fixico	do	Apr. 21, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107376	John Spaniard	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107377	Parnos' ex Cumsesh	Geo. Schmidt	Feb. 6, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107377	Peter Tiger	Marietta Oil Co.	Aug. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107377	Walle Gibbs	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107377	Wiley Harjo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107377	William	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107378	Lutie Collins (née Lewis)	McMann Oil Co.	Mar. 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107378	Lou La Flore (minor)	do	July 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107379	Nora Smith	do	Feb. 18, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107379	Escop Hully	H. G. Bernard	Aug. 30, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107380	Seaver Walker	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107380	Ina Harjo	Pulas' i Oil Co.	Aug. 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107381	Fran' Doris	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107381	Julia Lewis	Joseph F. Myers	July 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107381	Georgia John	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107381	Charley John	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107381	Sally John	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107381	Lena Lewis	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
107555	Liza Willis	L. E. Crowell	June 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
107558	Winey Wind	M. J. Sullivan	Sept. 7, 1915	Oct. 2, 1915	Oct. 5, 1915	do	do	Do.
107558	Joseph Wingo	do	Mar. 20, 1915	Oct. 1, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
110680	Rnabour Lewis	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
111281	Marlie Wolf	R. H. Shrewsbury	Sept. 7, 1915	Oct. 12, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915	Oct. 16, 1915	Approved Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 19, 1915
111549	Bennie Thomas	E. C. Robinson	Dec. 24, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915	do	do	do	Oct. 22, 1915
111686	Jennie Samuels	David M. Smith	May 20, 1915	Oct. 13, 1915	Oct. 18, 1915	Oct. 19, 1915	do	Do.
		F. D. McDowell and Chas. Began.	Jan. 5, 1915	Oct. 14, 1915	do	do	Approved Oct. 21, 1915	Do.
111697	George Fisher	Williams and Ainsworth	Aug. 30, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Oct. 21, 1915	Do.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued..

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date forwarded to Indian Office.	Date received.	Date forwarded to department.	Departmental action.	Date returned to Five Civilized Tribes.
114261	Martha Jones	Southwest Oil Co.	May 10, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915	Oct. 25, 1915	Oct. 27, 1915	Approved Oct. 28, 1915.	Oct. 29, 1915
114312	Jesse Birdcreek	Mildred Oil & Gas Co.	Aug. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Moses Birdcreek	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Timme Birdcreek	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Polly Stephenson.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Jackson Barrett.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Jennie Fife.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Selle Ashbury	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Melinda Fields	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Winey Barrett.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Mehoie Barrett.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Geo. J. Ashbury	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Susan Fife	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Sallie Canard	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Wm. Jarney	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Hannah Barnett.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Mariah Robinson	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Martha Tiger	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Pearlie Scott.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Cilla Hill.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	David Barrett.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Lassana Lewis.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Geo. Barney Turner.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Holmes Robison.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Bert. Robison.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Melviney Ditzler.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Dick Erer	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Phoebe Wind	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Simon Fields.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	John Tiner.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114312	Nellie Barnett.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
114798	David Shell (minor)	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978	Albert P. Stewart.	John H. Markham, jr. Texas-Oklahoma Petroleum Co.	Aug. 5, 1915	Oct. 22, 1915	Oct. 26, 1915	Oct. 28, 1915	Disapproved Oct. 29, 1915.	Nov. 1, 1915
115978	Minnie Manahwee.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978	Peggie Davis.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978	Rachael Gost.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978	Bettie Logan.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978	Sallie Letka.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978	Kizzie Green.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978	Lacy Tiger.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
115978							Approved Nov. 3, 1915.	Nov. 4, 1915

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
120151	Ollie Bunner	C. O. Ross	Aug. 20, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Approved Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915
120151	Sam Little	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
120151	Fernie Bunner	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
120151	Hannah Harjo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
120151	Willie Harjo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
120168	Lessa Bigpond	E. M. Arnold	Oct. 7, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
120168	Roller Harjo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
120168	Sallia Atkins	do	Oct. 15, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
120169	Gilbert W. Thompson	E. H. Sheets	Aug. 23, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
120169	Ellis W. Thompson	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
120169	Isabel Thompson	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
120170	Soquer	Wood & Lang	Oct. 13, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	do	do	Disapproved Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915
120201	Rada Johnson	S. J. Smith	Aug. 21, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	do	do	Approved Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915
120201	Jane Grayson	do	Sept. 14, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
120201	Susie Fife	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
121001	Louisa Pickett	Linberg, Fitzgerald & Mont- gomery	May 24, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Approved Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
121002	Lucinda Billy	Cochran & Armsworth	Sept. 1, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
121004	Samarra Barnett	B. J. Sebell	Aug. 23, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
121011	Samuel Fry	L. G. Disney	Sept. 3, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
121011	Mattie Fishabee	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
121012	Wm. P. Downing	Tip Top Oil Co.	Sept. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
121012	Brd Gritts	do	Sept. 15, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
121012	Cloud Beaver	do	Sept. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
121013	Eliza J. Secondine	Wahala Oil & Mining Co.	Aug. 31, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
121013	Ida Plicher	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
121014	Anna Bendan	do	Aug. 23, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
121015	Pheney Bolegs	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
121015	Lena Hooper	do	Sept. 18, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
121015	Edmond Fry	John Alexander	Sept. 23, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
121017	Joanna McGirt	Wart Phillip	Oct. 8, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
121070	Philip Marshall	Frank L. Warren	Sept. 13, 1915	Nov. 4, 1915	do	do	Approved Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
121098	Joseph T. Foreman	Maxwell, Grimm, McCut- cheon & Patchen	Aug. 26, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
121099	Nancy Riddle	Ada B. Notrage	July 2, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	do	do	Approved Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
121100	Wm. M. Israel	B. F. Cochran	July 11, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	do	do	Disapproved Nov. 17, 1915	Do.
121100	do	do	July 17, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Nov. 17, 1915	Do.
121113	Hattie Factor	M. E. Brinsan	Aug. 19, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	do	do	Approved Nov. 16, 1915	Do.
121113	Fabin Beas	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
121113	Fabin Beas	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
121121	Fraser Lewis	M. Board	Aug. 18, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
121121	do	do	Sept. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.

121121	Leda Manley	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121121	Levina Frank	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121121	Louis Mitchell	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121121	Lumber Billy	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121121	Martha Balcher	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121121	Zim Ashbury	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121123	Rebecca J. Foreman	Maxwell, Grimm, & Patchen	Aug. 26, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
121123	John S. Foreman	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121126	Henry Norton	Wm. J. Scott	Sept. 8, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
12142	Benjamin Lewis	M. Board	Sept. 27, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915
12142	Samuel Francis	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12142	Roley Francis	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121150	Willie C. Samuel	Eugene Cox	Sept. 29, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915
121150	Mary Cusher	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121150	Elias Cusher	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121170	Markary E. Martha	Chas. E. Staecher	Aug. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121173	Aggie Lindsey	Lawrence Gas Co.	Dec. 11, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Nov. 18, 1915
121173	Louisa Bendon	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121173	Ida Bendon	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121173	Billy Baker	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121173	Inez W. Baker	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121173	Terry Walker	do.	Dec. 26, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121173	Lydia Bruner	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121183	Daniel W. Tyner	Toxaway Oil Co.	Aug. 31, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121187	Ishtitche Harjo	Geo. W. MacMullen	Sept. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 17, 1915	Do.
121187	Hepsy Washington	do.	Sept. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121187	Tetahke	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121187	Alex Harjo	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121187	Lame	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121187	Seley Harjo	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121187	Posta Morgan	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
121211	Samuel Perry	J. Elbert Sanders	Aug. 23, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Approved Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
121573	Lizze Bught	F. M. Arnold	Oct. 30, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Approved Nov. 19, 1915	Do.
122335	Tizzy James	Wiley N. Lowroy	Sept. 18, 1915	Nov. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122337	David Mans	C. B. Johnson	May 28, 1915	Nov. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122341	John Stidman	Big Fifty Oil Co.	Apr. 30, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915
122342	David Proctor	Robert Fry	Sept. 12, 1915	Nov. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 19, 1915	Do.
122343	Sam Bosen	Herman Livingston	Aug. 10, 1915	Nov. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122344	Eliza Puurka	T. B. Felix	Aug. 9, 1915	Nov. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915
122345	Loume Lame	Hugh King, Jr.	Aug. 27, 1915	Nov. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122345	Anna Brooks	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122334	Geo. Cochran	H. H. Makemson	Sept. 15, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122334	Alex Sam	do.	Sept. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122336	David Lewis	Ike Johnson	May 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122340	Ella Swimmer	R. E. Fenton	Sept. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122340	Job Alexander	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122340	Lewis Arne	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122340	Rebecca Bunch	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122340	Russell Cochrum	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
122340	Katuis Rame	do.	Sept. 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.

† Mineral leases.

123113	Annie Tiger	Jacob Pfeiffer	Aug. 26, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915
123114	Wm. Fox	Straughan & Sodergren	Mar. 29, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
123115	Mandy	John W. Gilliland	Aug. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
123116	Bunner	C. O. Ross	Aug. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
123117	Butler Baker	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
123995	Peggy Fixco	Marine Oil & Gas Co.	Sept. 17, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915
123995	Kentucky Wesley	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
123995	Jessie Birdcreek	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
123995	Mehine Barnett	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
123995	Bertha Fisher	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124077	Holly Tiger	McDonald & Meeks	Aug. 24, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
124078	Mabel Nelson	National Oil & Development Co.	Feb. 24, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
124078	Geo. Smith	do	May 8, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
124078	Sampson Bond	do	Sept. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
124078	Alexander Skelton	do	Sept. 29, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
124079	Sam Chisoe, Jr.	John H. Markham, Jr.	May 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
124079	Abley McHenry	do	June 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
124080	Lela Long	Mildred Oil & Gas Co.	Aug. 20, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	do	do	Do.
124081	Hornes Walton	W. G. Shelly	Mar. 12, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	do	do	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915
124086	Mary Semler Field	C. L. McMahan	Aug. 24, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	do	do	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
124087	Lizzie Greenwood	W. N. Sill	July 15, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Nov. 29, 1915	Do.
124088	Ben Grayson	C. M. Roberts	Oct. 19, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Nov. 29, 1915	Do.
124089	Thos. Yarbrough	Miller & Brown	Aug. 27, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	do	do	Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915
124089	Lizzie	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124090	Amos Rabbit	John W. Gilliland	Sept. 7, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	do	do	Approved Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
124091	Jeff Strumons	Leland Oil & Gas Co.	Aug. 16, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	do	do	Approved Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915
124092	Archie Bruner	A. S. Goffey	Aug. 24, 1915	do	do	Nov. 23, 1915	Approved Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
124092	Minnie Bruner	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124093	Mary Saunders	Henn Oil Co.	June 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
124093	Lacy Thindell	B. L. Shobe	Aug. 2, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	do	do	Approved Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915
124097	John Sarcotte	Lemanda Oil Co.	Aug. 30, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	do	do	Disapproved Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
124098	Thos. Wilson	E. N. Gilliespie	July 29, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
124099	Ramsey Oil Co.	Ramsey Oil Co.	Sept. 22, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
124100	Wesley Johnson	Jo. P. Cappelau Sons	Sept. 4, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
124109	Nancy Bearhead	V. D. Houston	Aug. 18, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
124244	Knaustaway Land	F. B. Ufer	Sept. 22, 1914	Nov. 16, 1915	do	Nov. 22, 1915	do	Dec. 3, 1915
124244	John Hawkins	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124244	Dave Scullawl	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124244	Caroline Scullawl	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124248	Maggie Coker	Marretta Oil Co.	Sept. 10, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Nov. 24, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915
124248	Willie Bemo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124248	Molly Anna Harjo	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
124292	Walter Lee Cochran	G. B. Eldridge	Mar. 2, 1915	do	do	Nov. 23, 1915	Approved Nov. 29, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915
124293	Lacy Scott	Mildred Oil & Gas Co.	Aug. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
124293	Fannie Ann Ditzler	do	Oct. 1, 1915	do	do	Nov. 22, 1915	do	Do.
124293	Ellis Reynolds	Northwestern Oil & Gas Co.	Jan. 13, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Nov. 29, 1915	Do.
124295	do	do	Feb. 2, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.

1 For further report.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date forwarded to Indian Office.	Date received.	Date forwarded to department.	Departmental action.	Date returned to Five Civilized Tribes.
124295	Mary Bruner.....	Northwestern Oil & Gas Co.	Feb. 27, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Disapproved Nov. 29, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915
124319	Mary Pinehill.....	Pulaski Oil Co.	Sept. 17, 1915	Nov. 13, 1915	do.	Nov. 23, 1915	Approved Nov. 29, 1915.	Do.
124322	John Harjo.....	Orange Oil Co.	Aug. 10, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
124945	Eliza Gray.....	Marreta Oil Co.	Sept. 7, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	do.	Do.
124946	Elizabeth Morris.....	H. U. Bartlett.....	June 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
124947	Frank Robinson.....	G. R. McGranahan.....	June 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
124948	Ladie Bear.....	L. R. Ebling.....	Aug. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
124948	Egile.....	do.	Sept. 1, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
124949	Oully Yargee.....	W. R. Miller.....	Sept. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
124850	Esther Sapopla.....	Geo. H. Mauster.....	Aug. 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125043	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125295	Nancy Fiard.....	Medlen & Medlen.....	Oct. 13, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915	Approved Dec. 21, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915
125296	David McIntosh.....	Seth Eil.....	June 15, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Approved Dec. 2, 1915.	Dec. 22, 1915
125297	Widow J. Eassey.....	L. R. Ebling.....	Oct. 1, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 4, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
125298	Alice Futrell.....	P. M. Buckley.....	Oct. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 29, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915
125299	Lizzie Harjo.....	W. E. McKinsey.....	do.	Nov. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Nov. 30, 1915
125396	John Chuchlate.....	Winona Oil Co.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125337	Jessie Bruner.....	Southwestern Oil Co.	Sept. 14, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	do.	Disapproved Dec. 2, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
125338	Annie Sawney.....	do.	Mar. 26, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 29, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915
125338	Columbus Springwater.....	John Wisener.....	Oct. 22, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 3, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
125342	Maneuba Francis.....	M. Beard.....	Oct. 15, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	do.	Nov. 20, 1915	Approved Nov. 29, 1915.	Nov. 30, 1915
125343	Bilbie Harjo.....	John W. Gilliland.....	Aug. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Nov. 29, 1915.	Do.
125343	Chayburn Pickets.....	Ed Raydure.....	Oct. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 29, 1915.	Do.
125346	Sam Jones.....	Tip Top Oil Co.....	Sept. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125348	Sam'l W. Brown.....	J. B. Brown.....	Oct. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125348	Henry Long.....	Geo. G. Moore.....	Oct. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125350	Geo. Buchley.....	Warte Philp.....	Oct. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125351	Sarwike Arch.....	Akin Oil Co.....	Oct. 6, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125352	Sam Kelly.....	Kingwood Oil Co.....	Aug. 13, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	do.	Nov. 27, 1915	Approved Dec. 4, 1915.	Dec. 6, 1915
125352	Joseph Johnson.....	do.	Oct. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125352	Josley Tiger.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125356	Tommy Larney.....	Pulachi Oil Co.....	Aug. 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125374	Millsey Harjo.....	John H. Markham, Jr.....	Feb. 20, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 3, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
125623	Jim Colbert.....	W. R. Ramsey.....	June 28, 1915	Nov. 18, 1915	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 29, 1915.	Dec. 30, 1915
125623	Jessie Hale.....	do.	Aug. 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125623	Watty Fuxico.....	M. E. Brinson.....	Aug. 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125675	Judy.....	do.	Aug. 21, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
125676	Birdie Wolf.....	Waite Phillips.....	Oct. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 3, 1915.	Do.
125827	Astie Beavers.....	James Boneh.....	Oct. 12, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 2, 1915.	Do.
125828	Tom Savier.....	Fortuna Oil Co.....	Oct. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Nov. 23, 1915.	Do.
125828	Louis Hawkins.....	do.	Oct. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Nov. 30, 1915

128651	Simma.	Arthur A. Stabt.	Aug. 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 3, 1915
128652	Hepsay Little.	C. O. Ross.	Aug. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128653	John Mose.	E. D. Ransd.	Aug. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128654	Wetley.	Veran V. Harris.	Sept. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128655	Nelson Simpson.	Tip Top Oil Co.	Sept. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128656	Melisse Byrd.	E. M. Arnold.	Nov. 1, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 3, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
128656	Rosa L. Dallas.	do.	Nov. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128656	Fred A. Goodraveler.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128656	Cora M. Byron.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128674	Roman Sarty.	T. S. Loffland.	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 15, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Approved Nov. 30, 1915.	Dec. 1, 1915
128674	Erlie Sarty.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128674	John Chisholm.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128674	Susanna Baudnot.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128674	Army Tiger.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128674	Diek Brown.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128675	Hertz Susannah Kelley.	Brown & Brady.	July 24, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 4, 1915	Approved Dec. 6, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915
128558	Lizzie Rosin.	John Wisemer.	Oct. 22, 1915	Nov. 17, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Approved Dec. 3, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
128558	Eliza Lacy.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128558	Annie Byers.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128558	Katie Springswaker.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128426	Kirzie Bird.	Joe Burns.	Oct. 26, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Approved Nov. 30, 1915.	Dec. 1, 1915
128427	Jack Lewis.	Theodore Cox.	Sept. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128427	Lucy Harjo.	R. E. Fuller.	Oct. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128484	Jim Carter.	H. G. Barnard.	Aug. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128485	Sandy Harjo.	Wood & Lang.	Aug. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128485	Mandie Harjo.	do.	Nov. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128486	Win. Harjo.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128487	Nettie Cole.	John V. McDonald.	Sept. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128488	Geo. Washington Latta.	S. T. Mallory.	July 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128488	Hets Rena Gardnet.	M. B. Leonard.	Mar. 26, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
128654	Cherokee Wesley.	Ira F. Rolls.	Aug. 12, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	do.	Do.
128655	David Abaisse.	Miller & Newblock.	Oct. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128656	Effie Scott.	Mildred O. & Gas Co.	Sept. 28, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 3, 1915
128657	Nancy Fisher.	do.	Sept. 13, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128657	Harper Gwens.	A. S. Guffey.	Sept. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128671	Annie Thompson.	Winona Oil Co.	Sept. 8, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128671	French Vann.	do.	Sept. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
128671	Lizzie Stover.	do.	Oct. 9, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
127033	Lennetta Mannahl.	Owoker Oil & Gas Co.	Oct. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
127102	Bettie Francis.	R. J. Koch.	Mar. 27, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	do.	Dec. 3, 1915	Approved Dec. 6, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915
127103	Stephen C. Bell.	Wolverine Oil Co.	Oct. 22, 1915	do.	do.	Nov. 30, 1915	Approved Dec. 3, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
127103	Jennie Bell.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 8, 1915
138516	Bob Long.	Geo. C. Moore.	Dec. 23, 1915	Dec. 30, 1915	Dec. 30, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	Approved Jan. 8, 1916.	Jan. 10, 1916
127104	Edmond P. Willis.	Kirkpatrick & Martin.	Oct. 16, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Approved Dec. 3, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
127107	Ida Bonden.	Lawrence Gas Co.	Dec. 11, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
127108	Adaline Johnson.	Hager, Moore, Owen and Mays	Aug. 28, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Approved Dec. 3, 1915.	Dec. 3, 1915
124317	Melissa Johnson.	E. M. Arnold.	Aug. 13, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
124317	Rider Cheneweew.	do.	Aug. 18, 1915	Nov. 16, 1915	Nov. 19, 1915	Nov. 22, 1915	Approved Nov. 24, 1915.	Nov. 27, 1915

¹ Returned for correction.

² Tank-site lease.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office in Five Civilized Tribes.	Date forwarded to Indian Office.	Date received.	Date forwarded to department.	Departmental action.	Date returned to Five Civilized Tribes.
127486	Taylor Chissee.	S. C. Redd.	Oct. 20, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	Nov. 29, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	Approved Dec. 6, 1915.	Dec. 7, 1915
127486	Austin Chissee.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
127487	Harpoose Caesar.	Weonua Oil Co.	Mar. 22, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127487	Cynthia Harjo.	do	Oct. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127492	Stella Sandy.	Jewell Oil Co.	Oct. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127518	Chasey.	Vernon V. Hanis.	Aug. 27, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do
127518	Edmond.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
127518	Watty A. Palmer.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
127519	Geo. Morris.	John L. Mismet.	Oct. 28, 1915	Nov. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do
127519	Mary Morris.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
127538	Guy Smith.	Jo. P. Cappeau Sons.	Dec. 4, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do
127538	Willie Harjo.	Seth Ell.	Oct. 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127689	Jonas Swannock.	American Oil & Gas Co.	Apr. 30, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127689	Shawnee McNack.	S. J. Smith.	Aug. 21, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	do	do	do	Dec. 1
127697	Joe Glory.	Bliss & Hunt.	Oct. 14, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127718	Miller Bruner.	Martimer & McBride.	July 3, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do
127719	Larty Fields.	E. G. Barnard.	Mar. 6, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127720	Winsey Corley.	John H. Markham, Jr.	July 17, 1915	Nov. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do
127721	Kissie Yargee.	John W. Gilliland.	Aug. 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127722	Mattie Collins.	A. S. Gurfy.	Sept. 8, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127723	Bunny Long.	Ball & Ross.	Aug. 14, 1915	Nov. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do
127776	Geo. Bahe.	A. F. Goffy.	Oct. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
127960	Thos. Beaver.	W. B. Pine and Kingwood Oil Co.	Mar. 29, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915	Disapproved Dec. 1, 1915.	Dec. 2, 1915
127960	Jas. Beaver.	Kingwood Oil Co.	Nov. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
128070	Hally Davis.	E. M. Arnold.	Nov. 6, 1915	do	do	do	do	Dec. 10, 1915
128071	Sally Lolas.	Lawrence Gas Co.	Sept. 10, 1915	Nov. 27, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Approved Dec. 8, 1915.	do
128071	Jennie Sander.	J. R. Scott.	Nov. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
128073	Susan Connohatabley.	Hanna Oil Co.	Nov. 10, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
128073	Stone Wesley.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128074	Susan Connohatabley.	T. S. Loffland.	Nov. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
128074	Fenne Wesley.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Lillie Factor.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Willie Carnall.	Texas-Oklahoma Petroleum Co.	Aug. 2, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Walter Deer.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Sussie Marshall.	do	Aug. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Barney Tiger.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Alman Goat.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Harriet Gosnell.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Harriet Gosnell.	do	do	do	do	do	do	do
128204	Thashtochee Harjo.	do	Aug. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	do

129403	Peter Hanison	Jacob Pfeiffer	Aug. 26, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	do.	do.	Do.
129403	Parnosky Holatka	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129403	Lena Harrison	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129403	Peter Wallow	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129403	Leister Reed	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129403	Foikel	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129521	Janey Miller	Roma Oil Co.	June 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129521	Josanna Brown	do	June 2, 1915	do	do	Dec. 7, 1915	Approved Dec. 9, 1915	Do.
129521	Dma Der Granberry	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Ellaise Mason	Wm. H. Walker	June 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Palmer S. Massey	do	Feb. 26, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Dec. 9, 1915	Do.
129522	Nannie P. Smith	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Garnett F. Mosley	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Flora Worcester	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Wm. H. Mosley	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Rutus James	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Cable Thabledege	Toxaway Oil Co.	Mar. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129522	Walter Payton	do	Apr. 18, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129551	Mabel Walker	Wart Franklin	Feb. 18, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	Dec. 7, 1915	Approved Dec. 9, 1915	Do. ¹
129552	Silas Nelson	Anna G. Evans	Aug. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129553	Mack D. Lewis	J. M. Miller	Sept. 10, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129554	Cinda Charty	S. E. Reil	July 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129554	Chloar	Weyonna Oil Co.	Mar. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129554	Futchshoke	do	Aug. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129554	Rose Grayson Winec	do	Aug. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129584	do	do	Oct. 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129584	do	do	Oct. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129584	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129585	Minnie Noble	Moster & Cromwell	Oct. 20, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 27, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916	Approved Jan. 4, 1916	Do.
129585	Annie Chissoe	S. C. Redd	do	do	do	Dec. 7, 1915	Approved Dec. 9, 1915	Do.
129586	Jennie Josie	Fortuna Oil Co.	Oct. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129587	Melissa Tiger	J. W. Henry	Aug. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129587	Resubmitfed.	do	Aug. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129588	March E. Bear	Artosoa Oil Co.	June 9, 1915	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	Approved Dec. 8, 1915	Do.
129589	Nokuslie	Cudahy Oil Co.	Apr. 23, 1915	Nov. 26, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	do	do	Do.
129589	Liley McMullen	do	Apr. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129589	Winey Larney	do	May 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129749	Malissa Marius	National Oil & Developing Co.	Feb. 24, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	do	do	do	Do.
129749	Kolisten Anna	do	June 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129749	Allen Band	do	Oct. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129749	Soney Sucky	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129749	Moses Band	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129750	Dacey Hicks	Kingwood Oil Co.	Nov. 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129750	Bella Watson	do	Aug. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129768	Pusler Butler	Roxana Petroleum Co.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129768	Miley Lang	do	Sept. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129768	Louis Hawkins	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
129768	James Scott	do	Oct. 21, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129768	Lena Sevier	do	Sept. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
129768	Nero Jack	do	Sept. 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.

² Returned for correction.

³ See 20006-16.

¹ Striptulation.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
129776	Sofia Jones.....	Bailey & McDonnell.....	Nov. 6, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	Dec. 7, 1915	Approved Dec. 10, 1915.	Dec. 11, 1915
129776	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
129777	Willie Spain, Jr.....	M. B. Leonard.....	Nov. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 9, 1915.	Dec. 10, 1915
129777	Dandy.....	John W. Gilliland.....	Aug. 13, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 10, 1915.	Dec. 11, 1915
129814	Lennie Buck.....	Fortuma Oil Co.....	Oct. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 8, 1915.	Dec. 10, 1915
129846	Susanna Tigner.....	L. R. Ebbing.....	Sept. 29, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
129945	Hetty Factor.....	L. P. Wilson.....	Sept. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 9, 1915.	Dec. 27, 1915
129975	Hattie Torfer.....	V. D. Houston.....	Mar. 24, 1915	do.	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 23, 1915	Approved Dec. 23, 1915.	Dec. 13, 1915
130084	Nancy Williams.....	Robt. G. David.....	Aug. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 13, 1915
130085	Liffie Wilkins.....	Begley & Barlow.....	Aug. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 11, 1915.	Do.
130086	Victoria A. Fint.....	Sam Morrison.....	June 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130087	Susan McClish.....	F. M. Adams.....	June 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 10, 1915.	Dec. 11, 1915
130088	Daniel Woodard.....	Consumers Gas Co.....	Sept. 25, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 13, 1915
130089	Louis Jacobs.....	Vernon V. Harris.....	Aug. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130127	Fannie Sorwanakee.....	A. G. Guffy.....	Oct. 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 11, 1915.	Do.
130128	Richard O. Robinson.....	Ray M. Johnson.....	Nov. 4, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130129	Lena Himneha.....	Seth Ell.....	Aug. 5, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130130	Bessie Harjo.....	A. S. Guffy.....	Oct. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130131	Sandy Larney.....	S. C. Reed.....	Nov. 9, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130132	Jennie Davis.....	R. J. Koch.....	Nov. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 10, 1915.	Dec. 11, 1915
130135	Sind Tulsa.....	John G. Ellinghausen.....	June 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130137	Demie Dawning.....	Waite Phillips.....	Oct. 8, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130137	Resubmitted.....	Mason & Overlees.....	Sept. 29, 1915	Nov. 5, 1915	Nov. 9, 1915	do.	Approved Dec. 10, 1915.	Nov. 13, 1915
130183	Charley McDermott.....	Maretta Oil Co.....	Mar. 10, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	do.	Dec. 11, 1915
130180	James Scott.....	Frank L. Warren.....	Oct. 23, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	do.	Dec. 8, 1915	do.	Do.
130192	Farmosa.....	S. A. Apple.....	Sept. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130193	Philip.....	O. A. Nation.....	Aug. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 13, 1915
130867	Lona Givlis.....	Gay & Owens.....	Oct. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 11, 1915.	Do.
130868	Willie Cassar.....	O. H. Chapman.....	Oct. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130968	Susia Law.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130968	Hattie Sulphur.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130969	Geo. Adams.....	Vierson & Sessions.....	Nov. 4, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130970	Deo. Fish.....	M. B. Leonard.....	Nov. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130442	Solomon Lewis.....	National Oil & Develop- ment Co.	Oct. 27, 1915	Nov. 30, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915	Approved Dec. 11, 1915.	Dec. 13, 1915
130442	James Johnson.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130442	Sampson Bond.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
130542	William N. Gantabi.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 11, 1915.	Do.
130522	Whitmanee.....	Southwest Oil Co.....	July 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 13, 1915.	Dec. 13, 1915
131487	Remmah Noble.....	Oakland Oil Co.....	Aug. 25, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	Dec. 11, 1915	Approved Dec. 13, 1915.	Dec. 13, 1915

131572	Thloppie Tiger.	Hannah Oil Co.	Nov. 10, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 13, 1915	Do.
131576	Charley Kay.	W. R. Ramsey.	Aug. 28, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 13, 1915	Do.
131577	Heirs of Pompey Barnett.	Arnold & Ireland.	Sept. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 13, 1915	Do.
131596	Sunny Fuxico.	T. S. Loffland.	Nov. 11, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 13, 1915	Do.
131598	Thloppie Tiger.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 13, 1915	Do.
131606	Elba Tindie.	F. M. Arnold.	Nov. 19, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 10, 1915	Approved Dec. 11, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915
131628	Joseph Ahaise.	H. C. Miller.	Oct. 6, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 11, 1915	Approved Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915
131630	Heirs Ben Long.	M. E. Brunson.	Aug. 19, 1915	Dec. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132011	Freeda Harjo.	McMann Oil Co.	Aug. 12, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132603	Standon Little.	Gayer & Owens.	Nov. 9, 1915	Dec. 4, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	do.	Approved Dec. 14, 1915	Do.
132604	Huey Elmer Bird.	Echo Oil Co.	Aug. 27, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	do.	Approved Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
132605	Sissie Hackey.	Geo. W. B. Fletcher.	Aug. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
132607	Julias Durant.	Manford Oil & Gas.	Nov. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 18, 1915	Do.
132607	Jesse Vaughn (minor).	Ray M. Johnson.	Oct. 2, 1915	Dec. 9, 1915	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
132610	Dale sah con (a ney Brown)	do.	Oct. 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132611	Lucinda Davis.	Chas. A. Lawton.	July 12, 1915	Dec. 3, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Jan. 22, 1916	Approved Jan. 25, 1916	Jan. 26, 1916
132640	Foxey Redd.	Marcell Pfeiffer.	Aug. 26, 1915	Dec. 1, 1915	do.	Dec. 16, 1915	Approved Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
132641	Wallace Garney.	Marretta Oil Co.	July 31, 1915	Dec. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132646	Waddie Gibbs.	D. Raplogle.	May 29, 1915	do.	do.	Jan. 22, 1916	Approved Jan. 25, 1916	Jan. 27, 1916
132642	Sunny Fuxico.	Southwest Oil Co.	Nov. 5, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 16, 1915	Approved Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915
132643	Hepsy Bear.	Hanna Oil Co.	Sept. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132643	Jennie Frank.	Chas. J. Baugh.	Sept. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132643	Emma Backney.	do.	Oct. 4, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132643	Jack Gouge.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132643	Ernest Gouge.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132644	Wm. Shawnee.	Bartmess Harlan.	Sept. 28, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 21, 1915	Approved Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 22, 1915
132645	Sam Horn.	Glayds Belle Oil Co.	Oct. 19, 1915	do.	do.	Dec. 16, 1915	do.	Dec. 21, 1915
132925	Dave Plokenus.	Lestey Coombs.	Sept. 20, 1915	Dec. 6, 1915	Dec. 13, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Approved Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 20, 1915
132925	Thos. Pratt.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Jonas Nelson.	do.	Sept. 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Solomon Battiest.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Dave Yola.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Sammy Courtney.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Alvie Griffin.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Calvin Brown.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Jim Wallace.	do.	Oct. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Alice Wallford.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Rosie Wallford.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Simon Tom.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Thos. McCurtain.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Eula Carter.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Tom Wallace.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Edgar Fulton.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
132925	Annie Pickens.	do.	Sept. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 18, 1915	Do.
132925	do.	do.	Oct. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 18, 1915	Do.
132925	Simon Kell, Jr.	do.	Sept. 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 18, 1915	Do.
132925	do.	do.	Oct. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 18, 1915	Do.

1 Returned for correction.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date forwarded to Indian Office.	Date received.	Date forwarded to department.	Departmental action.	Date returned to Five Civilized Tribes.
13154	Racheal Bigpard.	Thos. C. Kelly.	Nov. 15, 1915	Dec. 11, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Approved Dec. 20, 1915.	Dec. 21, 1915
13155	Asa Behen.	G. I. Van Dali.	Nov. 4, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 18, 1915.	Dec. 20, 1915
13156	Pewten Goug.	Creek Oil Co.	Oct. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13157	Amy Walker.	Selby Oil & Gas Co.	Nov. 13, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 20, 1915.	Dec. 21, 1915
13158	Thos. McLemare.	M. J. Lynch.	Nov. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 18, 1915.	Dec. 20, 1915
13158	Thos. McLemare.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13160	Matie Deer.	Sperry Oil & Gas Co.	Nov. 3, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13160	Stella Sandy.	do.	Dec. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13161	Minnie Barnett.	B. F. Phillips.	June 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 18, 1915.	Do.
13163	Lula Deer (minor).	John V. McDonnald.	Oct. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 18, 1915.	Do.
13164	Galvoo Casar.	S. J. Smith.	Aug. 21, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Dec. 20, 1915.	Dec. 21, 1915
13164	Melch Deer.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13165	Thos. McKellop.	T. S. Loffland.	Nov. 11, 1915	Dec. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13166	James Beaver.	James E. Whiteside.	May 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13167	James Kingsher.	Degan & Van Time.	Nov. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13197	Kendall Roberts.	Wart Phillips.	Oct. 8, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13229	Minnie Watts.	R. J. Held.	Aug. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13230	Polly Step.	Hayward Hayden.	Aug. 9, 1915	Dec. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13425	Geo. Fish.	C. E. Johnson.	Nov. 11, 1915	Dec. 11, 1915	Dec. 17, 1915	Dec. 16, 1915	Approved Dec. 20, 1915.	Dec. 21, 1915
13426	James Sanders.	Kanola Oil Co.	Nov. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13427	Bettie Thomas.	Chamute Refinery Co.	Aug. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13427	Katie Goat.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13427	Lucinda Brown.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13427	Melochie Birdhead.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13427	Nellie Procton.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13484	Jaekson Taylor.	S. F. Bell.	Nov. 15, 1915	do.	Dec. 18, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915	Approved Dec. 23, 1915.	Dec. 27, 1915
13484	Polly Thornton.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13485	Eliza Davis.	Hannah Oil Co.	Nov. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13485	Leah Francis.	John R. Whayne.	Sept. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Dec. 27, 1915.	Dec. 28, 1915
13493	Lizzie Francis.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13493	Mary Francis.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13493	Thomas Francis.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13493	Mitchell Francis.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13493	Lena Francis.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13493	Lena Francis.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13497	Robt. W. McCurtain.	Simon Westheimer.	June 12, 1915	Dec. 14, 1915	do.	Dec. 22, 1915	Disapproved Dec. 27, 1915.	Do.
13497	Fyke McCurtain.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13497	James Cotton McCurtain.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13503	Wilson.	F. H. Wilcox.	Feb. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13501	Crawford Murrell.	Grant C. Strebbins.	Mar. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13501	Geo. Bemo.	F. H. Wilcox.	Mar. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13501	Lauda Druck.	John T. Wisener.	Nov. 22, 1915	Dec. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13501	Lauda Druck.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Dec. 21, 1915	Approved Dec. 23, 1915.	Dec. 27, 1915

135040	Leah Wallace	E. J. Raydure	Oct. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135044	Fushonke Fixico	Mary Francis Oil & Gas Co	Jan. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135065	Wm. Hicks	Somerset Pet. Co.	Mar. 1, 1915	do	do	Dec. 22, 1915	Disapproved	Dec. 27, 1915.	Dec. 28, 1915
135065	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135151	Anna Thompson	Orange Oil Co.	Nov. 17, 1915	do	Dec. 20, 1915	do	do	do	Dec. 27, 1915
135468	Cordelia Tyler	Eastern Oil Co.	Aug. 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Dec. 28, 1915
135468	Lizzie West	do	Nov. 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135469	Amos Lucas	Fortuna Oil Co.	Oct. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135417	Fredie A. Wagon	L. R. Fehling	Sept. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135471	Sama Lestley	do	Nov. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135472	Chas. Illetwahke	Chas. W. Bliss	Dec. 15, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135473	do	Selby Oil & Gas Co.	Nov. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135473	Chas. Robinson	do	Nov. 12, 1915	do	Dec. 20, 1915	Dec. 21, 1915	Approved	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 28, 1915
135473	Sparrow Robbin	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
135473	Simon J. Wilson	do	Dec. 8, 1915	do	Dec. 24, 1915	Dec. 29, 1915	Approved	Dec. 30, 1915	Jan. 3, 1916
136842	do	Sparks,	do	do	do	do	do	do	Jan. 5, 1916
136911	Wm. Downing	M. S. Musselalem	Nov. 18, 1915	do	do	Jan. 3, 1916	Approved	Jan. 4, 1916	Jan. 5, 1916
136913	Remie Charley	C. Earl Woodard	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
136914	James Smith	Kanola Oil Co.	July 30, 1915	do	do	do	Approved	Jan. 5, 1916	Jan. 6, 1916
136915	Joanna	do	Aug. 27, 1915	do	do	do	Approved	Jan. 4, 1916	Jan. 5, 1916
137380	Heirs Geo. W. Tiger	Vernon V. Harris	July 30, 1915	do	do	do	Approved	Jan. 4, 1916	Jan. 10, 1916
137407	Haysay Ward	Joe Burns	Aug. 30, 1915	do	Dec. 27, 1915	Dec. 30, 1915	Approved	Jan. 4, 1916	Jan. 5, 1916
137408	Lizzie Kelly	E. T. McDowell	Nov. 11, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved	Jan. 4, 1916	Jan. 6, 1916
137409	Robt. Billy	D. C. Fitzgerald	Sept. 1, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
137411	Bettie McHenry	Bailey & McDonnell	Nov. 6, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
137412	Jonas Fixico	J. H. Markham	June 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
137413	Manal Henson	O. H. Chapman	Oct. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
137416	Wilson Penny	S. E. Bell	Nov. 16, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
137854	Charlohee	Lee & Drew	Aug. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
138735	Leolena Johnson	Eubank & Reeves	Aug. 27, 1915	do	Dec. 31, 1915	Dec. 31, 1915	Disapproved	Jan. 5, 1916	Jan. 6, 1916
138735	Susan Johnson	McDannell & Gotcher	Feb. 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
138737	Elsie J. Sangster	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
138738	Wm. Billey	Wiseman & Reiney	Sept. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
138739	Nora J. Smith	Henry W. Marcum	Mar. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
1796	Nannie Charles	Wm. J. Scott	Oct. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
2640	Gothe Bruner (minor)	F. M. Arnold	Nov. 19, 1915	do	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 7, 1916	Approved	Jan. 18, 1916	Jan. 19, 1916
2631	Ide T. Farris	W. R. Kanasey	Aug. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Jan. 6, 1916
2663	Nancy Porter	S. Sherman Skelton	Jan. 14, 1915	do	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 12, 1916	Approved	Jan. 11, 1916	Jan. 12, 1916
2684	Annie Anderson	J. W. Moore	Nov. 18, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Jan. 18, 1916
2638	Richard Reese	M. A. Devinna	Mar. 1, 1915	do	Jan. 6, 1916	Jan. 11, 1916	Disapproved	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916
2638	Annie Reese	Southwestern Oil Co	July 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
2639	Runaway Beaver	B. G. Dowell	Nov. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
2747	Geo. Dick	Winona Oil Co.	Nov. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
2748	Lucy A. Myer	Chas. J. Alworth	Nov. 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
2749	Tipton S. Harris	E. Dunlap	Dec. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
2795	Freeda Harjo	Wm. J. Stott	Oct. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
		A. A. Viarsen and L. L. Sessions	Nov. 4, 1915	do	do	Jan. 14, 1916	do	do	Do.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
2997	Annie Berryhill.....	D. Phillips.....	Nov. 20, 1915	Jan. 6, 1916 ¹	Jan. 10, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916	Approved Feb. 14, 1916.	Jan. 13, 1916
2798	Roman Fixco.....	O. D. Woodrum.....	Mar. 12, 1915	Jan. 6, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Jan. 11, 1916	Approved Jan. 13, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916
2854	Irlus Winlock ²	Sabine Oil Marketing Co. do.	Mar. 22, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 10, 1910	do.	do.	Jan. 14, 1916
2854	Eliza Tiger.....	do.	July 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2854	Sarwico Archl.....	do.	Oct. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2854	Bessie Harjo, née Sory.....	do.	Aug. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2854	Eliza.....	do.	June 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2855	Gilbert Perry.....	Roy M. Johnson.....	Oct. 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Jan. 14, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916
2855	Lizzie Johnson.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2855	Clydas Ramsey, née Harvey.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2855	Lennie Noah, née Wood.....	do.	Nov. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2855	Elizabeth Mushintubby, née Pusley.....	do.	Dec. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
2855	Peter Loman.....	Roy M. Johnson.....	Dec. 13, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 11, 1916	Approved Jan. 14, 1916.	Jan. 15, 1916
2855	Liza Harjo, née Bruner.....	Al Buchner.....	Aug. 20, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916 ⁴	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916	Approved Jan. 17, 1916.	Jan. 18, 1916
3574	Simpson Harkins.....	Iron Mountain Oil Co do.	June 18, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.
3574	Ellen Kanard, née Sullivan.....	do.	July 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3574	Lea Harjo, née Haeny.....	do.	July 29, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3574	Susey.....	do.	Aug. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3601	Sulter Fixco.....	Simon Oil & Gas Co. Kanola Oil Co.	July 8, 1914	Jan. 8, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Jan. 20, 1916
3602	Ned Downing.....	do.	Aug. 21, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3602	Susie Downing.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
27937	Ned Downing.....	do. ³	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3604	John Marks.....	Texas-Oklahoma Pet. Co. Lawrence Gas Co.	Sept. 7, 1915	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916	Approved Mar. 16, 1916.	Mar. 17, 1916
3604	Folsom Jacob (minor).....	do.	Feb. 8, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916	do.	do.	Approved Jan. 17, 1916.	Jan. 18, 1916
3608	Louisa Marshal.....	J. E. Whiteside.....	Mar. 4, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Jan. 17, 1916.	do.
3831	Yarchesney.....	Archie W. Leonard Waite Phillips	Jan. 28, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	Feb. 3, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	do.	Mar. 13, 1916
3903	S. Anna Bull.....	do.	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916	Jan. 15, 1916	Approved Jan. 19, 1916.	Jan. 22, 1916
3909	S. Vanner Porter, née Fasve.....	R. H. Haynes.....	Nov. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3905	Thomas Hays.....	Wm. J. Scott.....	Oct. 26, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3906	Alec Clarke.....	W. E. Gayer and O. M. Owens C. E. Duffield.	Nov. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3908	Maesa Tiger.....	S. W. Androny.....	July 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3959	Lillie Davis (minor).....	S. W. Androny.....	Aug. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3960	Mary E. Layne.....	Mid Co. Pet. Co. John P. Savage.	Sept. 17, 1915	Jan. 10, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.
22047	John King.....	do.	Oct. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
22047	Resubmitted.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.
3963	Mary Chupco, née Larney.....	Marietta Oil Co.....	July 13, 1915	Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916	Mar. 1, 1916	Approved Mar. 4, 1916.	Jan. 19, 1916
				Jan. 16, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916	Jan. 15, 1916	Approved Jan. 19, 1916.	Jan. 22, 1916

3963	Mack Cosax	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
3963	Lizzie Buck, née Tiger	do	July 12, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
3964	Chas. Williams	Winona Oil Co.	Dec. 6, 1915	Jan. 10, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916	Jan. 15, 1916	Approved Jan. 19, 1916	Jan. 22, 1916	Do.
3964	White Johnson	do	Dec. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
3964	Carrie Scott, née Alexander	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
3968	Hilley Hill, née Robinson	N. S. Burton	Oct. 6, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
3969	Eliza Ferry	W. E. Ramsey	Nov. 22, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
3969	Tenna Bonas, née Perry	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
4161	Jay Cochran	South Carolina Oil & Gas Co. (Nat E. Harris & Aaron Cohen)	Dec. 20, 1914	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 15, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Disapproved Jan. 21, 1916	do	Do.
4161	Joseph Cochran	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
4163	Anna Sarney	C. W. Titus	Aug. 3, 1915	Jan. 8, 1916	do	do	Approved Jan. 20, 1916	do	Do.
4164	Joe Coon	Consumers Gas Co.	Nov. 27, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	do	do	Disapproved Jan. 21, 1916	do	Do.
4170	Chow-we-yuk	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
4170	James Adams	National Oil & Dev. Co.	Nov. 26, 1915	Jan. 11, 1916	do	do	Approved Jan. 20, 1916	Do. ⁴	Do.
4271	Lou Gwatney, née Leatherman	Fred C. Ryburn	Dec. 1, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Jan. 20, 1916	Do. ⁴	Do.
		Sedgewick Oil Co.	June 4, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
4984	Lena G. Dallas, minor	E. M. Arnold	Nov. 19, 1915	Jan. 11, 1916	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916	Approved Jan. 20, 1916	Do.	Do.
4985	Dave Grayson	John Boff	Oct. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
4946	Josephine Knotchubby	Hannah Oil Co.	Nov. 30, 1915	Jan. 12, 1916	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
4950	Dolly	John F. Murphy	Dec. 2, 1915	Jan. 11, 1916	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
5058	Susan Harrison	Vernon V. Harris	Aug. 26, 1915	Jan. 12, 1916	do	do	Disapproved Jan. 20, 1916	Do.	Do.
5059	Martha Harrison	Selby Oil & Gas Co.	Aug. 6, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Jan. 25, 1916	Do.	Do.
5160	Beth Dalker	A. E. Lewis	July 22, 1915	do	do	Jan. 20, 1916	do	Jan. 27, 1916	Do.
5160	John Bowlegs	do	July 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
5438	Rosanna Harjo	S. A. Apple	Sept. 27, 1915	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916	do	Approved Jan. 25, 1916	Do.	Do.
5548	Lizzie Sawney	Winona Oil Co.	Nov. 29, 1915	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 18, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	Approved Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 26, 1916	Do.
5548	Alex Sawney	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
5548	Jack Sawney	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
5549	Adeline Mays, née Barnett	J. M. Barrett	Nov. 17, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Jan. 25, 1916	Jan. 27, 1916	Do.
5577	Martha Thompson	O. E. Chapman	Nov. 8, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 26, 1916	Do.
5578	Effie Semu	Echo Oil Co.	Aug. 27, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 27, 1916	Do.
5578	Falmer Doll	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
5578	Thomas Sustain	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
5918	Martin England	James D. Ward	Jan. 15, 1916	Jan. 19, 1916	Jan. 19, 1916	Jan. 21, 1916	Cancelled Jan. 25, 1916	Do.	Do.
5992	Effie Hargo	Gayler & Owens	Jan. 13, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	do	Approved Jan. 22, 1916	Do.	Do.
5998	Bunnie Brunet	Chas. W. Bliss	Jan. 14, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
5999	Joseph Chupco	M. E. Bunson	Nov. 11, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Jan. 24, 1916	Do.	Do.
5999	Cleveland Grayson	do	Sept. 19, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
5999	James C. Chupco	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
6000	Wisey Deer, née Goat	C. O. Ross	Sept. 20, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Jan. 23, 1916	Do.	Do.
6053	John Cochran	S. R. Ebling	Dec. 14, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
6053	Eliza R. Gourd	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.	Do.
6054	Lena Shawnee or Pigeon	W. E. Buck	Aug. 3, 1915	Jan. 15, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	do	Approved Jan. 24, 1916	Do.	Do.
6055	James Beget	S. E. Ball	Jan. 7, 1916	Jan. 14, 1916	do	do	Approved Jan. 22, 1916	Do.	Do.
6056	Hully Martha	Hannah Oil Co.	Dec. 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.

⁴ Conflicting leases.

³ Resubmitted.

³ Disapproved in part.

¹ Returned for correction.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date forwarded to Indian Office.	Date received.	Date forwarded to department.	Departmental action.	Date returned to Five Civilized Tribes.
6057	Harriet Willie.	Roy M. Johnson.	Dec. 22, 1915.	Jan. 14, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 21, 1916	Approved Jan. 22, 1916.	Jan. 26, 1916
6057	Willie McCann.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6058	Nita Murphy.	James Wykoff.	Dec. 9, 1915	Jan. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Do.
1 6117	Feggie Davis	Southwestern Oil Co.	July 28, 1915	do.	do.	Jan. 22, 1916	do.	Feb. 14, 1916
6117	Chepamey Harjo	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6117	Norman Anderson	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6117	Alex Harjo.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
2 19404	Pilot Harjo.	Geo. W. MacMullen.	Feb. 19, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916	Approved Mar. 9, 1916.	Mar. 10, 1916
6146	Benj. J. Reed.	Texas Oklahoma Pet. Co.	Sept. 10, 1915	Jan. 14, 1916	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 21, 1916	Approved Jan. 24, 1916.	Jan. 26, 1916
6158	Hully Holata.	Chas. E. Stalker.	Aug. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6237	John W. Johnson.	J. W. Time and F. E. Keith	June 22, 1915	Jan. 15, 1916	do.	Jan. 22, 1916	Approved Jan. 25, 1916.	Jan. 27, 1916
6298	Cilla Sarney, now Osah	C. J. Haskell.	Sept. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6299	Cindy Parnosky, minor	W. A. Tully.	June 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Sape Hunka.	Southwestern Oil Co.	May 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Eddie Brooks.	do.	July 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Further report.	Feb. 14, 1916
6300	Newman Harjo.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Edmond Harjo	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Nettie Frazier.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Sarah Deer, née Manley	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Wisey Deer, née Goat	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Jackson Hawkins.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
6300	Martha Anderson.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
2 19404	Hane Mornabta.	W. A. Thompson.	Aug. 13, 1915	Feb. 19, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916	Approved Mar. 9, 1916.	Mar. 10, 1916
6598	Mandie Berryhill	Medlen & Moore.	Dec. 25, 1915	Jan. 17, 1916	Jan. 21, 1916	Jan. 22, 1916	Dismissed Jan. 25, 1916.	Jan. 27, 1916
6974, 7901	C. Charle.	C. E. Stalker.	Nov. 21, 1915	do.	Jan. 25, 1916	Jan. 29, 1916	Approved Jan. 29, 1916.	Jan. 31, 1916
7663	Joshua Charle.	do.	Aug. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7670	John Shell.	Fred Eains	Sept. 25, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7671	Caroline Scullaw.	S. Shrocco	Jan. 4, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7695	Dinah Sugar, née Narcome.	S. Sherman Skelton.	Nov. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7695	John Hanes	do.	Nov. 26, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
208771	Kay-kah-ka McIntosh.	Degen & Vantine.	Nov. 11, 1915	Jan. 20, 1916	Jan. 25, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916	Approved Mar. 4, 1916.	Mar. 6, 1916
7886	Alice Faniels, née Dick	do.	Dec. 6, 1915	do.	do.	Jan. 28, 1916	Approved Jan. 31, 1916.	Feb. 1, 1916
7886	Sing-sut-ta Big Feather.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7887	McCully John.	P. F. Smith.	July 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7887	Harrison Bond.	Henry Wolvertine & Harrington.	Jan. 26, 1915	Jan. 18, 1916	do.	Jan. 27, 1916	Disapproved Jan. 31, 1916.	Feb. 2, 1916
7905	Fulnochee Barney	Barday Morgan.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7906	do.	do.	Dec. 22, 1915	do.	do.	Jan. 28, 1916	Approved Jan. 31, 1916.	Feb. 1, 1916

7006	Grah Barney	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7007	Mollie Barney	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7013	Eliza Davis, née Davison	Feb. 15, 1915	Jan. 20, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 4, 1916
7014	Nicholas Compelude	Sept. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 1, 1916
7915	Sussana Brink, née Daniels	Oct. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 4, 1916
7916	Simon Perry	Nov. 20, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7917	Ben Hakka Simmons	Dec. 20, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7918	Curtis Cochran (minor)	May 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 2, 1916
7919	Charles Henson, Jr. (minor)	Nov. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
160581	Benny Bruner	Nov. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7920	Eliza Phillip	Dec. 9, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 1, 1916
7921	Martina Sarney	Aug. 7, 1915	Jan. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 29, 1916
7922	Fred Pershica	Dec. 17, 1915	Jan. 20, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 1, 1916
7924	Saber Jackson	Aug. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7924	Emma Jackson, née Sands	Dec. 15, 1915	Jan. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 2, 1916
7953	Mandy Brown, née Simon	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7954	Wasley Asbury	Oct. 20, 1915	Jan. 20, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 1, 1916
7955	Joe Wilson	May 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7955	Frank McAfee	Dec. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7696	Ben Peters	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7697	Lily Davis (minor)	June 7, 1915	Jan. 7, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7697	Ned Potato	Feb. 11, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 1, 1916
7698	Jessie Johnson	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7698	Martin McDaniel	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7699	Robt. Fixico (minor)	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7699	W. E. Ambristy	Nov. 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7729	Ellen Sewell (minor)	July 15, 1914	Jan. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 14, 1916
7729	Alice McCosar (minor)	Jan. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7731	David P. Ingraham	Oct. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 1, 1916
7732	Martha Doublehead, née Hevin	Oct. 12, 1915	Jan. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 2, 1916
7732	Bob Soap	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7730	Marnie Rankin, née White Turkey	Mar. 7, 1915	Jan. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 1, 1916
7733	Simpson Tiger	Oct. 10, 1915	Jan. 17, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 2, 1916
7744	Linda Harjo	Aug. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7744	Lucy McCoy, née Harrison	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7744	Nipsokocak	Aug. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7744	Lila Larney, née Harjo	Aug. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7748	Aharia Emarthar	Sept. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7748	Nancy Dolf	Dec. 18, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 4, 1916
7748	Lillie Miller	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do. 31
7748	Ella Dolf, now King	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7748	Johnson Bis Pond	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7745	Billie Fisher	Sept. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
7745	Pulaski Oil Co.	Nov. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Jan. 31, 1916
7745	Sayochee Ahfonke	Nov. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.

1 Resubmitted.

1 No action taken, further report required.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
7800	Nancy McGee, née Billie.	Boling, Dingatt & Sims	Aug. 15, 1914	Jan. 18, 1916	Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Further report.	Feb. 1, 1916
9338-16	Nancy Harjo (minor)	V. D. Houston	Dec. 11, 1915	Jan. 24, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	Approved Feb. 4, 1916.	Feb. 5, 1916
9343-16	Mary Brunner (minor)	Texas Oil & Petrol. Co.	Aug. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
9343-16	Maggie Arnett.	G. C. Stebbins	Sept. 23, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
9344-16	Etie Hoffman (Folsom)	S. A. Apple	May 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	do
9352-16	Wm. A. Sapulpa.	Muncie Oil & Gas Co.	Sept. 11, 1915	Jan. 22, 1916	Jan. 28, 1916	do	Disapproved Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
9353-16	Jusus McGeisey (minor)	F. C. Henderson	Jan. 12, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Feb. 7, 1916	Do.
9354-16	Sophie Wright (minor)	Sally Oil & Gas Co.	Dec. 22, 1915	Jan. 22, 1916	do	do	Disapproved Feb. 7, 1916	Do.
9366-16	Sammat.	Jarvel Oil Co.	Aug. 27, 1915	Jan. 24, 1916	do	do	Approved Feb. 3, 1916.	Feb. 7, 1916
9366-16	Milla Wolf.	do	Aug. 30, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
9368-16	Susy Duncan, née Hale	Word & Love.	July 4, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
9368-16	Sara Cummins	do	Aug. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
10138-16	Edgar Carper (minor)	J. Elbart Sanders	Aug. 23, 1915	Jan. 27, 1916	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 1, 1916	Disapproved Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 5, 1916
10143-16	Agnes Williamson, née Hill- crease.	Sidney M. Richey	Sept. 24, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Feb. 5, 1916.	Feb. 7, 1916
10144-16	Sena Davis (minor)	Ruth Oil Co.	Sept. 14, 1915	do	do	Feb. 2, 1916	Disapproved Feb. 4, 1916.	Feb. 5, 1916
10145-16	Jack Risner (minor)	S. G. Disney	Sept. 7, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
10222-16	Siestes Harrison (minor)	S. A. Apple	Oct. 20, 1915	Jan. 24, 1916	do	do	Approved Feb. 4, 1916	Do.
10223-16	Sovine Soc (Johnson)	Vernon V. Paris	Sept. 26, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916
10224-16	Talof Hayo.	P. J. Sambert	July 31, 1915	Jan. 25, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
10300-16	Lucinda Green (Buckley)	A. A. Vierson	Dec. 10, 1915	Jan. 26, 1916	do	do	Approved Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916
10352-16	Lizzie Stewart (Brown)	Jos. D. Rives	Sept. 13, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 5, 1916
11587-16	Willie Yarjee.	John W. Gilliland	Dec. 20, 1915	Jan. 29, 1916	Feb. 3, 1916	Feb. 5, 1916	Approved Feb. 8, 1916.	Feb. 9, 1916
11680-16	Thomas Jefferson	John M. Ingraham	Aug. 29, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
11588-16	Pilot.	E. A. Swayer	Aug. 30, 1915	Jan. 28, 1916	do	do	Disapproved Feb. 8, 1916	Do.
11589-16	Sam Ballou	F. A. Unges	Sept. 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
11590-16	Bertha Man Killer (Cance)	Canola Oil Co.	Sept. 21, 1915	Jan. 29, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
11590-16	do	Fred Raine	Sept. 25, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
11677-16	Levi Nopsa.	Hardenberg & Kerr	Sept. 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
11678-16	Lizzie Yarger.	C. J. Haskell	Apr. 3, 1915	Jan. 28, 1916	Feb. 3, 1915	do	Disapproved Feb. 8, 1916	Do.
11679-16	Sally Poker (minor)	J. M. Barrett	June 11, 1915	Jan. 29, 1916	do	do	Approved Feb. 8, 1916.	Do.
11681-16	Lucinda Chuloo (Bigfeather)	R. H. Siznet	Dec. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
11681-16	Emma Liver (Cochar)	do	Sept. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
12075-16	Hets of John Madison	Prudential Oil Co.	Jan. 26, 1915	Jan. 28, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
12145-16	Tochee Sowe.	S. T. Sammons	July 16, 1915	Jan. 29, 1916	do	do	Approved Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916
12148-16	Sena Freeman (Starr)	Thomas D. Dwight	Sept. 2, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Feb. 8, 1916.	Feb. 9, 1916
12168-16	Chippit Simmons (Fixico)	Laurel Oil & Gas Co	Nov. 20, 1915	Jan. 28, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
12168-16	Dillie Fisher	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
12168-16	John Ketcher	Harold Butcher	Dec. 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
12169	Chester McLemore	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.

7986	Hepsey McGirt.....	Oranga Oil Co.....	Jan. 21, 1916	Jan. 25, 1916	Jan. 29, 1916	Approved Feb. 2, 1916.	Feb. 4, 1916
8033	Edward Bear (minor).....	Roxana Pet. Co.....	do.	do.	do.	Approved Jan. 31, 1916.	Feb. 2, 1916
8033	Annie Brunet (minor).....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8033	Martha Thompson.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8034	Jimmie Yaholer.....	Fortune Oil Co.....	do.	do.	Jan. 29, 1916	Approved Feb. 2, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916
8035	Peggie Hamner, nee Hitober.....	Makerson & Littlefield.....	do.	do.	Jan. 28, 1916	Approved Jan. 31, 1916.	Feb. 1, 1916
8036	Salinee Arbuckle.....	D. M. Smith.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8037	Obey Sullivan.....	Joe Burns.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8038	Benj Barnett.....	J. M. Givens.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8040	Lizzie Jackson.....	J. R. Hoskins.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8040	Water Jackson.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8041	Alexander Tindie.....	Fred Rains.....	do.	do.	Jan. 29, 1916	Approved Feb. 1, 1916.	Feb. 2, 1916
8041	Jessie Thornton, nee Tindie.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8042	Edith Luchida Pettman.....	V. D. Houston.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8043	Lula May Gibson.....	The Henry Oil Co.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8044	Pewter Gouge.....	New York Oil Co.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8045	Ben Walker.....	The Hannah Oil Co.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8046	Effie Ward.....	J. M. Givens.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8047	Robert J. Mingo.....	Robert J. Mingo.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8048	McCully John.....	J. C. Scully.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8049	Robt O. Fields.....	S. C. Oil Co.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8077	Geo. Wade, jr.....	Jones & Jenkins.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8077	Chepamoche Harjo.....	Maschot & Owen.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8078	Edmond Collins.....	Pae & Drew.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8331	Shelly Perkins.....	Bailey & McDonald.....	Jan. 22, 1916	Jan. 27, 1916	Jan. 29, 1916	Approved Feb. 2, 1916.	Feb. 4, 1916
8332	Richard Scullaw.....	Degan & Vantine.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8334	Ross S. Dallas.....	Thomas E. Elliott.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
8335	Noah Lindsey.....	Dima Oil & Gas Co.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
9276	Lewiz Harjo.....	Robt. L. Simpson.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
9276	Lizzie Gray, nee Saslev.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
9276	Harley Timothy, nee Barnett.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
9276	Fannie Nero.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
9327	Isaac Manley.....	Hannah Oil Co.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
9331	Justice Morris (minor).....	John I. Weisener.....	Jan. 21, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12170-16	Dora Hall.....	National Oil & Development Co.....	Jan. 24, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12185-16	Alexander Bemis.....	Oklahoma Petroleum & Gasoline Co.....	Jan. 25, 1916	Feb. 4, 1916	Feb. 8, 1916	Approved Feb. 9, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916
12185-16	Rebecca J. Baker.....	do.	Jan. 29, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12185-16	Rosanna Arhislokoche.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12490-16	Sampson Fxico (minor).....	W. E. Ambrister.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12547-16	Lula Sims.....	Emerson Burns.....	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Disapproved Feb. 10, 1916.	Feb. 11, 1916
12548-16	Chas. Starr.....	S. E. Ball.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12549-16	Lizzie Kingfisher.....	Degan & Vantine.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12550-16	Solomon Nelson.....	Roy M. Johnson.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12610-16	Seliva Roberts (James).....	E. Durnlap.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12611-16	Wiste Deer.....	W. M. Durnn.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12669-16	Pumbusta.....	E. C. Durnn.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12874-16	Daniel Narconney.....	H. C. Ponder.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12875-16	Lee Adams.....	Joe P. Cappeansons.....	Feb. 3, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916	Disapproved Feb. 10, 1916.	Feb. 12, 1916
			do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 11, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
12900-16	Smith Thomas.	Ed Radure.	Dec. 27, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916	Approved Feb. 11, 1916.	Feb. 12, 1916
12976-16	Toney Succs (minor).	Sperry Oil & Gas Co.	Dec. 14, 1915	Feb. 3, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 14, 1916
12977-16	Sally Johnson (Harry).	Ira F. Rolls.	Sept. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 12, 1916
12978-16	Elmer Clyde Shell.	Winona Oil Co.	Sept. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 11, 1916
12979-16	Emma Buckner (Mitchell).	T. S. Soffland.	Dec. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 14, 1916.	Feb. 16, 1916
12979-16	Narchrer Scott (Haney).	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12980-16	Lula Johnson.	Comanche Oil & Develop- ment Co.	Feb. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Feb. 11, 1916.	Feb. 12, 1916
12980-16	Levlana.	do.	Mar. 8, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
12981-16	James Johnson.	John V. McDonnell.	Oct. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 11, 1916.	Feb. 11, 1916
12981-16	Addie Abasse.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13001-16	Louisa Sasley.	E. J. Lambert.	Dec. 23, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 7, 1916.	Feb. 12, 1916
13002-16	George F. Brown.	Geo. W. McMullen.	Sept. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13002-16	Jennie C. Brown.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13002-16	Jennie C. Brown.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13004-16	John Factor.	A. D. McDonell.	Feb. 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13004-16	John Factor.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13004-16	Annie Stewart.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13053-16	Cheparney Ahfonoke.	H. W. Read.	Apr. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Feb. 12, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916
13094-16	Ebilo Field.	J. W. Barrett.	Feb. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 12, 1916.	Feb. 12, 1916
13095-16	Nellie Anderson.	Carl Newman.	Oct. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 14, 1916.	Feb. 16, 1916
13096-16	Roman Tiger (minor).	Jacou Pfeiffer.	Nov. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 12, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916
13178-16	Geo. Frank.	Lama Oil & Gas Co.	July 21, 1914	Jan. 29, 1916	do.	do.	Approved Mar. 11, 1916.	Mar. 14, 1916
13179-16	Peggy Thompson (Gist).	Vermon V. Harris.	Aug. 26, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 11, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916
13180-16	Tom Cosar.	S. J. Smith.	Aug. 21, 1915	Jan. 31, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 9, 1916	Approved Feb. 14, 1916.	Feb. 16, 1916
13181-16	Ikey Kinney (Harjo).	S. C. Redd.	Aug. 12, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13245-16	Sallie Jones.	E. J. Lambert.	Jan. 6, 1915	Feb. 2, 1916	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 11, 1916.	Feb. 12, 1916
13245-16	Ben Grayson.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13256-16	Peter.	Miller & Brown.	Dec. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 12, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916
13259-16	Sallie Ticer (Smith).	L. R. Ebling.	Dec. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 14, 1916.	Feb. 16, 1916
13259-16	Alex Homer.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13287-16	Marcy Hayes (Sullawit).	Degan & Van Time.	Jan. 3, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 15, 1916.	Do.
13287-16	William Sullawit.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13287-16	Nannie Pann.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13291-16	Geo. England.	A. T. Gurd.	Nov. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 11, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916
13292-16	Effie Dard.	do.	Oct. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 14, 1916.	Feb. 16, 1916
13333-16	Joe Wilson.	Martin & Kirkpatrick.	Dec. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	Approved Feb. 12, 1916.	Feb. 14, 1916
13422-16	Heirs of Levi Sea.	Wolverine Oil Co.	Aug. 18, 1915	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 10, 1916	Approved Feb. 14, 1916.	Feb. 16, 1915
13476-16	Alfred Nowabbi.	O. A. Simmons.	Aug. 12, 1915	Feb. 4, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13476-16	James Nowabbi.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
13476-16	do.	Allen & White.	Jan. 13, 1916	do.	do.	do.	Disapproved Feb. 14, 1916.	Do.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date forwarded to Indian Office.	Date received.	Date forwarded to department.	Departmental action.	Date returned to Five Civilized Tribes.
15330-16	Indie Roberts (minor)	James A. Finshall	Jan. 6, 1916	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 12, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Approved Feb. 25, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916
15330-16	Tony Hill (minor)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do. ¹
15331-16	Annie Adams, née Singtail, née Marshall.	G. C. Spillios	Nov. 6, 1915	Feb. 9, 1916	do	do	Approved Feb. 15, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916
15332	Soer	W. L. Kisler	Oct. 25, 1915	Feb. 7, 1916	do	Feb. 25, 1916	Approved Feb. 23, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916
15333-16	Jennie Hopiya	W. L. Kisler	Oct. 25, 1915	Feb. 7, 1916	Feb. 12, 1916	Feb. 28, 1916	Approved Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 6, 1916
15378-16	Thomas Conner	Texas-Oklahoma Investment Co.	do	Feb. 5, 1916	Feb. 14, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	Approved Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 25, 1916
15907-16	Nora Frank (minor)	The Petroleum Co. & H. H. Moser.	May 5, 1915	Feb. 8, 1916	do	Mar. 4, 1916	Approved Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916
15908-16	Nannie Jumper	Harold Busher	Dec. 30, 1915	do	do	Feb. 16, 1916	Approved Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916
15908-16	Margaret Bell (Hammer)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15908-16	Lizzie Byers (McSamon)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
15909	Nursery Fixier	S. W. Oil Co.	July 28, 1915	do	do	Mar. 6, 1916	Approved Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
15909	Jassu Bruner	do	Aug. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do. ³
15909	Lincoln McGirt	do	July 28, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do. ³
15909	Emma Fixico (Amos)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do. ³
15909	Sissie Cosar	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do. ³
15948	Harley Brown	Meddoes, Mosely & Nicholson	Dec. 4, 1915	do	do	Feb. 16, 1916	Approved Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 25, 1916
15949	Nora Frank (minor)	W. E. Gayer	May 22, 1915	do	do	Mar. 8, 1916	Approved Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916
15950	Lula Foster (minor)	Altus Oil Co.	Dec. 15, 1915	do	do	Feb. 16, 1916	Approved Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916
16043	Susan Leader (née Porte)	B. F. White	Jan. 4, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	do	do	Approved Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916
16057	Nora Mickey (née Nelson)	Texas-Oklahoma Pet. Co.	Aug. 5, 1915	Feb. 8, 1916	do	Feb. 26, 1916	Approved Feb. 28, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916
16057	Mahla Dallou (née Nelson)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
16057	Mary Harjo	do	Aug. 13, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
16057	Sakethoche	do	Aug. 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
16110	Judie Wolf	E. C. Dunn	Aug. 9, 1915	do	do	Feb. 16, 1916	Approved Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916
16110	Jennie Harns (née Brown)	Cunssat.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
16110	Melinda	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
16110	Amos	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
16110	Tommy	do	Aug. 19, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
16110	Hessey Wiseman (née Seaker)	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
16110	Sowsea	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
16111	Allawa Cain	Guy M. Buckner	Aug. 12, 1915	Feb. 9, 1916	do	do	do	Feb. 23, 1916
16112	Ella Morgan (née West)	W. J. Ruskin	Aug. 24, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
16113	Thomas Brown	Gus J. Coey	Aug. 31, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Feb. 24, 1916	Feb. 24, 1916
16114	Narcissa Chokrum	Dem Oil Co.	Aug. 9, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
16114	Anna Hoyo (née Hullett)	J. C. Sharfer	Jan. 27, 1916	Feb. 12, 1916	do	do	Disapproved Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916
16327	do	do	do	do	do	do	Approved Feb. 21, 1916	Do.

16327	Lucy Bullet.	Shaffer.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
16301	Aney Tiger.	Rick & Indian.	Nov. 6, 1915	Feb. 10, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 25, 1916
16300	William Billie.	S. U. Parish.	Jan. 14, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 23, 1916
19350	Rena Grayson.	Sullivan & Litchfield.	Dec. 17, 1915	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 23, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 6, 1916
19411	Frazier Lewis.	Mannford Oil & Gas Co.	Jan. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 29, 1916
19418	Cah-pa-le-co-con-thala Brown.	Wm. Sill.	July 22, 1915	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 6, 1916
19490	Betsay Waacho ehe nee (Mc-Kellopp).	S. C. Redd.	Oct. 20, 1915	Feb. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 23, 1916
19376	Agnes Berryhill (minor).	Waite Phillips.	Jan. 5, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19377	Peggy Taylor.	H. C. Crider.	Mar. 24, 1914	Feb. 14, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19389	Luia Bowles.	J. B. Cordy Johnson.	May 1, 1918	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19380	James McEwin.	A. U. McCandles.	Dec. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19392	Hider Wolf (minor).	James Dykoff.	Dec. 31, 1915	Feb. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19409	Robert Tiger.	Oklahoma Pet. & Gas Co.	Jan. 17, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19410	Hopiyoche.	Robt. L. Simpson.	Jan. 13, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19412	Emma Bough (nee Childers).	Henry Hornecker.	Jan. 24, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19414	He con con thala Tiger.	Geo. McMillin.	Jan. 4, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19415	Emma Yaholah (Sipley).	H. G. Barnard.	July 28, 1915	Feb. 17, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19416	Tommy.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19417	Lacunda Daniels (Hart).	Ferry McKay.	Dec. 2, 1915	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19417	Lucinda Hoye.	Guy M. Buckner.	Aug. 12, 1915	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19435	Geo. Lonehorne.	J. L. Hayner.	Feb. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19455	Leslie Richard (minor).	T. D. Harris.	Oct. 6, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19456	Jeff Tindie (minor).	Fred Rainis.	Dec. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19457	Sallie Fixco.	Oklahoma-Kansas Oil Co.	Sept. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19457	Minnie Sasley.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19457	Aney Fisher.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19458	Sallie Jackson.	Wm. H. Harrington.	Oct. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19458	Judith Brown.	do.	July 28, 1915	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19458	Timmie McGeeley.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19458	Yarner Culler.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19489	Betsay Porter.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19489	Lena Hayes (Robinson).	D. M. Miller.	Jan. 3, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19488	do.	J. W. McClellon.	Nov. 20, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19489	Bent, Cornell (minor).	J. J. Faves.	Dec. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19491	Geo. Benton.	Texas-Oklahoma Pet. Co.	Nov. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19492	John N. Strell.	Renize Seven Oil Co.	Nov. 1, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19493	Cain Battiste.	Harold Butcher.	Dec. 24, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19646	Wm. Skullawi.	Laurence Mills.	Sept. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19646	do.	F. B. E. Ufer.	Dec. 27, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
19413	Mary Taryol (nee Mickey).	Wood & Love.	Jan. 26, 1916	Feb. 17, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20813	Parnosky, Thomas.	W. P. Huskin.	Jan. 26, 1916	Feb. 21, 1916	Feb. 20, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Mar. 6, 1916
16594	Deey Bender.	Escrow Oil Co.	Aug. 27, 1915	Feb. 11, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 23, 1916
16555	Geo. Dewey McNeVins.	A. T. Wight.	Sept. 3, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 23, 1916
16556	Robert E. Lee.	J. E. Steiried.	Dec. 28, 1915	Feb. 10, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
16557	Ettis Bear.	G. C. Stebbins.	Sept. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
16558	Eli Robin.	James E. Whiteside.	May 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
16558	do.	Consumers Gas Co.	Oct. 16, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
16804	Moty Tiger.	C. E. Johnson.	Jan. 15, 1916	Feb. 11, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Feb. 25, 1916
16804	Kissie Tiger.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.

See 19309-16.

³ Action delayed pending report from superintendent.

⁴ Returned without action for correction.

¹ See 28269-16.

² Canceled.

20876	David Downing.....	Liberty Oil & Gas Co.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20878	Ibbie Seabold, née Ell.....	Kellough & Lambert.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20882	Sarah Jumper, née Summer-set.	Howard Figg.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20882	Jim Teekahneyeskoee.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20882	Fessie Jumper.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20882	Ida May Henry.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20882	Dorster Buster.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20883	Caeser Simon.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20883	Peter Simon.....	Henry Hornecker.....	Jan. 14, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
20945	Katesy Dyar (minor).....	do.	Jan. 24, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21626	Frairs Daniel Tiger.....	See & Drew.....	Aug. 31, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21627	Sallo Muttboke, née Bigpond.	Frank Barnes.....	May 4, 1914	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21628	Polly Yonder, now Cook.....	W. G. Reynolds.....	Feb. 2, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21629	Donald McIntosh.....	Forthuna Oil Co.....	June 21, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21630	Henry F. McIntosh.....	Ruth Oil Co.....	Aug. 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21632	Mollie Hoyoy, née McGirt.....	W. E. Gaver.....	Aug. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
21834	Tom Hand.....	Owen H. Rives.....	Sept. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22045	John Harjo.....	Texas D. Dard.....	Oct. 28, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22045	Mollie Tiger, née Crow.....	Texas-Oklah. Pet Co.....	Aug. 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22046	Peter Ozer.....	Manning Oil & Gas Co.....	Feb. 1, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22046	Jeney Williams.....	M. E. Brunson.....	Feb. 23, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22050	Noah Long.....	do.	Feb. 2, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22050	Lumka Harjo.....	Ball & Ross.....	Aug. 14, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22076	Milton Wadlynn Hayes.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22077	Effie Huffman, née Folsom.....	W. R. Ramsey.....	Jan. 7, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22078	Bithe Harjo.....	S. A. Apple.....	Jan. 20, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22079	Alchison Hickman.....	Wood & Sony.....	Dec. 15, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22080	Munnah Jones.....	E. Dunlap.....	Feb. 2, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22086	Fllen Scullaw.....	R. H. Hughes.....	Jan. 13, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22087	Carphoche.....	I. P. Stringfald.....	Aug. 2, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22112	Tessa Porter, née Lindsey.....	Deovna Oil Co.....	Oct. 23, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22116	Cyraine Folsom.....	G. E. Stebbins.....	Oct. 19, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22180	Katie Farkadlos, née Kanard, née Charlin.....	J. G. Loving.....	Sept. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22881	Jennie Ricord, née Pickett.....	R. H. Shrewsbury.....	Jan. 25, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22927	Chas. Foster.....	Sindberg, Fitzgerald, & Montgomery.....	July 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22942	Thomas Quincey.....	Marietta Oil Co.....	Aug. 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22942	Susie Pell.....	J. H. Carlock.....	Feb. 12, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22944	Smith Thornton.....	Phoenix Refining Co.....	Feb. 8, 1916	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22944	John Naholah.....	John L. Disener.....	Oct. 22, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22944	Jess Locust.....	do.	Feb. 7, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
22944	Tobacco Girty.....	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
23748	John Pinge.....	Togo Oil Co.....	Sept. 18, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
23776	Kath Huffman, née Folsom.....	S. A. Apple.....	May 5, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.
23777	Thomas Bruner.....	O. T. McConnell.....	Dec. 30, 1915	do.	do.	do.	do.	Do.

1 Stipulation.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
23778	Roley Bear (minor)	O. M. Irehan & Louis Schmidt.	Dec. 13, 1915	Feb. 26, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	Approved Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916
23949	Parnooke Thomas.	Ernest G. Ray.	Jan. 29, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916	do	Mar. 8, 1916	do	Do.
23960	Molly Grayson.	S. Caton.	Jan. 28, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
23961	Carrie Hutchinson.	S. C. Redd.	Jan. 14, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
23962	Herbert Sarty.	do.	Jan. 24, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
23712	Addie Mills (minor)	S. A. Apple.	Jan. 14, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
23713	James Sarney.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
23714	Bunnie Sarney.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
23715	Ola Duck (minor)	Duquesne Oil & Gas Co.	Oct. 8, 1914	Feb. 28, 1916	do	Mar. 7, 1916	Disapproved Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
23716	Sotha François.	Geo. W. B. Fletcher.	Jan. 10, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
23717	Annie Byington.	Roy M. Johnson.	Dec. 29, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
23718	Henry Homer.	W. D. Atkins.	Aug. 6, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
23719	Vera Reynolds (minor)	S. T. Mallory.	Dec. 30, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
23720	Charles Lowery.	C. W. Titus.	Jan. 17, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
23721	Jeaster B. Lowery.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
23722	Joseph Powell.	E. M. & J. H. Carothers.	Jan. 21, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916	Approved Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
23723	Aggie Marsnal.	Marteta Oil Co.	Aug. 5, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
23724	Joshia Gibson.	Wm. H. Scott.	Oct. 26, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
23725	Jane Harjo.	W. T. Metcres.	July 29, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
23726	Jane Sunday.	W. W. Lockhart.	Nov. 23, 1915	do	do	Mar. 8, 1916	Approved Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
23740	Sunday Yahoo.	Altus Oil Co.	Nov. 18, 1915	do	do	Mar. 7, 1916	Approved Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916
23746	Hairs of Winey Joseph.	H. H. & S. Medlen.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
23747	Emma Tucker.	Truit & Clark.	Nov. 15, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
23749	Wm. Downing.	J. H. Crell.	May 6, 1915	Feb. 28, 1916	do	Mar. 8, 1916	Disapproved Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
23781	Julia Adams.	J. M. Thompson.	Jan. 25, 1916	Feb. 26, 1916	do	Mar. 7, 1916	Approved Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
23782	Esther Bennett (Sapulpa)	Coleman & Brown.	Jan. 24, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
23783	Niece Unsee (Atfionoke)	Wood & Long.	Jan. 11, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
23784	Hokchoe Atfionoke.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
23788	Dalter Washington.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
23950	Ada Webster.	A. E. Martin.	Jan. 20, 1916	Feb. 29, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
23950	Iida Lewis, nee Wallace.	do.	Jan. 25, 1916	do	do	Mar. 8, 1916	do	Do.
23962	Chas. Fields.	Jayne Oil & Gas Co.	Feb. 17, 1915	Feb. 28, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
24036	Lucinda Riddle.	Glady's Belle Oil Co.	Dec. 17, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
24037	Josephine Thompson	McFrench.	Jan. 31, 1916	do	do	do	Disapproved Mar. 13, 1916	Do.
24038	Ada Wallace.	W. J. Buhndred.	Feb. 12, 1916	do	do	do	Approved Mar. 13, 1916	Do.
24151	Geo. Tizer.	Range Seven Oil Co.	Sept. 20, 1915	do	Mar. 6, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916	Approved Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916
24151	Foas Hariecke.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
24151	Mahale Stidham.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
24151	Moltes Harjo.	do.	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
24151	Gilbert & Johnson.	do.	Sept. 22, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
26959	Isparnay Harjoche.....	Geo. McMillan.....	Jan. 25, 1916	Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Disapproved Mar. 16, 1916.	Mar. 17, 1916
26963	Mary Lucas.....	J. R. & C. A. Greenlees; Alvarez Oil Co., assignee.	Aug. 11, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
26978	Grasley McIntosh.....	Kuso Oil & Gas Co.....	Dec. 22, 1915	Mar. 7, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Approved Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916
26978	Eli Davis.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
26978	Siney Davis.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
26978	Rosanna Haron.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
26978	Emma Hayns, nee Davis.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
27961	Sarah Tiger, nee Philip	J. O. Chapman.....	Feb. 19, 1916	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Approved Mar. 20, 1916.	Mar. 20, 1916
27961	Thos. Washington.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
27962	James Sanders.....	Jacob Pfeiffer.....	Jan. 26, 1916	do	do	do	Approved Mar. 18, 1916	Do.
27962	Rachel Sanders.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
27962	Wm. Smallwood.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
27964	Tom Soap.....	Thomas E. Elliott.....	Oct. 19, 1915	do	do	do	Disapproved Mar. 18, 1916.	Do.
27965	Robt. West.....	W. P. Huckin.....	Feb. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
27966	Maud A. Baker.....	W. W. Sill.....	Mar. 31, 1915	Mar. 10, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
28087	Margaret Chudlers, nee Bird.....	B. G. Goble.....	Feb. 5, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Approved Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916
28087	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
28087	Agnes McIntosh.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
28144	Frances Bell.....	F. E. McCarty.....	Oct. 29, 1915	Mar. 13, 1916	do	do	Disapproved Mar. 18, 1916	Do.
28151	Susie Stout.....	C. E. Renny.....	Feb. 18, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 18, 1916	Do.
28184	Wm. Spoon.....	Schick & Siege-rot.....	Dec. 20, 1915	Mar. 9, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 20, 1916	Do.
28185	Lucy Sampson.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
28185	Jency Ben, nee Campbell.....	Henry M. Pollock.....	July 7, 1915	Mar. 9, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Disapproved Mar. 18, 1916	Do.
28207	Levi Sampson.....	Martin & Kirkpatrick.....	Dec. 17, 1915	do	do	do	Approved Mar. 18, 1916	Do.
28208	July Fife.....	Benton & Ripple.....	Dec. 13, 1918	do	do	do	Approved Mar. 17, 1916	Do.
28209	Jessie Bruner.....	T. J. Redd.....	Feb. 15, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 20, 1916	Do.
28251	Cornelius Adair (minor)	Roxanna Petroleum Co.....	Oct. 6, 1915	Mar. 10, 1916	do	do	Disapproved Mar. 18, 1916	Do.
28256	Daniel Atkins.....	W. I. Goble.....	Feb. 19, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 20, 1916	Do.
28256	Lizate Lovett.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
28257	Alexander George.....	H. I. Harbert.....	July 1, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
28267	Frances McAfee, nee Willis.....	Nail Oil & Dev. Co.....	Oct. 27, 1915	Mar. 8, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
28268	Lumpsey.....	E. A. Fess.....	Feb. 24, 1916	Mar. 9, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 18, 1916	Do.
28294	Needa Harjo.....	Eugene W. Gill.....	Aug. 31, 1915	Mar. 11, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916	Disapproved Mar. 21, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916
28307	Jimmie Taylor.....	F. K. Billinger.....	Nov. 1, 1915	do	do	do	do	Do.
28307	Hers of Narry Starr.....	Lake Moore.....	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 10, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916
28028	Lunchda Anderson.....	John L. W. Isener.....	Mar. 21, 1915	Mar. 11, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 21, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916
28028	James H. Anderson.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
28028	Smiley Dry, nee Anderson.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
28028	Datson Anderson.....	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.

29028	Noah Perkins	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
29028	Samson Scott	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
32940	Winney Harjo (nee Hawkins)	T. J. Redd	Dec. 4, 1915	Feb. 28, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	Disapproved Mar. 22, 1916.	Mar. 23, 1916
32940	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
28269	Tony Hill	James A. Twishell	Dec. 13, 1915	Feb. 7, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Approved Mar. 24, 1916.	Mar. 25, 1916
31887	Consey Dan	W. E. Gayer & O. O. Owens	Jan. 6, 1915	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 25, 1916.	Mar. 27, 1916
31288	Shingo Wall	Iceland Oil & Gas Co.	Jan. 20, 1915	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 24, 1916.	Do.
31288	David Jackson	do	Jan. 20, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31288	Alice Armstrong (nee Nusha- mahatubbee)	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31288	Nicholas Nail	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31206	Luchinda Hopieze	Frank Barnes	Feb. 5, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
31039	William Arpoika	A. S. Guffey	Aug. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30711	George Fisher	James E. Whitehead	Sept. 11, 1915	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 26, 1916	do	do	Approved Mar. 25, 1916.	Do.
30711	Fred James	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30711	David Wade	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30711	Martha Arpealer (nee Perry)	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30711	Robert Lowman	do	Dec. 27, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30711	Sarah Wade	do	Jan. 11, 1916	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30711	Chestn McIntosh	do	Jan. 26, 1916	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31208	Loring Robinson	A. T. Bailey & D. R. Mc- Donnell	Nov. 22, 1915	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	do	do	do	Do.
31208	Isaac Mitchell	do	do	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30223	Charlotte Quinton	Henry Oil Co.	Jan. 31, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	do	do	Do.
30222	Billy Aikins	Echo Oil Co.	Jan. 25, 1916	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30221	Alice Perry (nee Harjo)	G. C. Wood	Jan. 20, 1916	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30308	Sam Marshall	H. U. Bartlett	Feb. 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30308	Alice Fox	do	Dec. 2, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30308	Arkaquimny Pickett	do	Dec. 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30308	Willie Berruhill	do	Jan. 8, 1916	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
17172	Jennelter Bruner	C. M. Ball & C. O. Ross	Aug. 14, 1915	Feb. 12, 1916	Feb. 16, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916	Feb. 18, 1916	Approved March 22, 1916.	Mar. 24, 1916
30795	Marchel Taylor	John D. Richards	Feb. 13, 1916	Feb. 15, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	Approved Mar. 25, 1916.	Mar. 27, 1916
30794	Rachel Jimsey (nee Childers)	E. J. Lambert	May 25, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31190	Etha Coker	J. M. Barrett	Dec. 6, 1915	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Approved Mar. 24, 1916.	Do.
30796	Nancy Nelson	J. E. McMillan	Feb. 14, 1916	Mar. 15, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	Approved Mar. 25, 1916.	Do.
30793	Thompson Porter	J. M. Miller	do	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	do	do	Do.
30793	Jackson Lowe	H. H. Diamond	Feb. 25, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	do	do	Do.
30224	Lydila Larney	C. E. Johnson	Jan. 15, 1916	Mar. 13, 1916	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	Approved Mar. 24, 1916.	Do.
30224	Camille Jack	Tipet & London	May 24, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
30224	Bob Thomas	do	May 30, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31204	Kizzite Dumson	Pfeninghauser & Liston & Clippert	Jan. 20, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 20, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	do	do	Do.
31210	Henry Day	E. W. Kimberley	Feb. 26, 1916	Mar. 18, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
31255	Eliza Jane Ferguson	O. M. Irehan & Louis Schmidt	Feb. 16, 1916	Mar. 16, 1916	do	do	do	do	Do.
31285	Pinkey Bruner	do	Feb. 21, 1916	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31038	Linda Birdhead	C. W. Titus	Aug. 3, 1915	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31038	Frank H. Lewis	do	Feb. 24, 1916	do	do	do	do	do	Do.
31040	Sunny Bear	W. E. Gayer	June 24, 1915	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916	Mar. 17, 1916	do	do	Do.
23948	Pilot Brown	Savoy Oil Co.	Nov. 1, 1915	Feb. 29, 1916	Mar. 4, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916	Mar. 8, 1916	Approved Mar. 13, 1916.	Do.

1 Stipulated.

Statement showing action on oil and gas leases covering land in the Five Civilized Tribes—Continued.

File No., 1915.	Lessor.	Lessee.	Date received in office Five Civilized Tribes.	Date for- warded to Indian Office.	Date re- ceived.	Date for- warded to department.	Departmental action.	Date re- turned to Five Civil- ized Tribes.
31880	Roy M. Nelson.....	E. Durlap.....	Dec. 13, 1915	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	Mar. 24, 1916	Approved Mar. 28, 1916.....	Mar. 29, 1916
31880	Jimam Lewis.....	do.....	Jan. 13, 1916	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
31880	Nabark Bonapark.....	do.....	Feb. 27, 1916	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
31889	Dave Scullaw.....	F. B. Ufer.....	Dec. 27, 1915	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
31709	Daniel Lewis.....	W. C. Amis.....	Dec. 31, 1915	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	Mar. 23, 1916	do.....	Do.
27963	Willie Conner.....	G. L. Van Eman.....	July 29, 1915	Mar. 10, 1916	Mar. 14, 1916	do.....	Approved Mar. 24, 1916.....	Mar. 25, 1916
31948	Ziney May Peepert.....	Ira J. Anderson.....	July 8, 1915	Mar. 18, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	do.....	Approved Mar. 27, 1916.....	Mar. 29, 1916
31886	Mary Danner.....	J. J. Thomas.....	Feb. 23, 1916	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
31920	Jane Washington.....	C. A. Bell and S. H. Hunt.....	Mar. 4, 1916	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
31920	Joe Washington.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	do.....	Do.
31888	Mary E. Darnell.....	W. O. Dickison.....	Feb. 10, 1916	do.....	do.....	do.....	Approved Mar. 27, 1916.....	Do.
31287	Heirs of Melvime Pickens.....	F. E. Tucker.....	Dec. 23, 1915	Mar. 16, 1916	Mar. 21, 1916	Mar. 22, 1916	do.....	Do.

NOTE.—Prior to Jan. 1, 1915, the department had suspended the approval of oil and gas mining leases pending an investigation into conditions with respect to the production of oil in Oklahoma. The approval of leases was not resumed until June 15, 1915, and during the interim a number of cases accumulated in the Indian Office and were not forwarded to the department until after that date.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Is not one of the principal causes of delay in approving oil leases the change of regulations between the time when the application is made and the time that the field agent makes his recommendations and the time when the matter is disposed of by the department?

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Meritt, will you let your statement show not only the time when the commissioner made his decision, but the time when it was transmitted back to the superintendent and the time it got back into the hands of the fellow who made the application?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir. What was your question, Mr. Campbell?

Mr. CAMPBELL. My question was if the change of regulations was not a very prolific cause of delay in the approval of leases.

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; I do not believe that the change of regulations has seriously retarded the approval of leases.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Have not applications come into the bureau under one series of regulations and been approved under a subsequent series of regulations promulgated by the department or sent back and made to conform to subsequent regulations?

Mr. MERITT. That has not occurred very frequently.

Mr. CAMPBELL. I think it occurred quite frequently a few years ago.

Mr. CARTER. I can tell of one case where it occurred to me. I started out to buy 100 acres of land and I purchased a little surface lot of a white man. That application went to a land office, and it was forwarded to the Commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, and he recommended the matter to the Interior Department, and the regulation was not changed when the application reached the Interior Department, but after the application reached the Interior Department the regulation was changed before action was taken on it, and the woman was prevented from filing on this land. Before the application got back the woman died, and a little child was born at the date of her death, and I found out when I got back that I had paid my \$1,200 for 100 acres of land for which I could not get title until that child got to be 21 years of age, and it was just born.

Mr. MURRAY. Mr. Chairman, I want to suggest that the definition of "grafter" is a man who deals in Indian lands.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Every man in Oklahoma who gets an oil lease or a lease of land is immediately constituted a land grafter.

Mr. MURRAY. Mr. Parker, at Muskogee, has charge of removal of restrictions, conditional and unconditional?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. Both of which are approved here?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. They have the question of approval of oil leases?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. And of agricultural and grazing leases?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. And of sales where the allottee has had his conditions removed conditionally?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. And where the field agent goes out and improves the farm of a restricted Indian and he buys lumber and hires a carpenter to build a house, those payments are approved here, are they not?

Mr. MERITT. We give to the superintendent general authority in those matters.

Mr. MURRAY. In all those general questions some of them are of more moment than others, or there is greater danger of graft in them than in others?

Mr. MERITT. Some of them are more important than others.

Mr. MURRAY. In other words, in the question of agricultural leases you feel that you can rely on the agent on them?

Mr. MERITT. We have given the superintendent authority to approve the agricultural leases that formerly came to the department.

Mr. MURRAY. That can be done, you think, with safety?

Mr. MERITT. We do not require legislation to do that, because—

Mr. MURRAY. Could not that also be done in the payment of these accounts for carpenters?

Mr. MERITT. We give the superintendent now general authority in those matters.

Mr. MURRAY. I was not aware of that. You have the authority and you have extended that authority?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. The removal of restrictions where it is made conditionally is of less importance than where it goes to sale of land; would you not think so?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. Assuming that you would not permit them to sell land without an approval up here, would there be any objection to permitting him to remove the restrictions conditionally without permitting him—

Mr. MERITT. We feel that when we remove the restrictions off the land of an Indian, that is a very important matter, and that the action of the superintendent of Indian reservations in regard to a matter of that importance, in view of the general local conditions, should be supervised by superior officers.

Mr. MURRAY. Here is what I want to get at. Some of these questions are more important than others.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. MURRAY. There is no doubt of that. What I was trying to get at was whether there was some line by which it would be perfectly satisfactory and safe for the work to be completed down there, although assuming that you would not agree that all of it be done. To what extent would the department be willing to let everything be wound up down there, and to what extent would it curtail the authority of the department up here? In other words, would you be willing to go any further than those grazing and agricultural leases and the payment of counsel?

Mr. MERITT. So far as I am personally concerned, and so far as I have authority to speak for the department—of course, the commissioner and the Secretary have final authority on these matters—I would see no objection to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes having absolute jurisdiction regarding the investment of the funds of Indians up to a certain amount, say \$2,500. Some of those Indians have incomes of \$500 a day from oil royalties; and I would think that it would be unwise to give the superintendent absolute authority over the investment of such a large sum of money in

local real estate or local investments. So far as the removal of restrictions is concerned, I think that every removal-of-restrictions case should be reviewed by some other authority than the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes before final action is taken. So far as oil and gas leases are concerned, I feel that where there are no contests the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes might well be given authority—final authority—to act for the Secretary in the approval of oil and gas mining leases without sending those leases to the department.

Mr. MURRAY. What would be the objection to permitting him to remove restrictions, since the removal of the restrictions does not make it taxable and it can not be sold? Assuming that you reserve the authority to approve the sale, he can not sell it. The restriction remains until he gets the approval up here, and yet it is not taxable. What harm could arise from permitting him to do that?

Mr. MERITT. I believe that the department would prefer that these cases be passed upon by a commission to be appointed by the Secretary rather than to vest the superintendent with final authority.

The CHAIRMAN. Do you think it would be possible for this committee to appoint a subcommittee of three or five members to meet with the department and see how close they could come together on this proposition so as to define clearly the jurisdiction of the Commissioner of the Five Civilized Tribes retaining such jurisdiction as you desire here and giving him definite jurisdiction there?

Mr. MERITT. I think that would be a very happy solution of the matter.

Mr. HASTINGS. How many men are there under the Indian Office, under the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. About 300. May I give the exact number later in the record? I find the exact number to be 279 employees under Supt. Parker, also 161 employees in tribal school work, in addition to 19 probate attorneys, making a total of 459 employees in the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. HASTINGS. In your statement the other day you enlarged upon the probate conditions in Oklahoma for the last three or four years past. This bill would not affect that at all, would it?

Mr. MERITT. This bill would give the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes absolute jurisdiction over all individual Indian matters.

Mr. HASTINGS. But this bill would retain all probate attorneys, would it not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. So that it does not remove any supervision over any Indian's estate, does it?

Mr. MERITT. The probate attorneys under this bill would be under the jurisdiction of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes rather than that of the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

Mr. HASTINGS. But you would have the probate attorneys there yet, would you not?

Mr. MERITT. The probate attorneys would be there, but they would not be under the jurisdiction of the Secretary.

Mr. HASTINGS. They would be there in Oklahoma, and their duties would be to look after these matters the same as now. This would not change that law at all?

Mr. MERITT. That is true, but we should bear in mind in that connection that these probate attorneys are not under civil service. Practically all of them are appointed from the State of Oklahoma.

Mr. HASTINGS. You made a good long reference here to the sale of inherited lands. This bill would not change that at all, would it?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. You have made a good long reference in your statement to wills and gave some cases. This bill would not change the law of wills at all, would it?

Mr. MERITT. This law would change the methods of sale of Indian lands in so far as it now requires the approval of the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. HASTINGS. Is there any law now that requires the approval of the Secretary of the Interior upon the sale of inherited lands?

Mr. MERITT. Where the heirs are of full blood.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now?

Mr. MERITT. I think so.

Mr. HASTINGS. No, sir; you are mistaken about that. There is no such law, and it does not change it in that respect at all; and if you will look it up, you will change your statement.

Mr. MERITT. I find that there is a court decision on that question:

We formerly approved deeds where the interests of full-blood heirs were involved. In the decision of the United States court of appeals, eighth circuit, in the case of *United States v. Knight & Avery* (206 Fed., 145), in referring to section 9 of the act of May 27, 1908 (35 Stat. L. 312), it was held that the approval of the Secretary of the Interior was not necessary to the validity of the conveyance of any interest of a full-blood Indian heir in lands allotted to an ancestor who died prior to May 27, 1908. Attention is invited to the exception in the second proviso contained in section 9 of the act of May 27, 1908, supra, which section reads as follows:

"SEC. 9. That the death of any allottee of the Five Civilized Tribes shall operate to remove all restrictions upon the alienation of said allottee's land: *Provided*, That no conveyance of any interest of any full-blood Indian heir in such land shall be valid unless approved by the court having jurisdiction of the settlement of the estate of said deceased allottee: *Provided further*, That if any member of the Five Civilized Tribes of one-half or more Indian blood shall die leaving issue surviving, born since March fourth, nineteen hundred and six, the homestead of such deceased allottee shall remain inalienable, unless restrictions against alienation are removed therefrom by the Secretary of the Interior in the manner provided in section one hereof, for the use and support of such issue, during their life or lives, until April twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and thirty-one; but if no such issue survive, then such allottee, if an adult, may dispose of his homestead by will free from all restrictions; and if this be not done, or in the event the issue hereinbefore provided for die before April twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and thirty-one, the land shall then descend to the heirs, according to the laws of descent and distribution of the State of Oklahoma, free from all restrictions: *Provided further*, That the provisions of section twenty-three of the act of April twenty-sixth, nineteen hundred and six, as amended by this act, are hereby made applicable to all wills executed under this section."

Mr. DAVENPORT. The Knight-Avery case in the United States court of appeals settled that. That held that the Secretary of the Interior did not have to approve the disposition of inherited lands.

Mr. HASTING. This bill does not remove restrictions from the lands of any restricted Indian, does it? The only thing accomplished by this bill is to remove the place where the approval shall be made from an office here in Washington City to practically 1,500 miles away, to

the office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. In a nutshell that is what is intended to be accomplished by this bill, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. I think the passage of this bill would tend to a more general removal of restrictions.

Mr. HASTINGS. There are restrictions upon the homesteads of the Indians enrolled as of half Indian blood and upon the surplus lands of Indians enrolled as of three-quarters and more of Indian blood. This bill does not attempt to remove restrictions from one single acre of that land, does it?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; this bill within itself does not remove restrictions.

Mr. HASTINGS. It changes the supervision over the individual Indian and gives it to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee, does it not?

Mr. MERITT. It takes away what we call the checks and balances which are necessary to protect the Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. NORTON. May I inquire there, do you know who has supervision over the removal of restrictions?

Mr. HASTINGS. Let me state it, and if I misstate it you can correct me. You have stated it three or four times. In the first place, these three or four hundred men who are under the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes are either there at the office in Muskogee or are scattered at convenient places all over Oklahoma among the Five Civilized Tribes, and some of these persons are known as field clerks. The individual Indian goes to a field clerk in person and makes application for the removal of his restrictions. The clerk takes the testimony of the Indian at length. That field clerk reports upon it to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee. I presume that it goes through some bureau in his office there, and then this report is made by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes and is mailed to the Indian Office here in Washington. It goes to the proper bureau here in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and there it is reviewed, and presumably it goes before the Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and from that then it goes over to the Secretary of the Interior, and it does not go to the Secretary's desk but upon the desk of the Assistant Secretary or some man in the Secretary's office, and it is either approved or disapproved. Then it goes back over the same route that it came, namely, through the Indian Office and through the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, and finally the individual Indian is notified. In substance, that is the procedure, is it not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. NORTON. Now, in the case of removing restrictions from the lands of the Indian under your bill, would not that be finally passed upon by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, whereas under existing law it is passed upon by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs?

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes, sir. It does not remove any restrictions, though. It does not change existing law except as to where it shall be approved. The restrictions are retained upon all the land unless they are removed by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized

Tribes; under this bill, are they not removed, if this bill should be enacted into law?

Mr. MERITT. It would require affirmative action before the restrictions would be removed.

Mr. HASTINGS. Now, Mr. Meritt, as a matter of fact in Oklahoma, and particularly in the Cherokee Nation, there was \$325.60 given to each member of the Cherokee Tribe as his allotment. That allotment was not taken all together. The applicant went into the land office to select his allotment, and, for illustration, 30 acres of it may have been in one block, 40 acres in another, 20 acres in another, and 10 acres may have been in another; or it may have been allotted all in one body. Now, then, if an old, decrepit Indian has 10 acres of 50-cent land, or 20 acres of \$1 land or of \$2 land, as the case may be, and he is sick and poor and needy, and he goes before the local office to have his restrictions removed on this particular 20 acres or 10 acres, that has to go the same course, does it not, through a local field clerk, to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, etc., that any other application has to go through?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then the restrictions can not be removed off of even 10 acres for any member of the Five Civilized Tribes without going through this same course, can it?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir. But wherever an Indian is sick we make the case special, and there is no delay in handling it.

Mr. HASTINGS. Yes; but it necessarily takes longer if it goes through the local office and through the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, and then passes to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and goes over to the Secretary and then comes back around, than if final action was had by the superintendent, does it not?

Mr. MERITT. It will take probably 10 days longer.

Mr. HASTINGS. This bill was introduced on December 6. You have given the authority to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes to approve agricultural leases, have you not?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Why was not that ever given before?

Mr. MERITT. We asked for legislation, and that legislation went out on a point of order.

Mr. HASTINGS. But you never did see fit to give the local man authority to approve these agricultural leases before, did you?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. The record shows that there are 7,600 letters received by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, and 7,042 forwarded to the department. If this legislation was enacted would there not be a great saving of the clerical force in the preparation of these letters?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; there would be considerable saving in correspondence.

Mr. HASTINGS. There would be considerable saving.

Mr. MERITT. That would apply to every Indian reservation in the United States.

Mr. HASTINGS. Would there not be a great saving to the Indian Office here in the reviewing of these reports that come from the

Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, if that authority were left there?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Meritt, has there been any protest by any Indian who is a member of the Five Civilized Tribes by blood against the enactment of this legislation since it was introduced on the 6th of December, the first day Congress convened?

Mr. MERITT. Not within my knowledge. I do not believe that the Indian Office has received any letters either in favor of the legislation or against it.

Mr. HASTINGS. With reference to the claims paid out of restricted money, no claim, as I understand it, can be paid unless the authority is given in advance of the filing of the claim or secured afterwards; is that correct? If the claim is paid, for instance, out of restricted money—take, for instance, this kind of a case, that a restricted Indian has money that he has derived either from oil or from the sale of his lands or from one of these per capita payments or from any source, can any claim be paid out of restricted moneys where the authority has not been previously granted here by the Indian Office, without the authority being granted after the claim is filed? I hope I have made myself clear to you. In some cases, as I understand it, if an application for the removal of restrictions is made, and made for a certain specific purpose stated in the application, the authority is oftentimes granted in advance. But suppose the authority is not granted in advance, is the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes now, under your present rule, authorized to pay any claim out of restricted money?

Mr. MERITT. The superintendent has already been given general authority for the purpose of handling individual Indian funds, and he has authority under the existing regulations to pay out moneys of Indians deposited to the credit of those Indians.

Mr. HASTINGS. When was he given that authority?

Mr. MERITT. At various dates.

Mr. HASTINGS. When was the last one, Mr. Commissioner? Has he received any since the introduction of this bill?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Is it true that the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, without the authority having been previously granted, has now authority, say, to pay a claim for a horse that is purchased, or for groceries, or for any other purpose, out of restricted moneys of Indians?

Mr. MERITT. I should say that he would have that authority under the regulations now existing.

Mr. HASTINGS. And you are not able to tell us when these last regulations were made?

Mr. MERITT. I have here a copy of a regulation dated March 5, 1915, which reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., March 6, 1915.

To all disbursing officers of the Indian Service:

Section 9 (B) of the Regulations Concerning the Handling of Individual Indian Money, approved July 14, 1913, is hereby promulgated as follows:

"Superintendents are authorized to expend funds of adult depositors for use in constructing, repairing, and equipping houses, barns, out-buildings, fences,

corrals, wells, and other similar necessary improvements when placed upon their allotments. Expenditures under this section shall be reported in the quarterly accounts, and this section referred to as the authority for the expenditure."

Please acknowledge receipt of this circular and paste same between pages 4 and 5 of your book of Regulations Concerning the Handling of Individual Indian Money.

Respectfully,

E. B. MERITT,
Assistant Commissioner.

Approved, March 15, 1915.

A. A. JONES,
First Assistant Secretary.

Mr. HASTINGS. That is as to authority given in advance for improvements upon an allotment. But here is a claim, for instance, that a merchant has against a restricted Indian, or here is, say, one Indian kills another, and he has some money and he wants to hire a lawyer to defend him for \$100 or \$200, as the case may be, but he has nothing but restricted money, would the superintendent have authority to pay that without the approval of the department?

Mr. MERITT. Amendment to section 9 (A), dated March 6, 1915, reads as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, D. C., March 6, 1915.

To all disbursing officers of the Indian Service:

Section 9 (A) of the Regulations Concerning the Handling of Individual Indian Money, approved July 14, 1913, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"All emergency needs not provided for in other sections of these regulations may be met by the superintendent without securing specific authority. Expenditures under this section shall be reported in the quarterly accounts, and this section referred to as the authority for the expenditure."

Please acknowledge receipt of this circular and paste same between pages 4 and 5 of your book of Regulations Concerning the Handling of Individual Indian Money.

Respectfully,

E. B. MERITT,
Assistant Commissioner.

Approved, March 15, 1915.

A. A. JONES,
First Assistant Secretary.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then, if it was not considered an emergency, he would have no authority to pay it?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; because the other regulation which I just read gave general authority for the expenditure of money for improvements.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then suppose it is not for improvements and it is not regarded as an emergency, would it not in that case be sent to the department for approval?

Mr. MERITT. We have been exceedingly liberal with our superintendents in regard to the handling of individual Indian moneys, and they have very broad authority under existing regulations.

Mr. HASTINGS. Suppose an Indian wanted to buy a team of horses, and he had some restricted money, and he had not the previous authority from the department here; could that be paid with the approval of the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes, or would it be forwarded to the department here for approval?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir; the superintendent now would have authority under the general regulations of the department to make that purchase.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then, as I understand it, you make the statement now that the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes has the authority to pay for any claim of any kind or character out of the restricted moneys belonging to a member of the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. I do not remember making any such statement.

Mr. HASTINGS. Well, that is what I am trying to get at. Is that a fact?

Mr. MERITT. I would not want to make a broad statement like that, because we are very careful to see that all debts contracted by Indians—all alleged debts contracted by Indians—are not paid without being very carefully considered.

Mr. HASTINGS. Who passes upon that? Do these alleged accounts have to come up here for approval first?

Mr. MERITT. If they amounted to any very large sum, we would expect the superintendent to take the matter up with the office.

Mr. HASTINGS. What claims are sent here for approval and what claims are not sent here for approval to be paid out of the moneys of restricted Indians?

Mr. MERITT. There are very few claims sent here for approval. Supt. Parker has deposited to the credit of individual Indians in local banks money amounting to about \$5,000,000. He has invested hundreds of thousands of dollars of Indian funds in Oklahoma without first procuring the consent of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. HASTINGS. That is not the question I am asking you. I am trying to find out what claims are required to be sent here, and not how much money he has deposited in bank. I am trying to find out what claims are required to be sent here for approval—that is the question—to be paid out of moneys of the Indians.

Mr. MERITT. Where an Indian has employed a lawyer and agreed to pay him quite a large sum of money I think the superintendent would send a proposition like that here for approval; but the superintendent has general authority to handle cases that may arise, or first submit those cases to the Indian Office.

Mr. HASTINGS. Does he have to submit these accounts?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; he has to submit these accounts finally to the department.

Mr. SNYDER. You say that under the general rule in the department the superintendent has general authority to handle moneys in these matters?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. SNYDER. Well, does he handle them?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. SNYDER. What proportion does he handle, as to the whole number?

Mr. MERITT. I should say that he handles at this time probably 90 per cent of the investing and spending of the funds of Indians without first procuring authority from the Indian Office except in a general way.

Mr. SNYDER. Then, on those occasions all the department does here is to take the final account and place it in their files?

Mr. SNYDER. Then on those 90 per cent the department itself has to take the final account, and deals with it in that way?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir; the department takes up the accounts to see if they are in proper form.

Mr. HASTINGS. Referring now to the oil leases, I believe you suggested in an answer to a question propounded to you that the vast majority of the leases went through hurriedly and were uncontested.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. About what per cent of those leases are contested?

Mr. MERITT. I would say not exceeding 10 per cent.

Mr. HASTINGS. Do you not think that is too large a percentage? Do you believe that the percentage is more than 5 or even more than 3; that more than 3 per cent of those oil leases that come here for approval are contested?

Mr. MERITT. I wanted to be conservative in my statement in regard to the matter, and therefore I said not to exceed 10 per cent.

Mr. HASTINGS. After giving the matter a little thought, do you think that it amounts to 5 per cent?

Mr. MERITT. Probably not over 5 per cent.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then, Mr. Meritt, I want to ask you what possible objection there could be to allowing the uncontested leases, say 90 or 95 per cent, to be approved by the superintendent?

Mr. MERITT. I said this morning that so far as I am concerned, personally, I would have no objection to that.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then you have no objection to the superintendent's approving the agricultural leases?

Mr. MERITT. No, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then you would have no objection to the superintendent at the other end of the line paying all claims out of the restricted Indian moneys? You say in effect that is the way it is now?

Mr. MERITT. Not to exceed \$2,500.

Mr. HASTINGS. Not to exceed \$2,500. Then, the only objection you could have to this bill is that you insist on contested matters coming here, and the approval of the removal of restrictions?

Mr. DEMPSEY. The payment of claims above \$2,500.

Mr. MERITT. Investments involving a large sum of money.

Mr. HASTINGS. Over \$2,500?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Then you think if an Indian has 10 acres or 20 acres of land, and desires to have the restrictions removed from them, and the land will not be worth over \$25 or \$50, that that ought to pass by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes and come down here for approval, although that land may be disconnected from the land upon which he lives, and may be in another county, and never lived upon by the Indian?

Mr. MERITT. I think so, inasmuch as it would only take about 10 days additional, and also in view of the fact that we have other restricted allotments that are worth a quarter of a million dollars, and where there are all kinds of efforts made to get control of it.

In speaking of the 10 acres not to exceed a small value, we should bear in mind that there are also other allotments of very great value.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Meritt, do you not think that if these smaller matters were taken away from the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and his assist-

ants and the force under him would have more time to deal with the larger questions, with questions in regard to the policy of the Government toward the Indians? Do you not think they could give more attention to those matters if they did not have so many of the details to look after?

Mr. MERITT. The commissioner does not now take up any time in the handling of these details.

Mr. HASTINGS. The truth about the matter is, Mr. Meritt, that excepting in very exceptional cases the Commissioner of Indian Affairs does not look after any of these matters we have been discussing, does he?

Mr. MERITT. Not very many of the cases now go to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, because the work of the office has been divided up among the various officers.

Mr. HASTINGS. Has he ever approved, within the last six months, the removal of restrictions in any case—that is, by his own personal action?

Mr. MERITT. I think he has approved a few cases, but a majority of the cases—

Mr. HASTINGS (interposing). What per cent of cases?

Mr. MERITT. A very few of them.

Mr. HASTINGS. One out of a thousand?

Mr. MERITT. I should say probably that would be the case.

Mr. HASTINGS. They go over your desk, finally, so far as the Indian Office is concerned?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. How about Secretary Lane? Do you recall his having approved one of them?

Mr. MERITT. Under the assignment of work in the Interior Department Indian matters go to the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Mr. Sweeney.

Mr. HASTINGS. Those matters come under the Assistant Secretary of the Interior?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. The truth of the matter is that the Secretary of the Interior himself does not do any of that work; is that not true?

Mr. MERITT. Very little of it.

The CHAIRMAN. If those matters go over the desk of an assistant, why could not the assistant be located in Oklahoma, as you suggested this morning?

Mr. MERITT. I was suggesting that as a substitute, and I said if legislation must be enacted along the lines of the Hastings bill, in order to protect the interest of the Indian, the Secretary of the Interior ought to have authority to name an official to be located at Muskogee to supervise the work of the present superintendent in connection with these important matters.

The CHAIRMAN. And that, you think, would remove the objection to the present condition of affairs?

Mr. MERITT. I want to state, however, that I am not suggesting that with the authority of the commissioner or of the Secretary of the Interior, but I am simply suggesting it upon my own authority.

The CHAIRMAN. You suggest it as one solution of this question?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Meritt, you filed here a protest by the Secretary of the Interior. I do not want to embarrass you, if this question will embarrass you. But I would like to ask you, if you know, who prepared that protest, whether or not it was prepared in the Indian Office?

Mr. MERITT. Inasmuch as the Secretary of the Interior signed that communication, Mr. Hastings, I believe it would not be proper for me to answer your question.

Mr. HASTINGS. I do not want to embarrass you in asking the question, and you need not answer it if you think it will embarrass you. Mr. Meritt, I am very deeply interested in the success of the Indians. It has been my judgment and the judgment of a great many of us who think as I do about this matter that there ought to be more men located in the offices throughout Oklahoma, in the nature of expert farmers, who would go out upon the farms and assist in educating the full-blood Indian how to improve his farm, how to take care of himself, to make him self-reliant, and we think that this \$175,000 which is appropriated to be used down there could be better used by employing more expert farmers, who would come in close touch with the full-blood Indian himself, than by using that money in the employment of stenographers and a clerical force in the office, who are engaged in sending these 7,650 letters here to the department and receiving 7,694 letters from the department, checking them up and placing them in the Mails and Files Division, and answering all of the 144,000 letters received by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes at Muskogee. Do you not believe if the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes had more authority, that the amount of correspondence would be largely reduced, and that the clerical force could be reduced to a large extent and that you could have a larger field force to look after the welfare of the Indian, such as I have indicated?

Mr. MERITT. Mr. Hastings, if you want my candid view of this matter I will say I believe if this bill should pass the correspondence of the office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes would materially increase rather than decrease, and also the letters that are written from the office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, except the reports that are made to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs which would still have to be written in connection with the regular business of the office.

Mr. CARTER. How many employees has the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes under his supervision now?

Mr. MERITT. He has about 300.

Mr. CARTER. I noticed in your statement which you furnished on the request of the Indian Committee you set out about 430 Indian positions for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma?

Mr. MERITT. I stated this morning that I would put the exact number of positions in the record.

Mr. CARTER. You have stated there are about 430 of them, and there are about 15 or 20 tribal positions, which would make a total of about 450 officials for the Five Tribes, the salaries of many of whom are paid from tribal funds.

Mr. MERITT. From tribal funds?

Mr. CARTER. Yes.

Mr. MERITT. I think that statement is not exactly correct, Mr. Carter, because Congress makes an appropriation of \$175,000 out of the Treasury of the United States for administrative purposes, and a large number of employees are paid out of that fund.

Mr. CARTER. Congress makes an appropriation of \$175,000 for an administrative force and an appropriation of \$85,000 for probate work.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. In addition to that you have a great number of school employees who are paid out of the tribal funds, and all of the tribal officials are paid out of the tribal funds.

Mr. MERITT. My statement was approximately limited to the office of the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, but, of course, the schools of the Five Civilized Tribes do not come under the immediate direction of Supt. Parker.

Mr. CARTER. It would make about 450 employees?

Mr. MERITT. Probably so.

Mr. CARTER. Has Mr. Parker law clerks in his office?

Mr. MERITT. He has a few law clerks.

Mr. CARTER. Do they advise him in regard to the legality of the various transactions which are reported to you?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. What means has the Secretary of the Interior or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs to determine the competency of an Indian or to determine the necessities of that Indian and the condition of his family, and the necessities developed by the condition of his family for immediate funds, other than that furnished him by the Office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes?

Mr. MERITT. We have in addition to that the rolls of the Five Civilized Tribes, which show the degree of Indian blood.

Mr. CARTER. What information would the rolls give you in regard to the condition of the family and competency of the Indian?

Mr. MERITT. The degree of Indian blood has a considerable to do in a large number of cases with the competency of the Indians.

Mr. CARTER. Practically everybody interested in these matters has a copy of the rolls.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. We have two or three sets in my office, showing the degree of Indian blood and the age of the Indian, but that does not show you anything about the Indian's competency, nor does it show you anything about the necessities of the family for the money proceeds of the land which the Indian desires to sell, does it?

Mr. MERITT. We depend largely upon the recommendations of the superintendent, and the record as it comes from the superintendent's office.

Mr. CARTER. I believe you told us this afternoon that these removals are passed upon in 15 days?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. I have had up three cases within the last 15 or 20 days; one of them the Matilda Manning case, which had been under consideration for many days. Then I had the case of the Ervin boys and their sister, which had been under consideration for many days, and now returned because the application was filed with the

superintendent, who had known them all his life, and not with the field clerk, who perhaps did not know them at all.

Now, I have before me the case of Noah Watson, which has been under consideration for a year and a half. Early last spring Noah Watson made application to have a part of his land sold in order that he might build a house to live in during this winter. He rented out the house he then had and moved into a tent, I am informed, thinking that he would certainly get his money in time to build his house this winter. He did that last spring, and he felt sure that he would have the money in ample time to build his house so that he could live in it the past winter. It is now March, 11 months have passed, and Mr. Watson might still be living in a tent but for the fact that he had sufficient business capacity to provide a house for his family without assistance from the Indian Bureau.

Mr. MERITT. I think, Mr. Carter, if you will investigate those cases you will find the delay was not in the Indian Office here, but in the office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes.

Mr. CARTER. That is the difficulty. Under the present system responsibility for these delays can not be placed. I have a letter from Mr. Parker, which seems to indicate that the delay is not altogether in his office. He holds the opinion that these matters must be approved by the Secretary of the Interior, and I notice in your letter which you sent me a few days ago that you say: "He has been authorized to disburse funds in cases of emergency," etc.

That is on the Watson case. Those cases which I have mentioned are the only three cases which have come across my desk in the last 10 days or 2 weeks.

All three of those cases have taken considerably longer than 15 days.

Mr. MERITT. I would be glad to put into the record the history of those cases.

Mr. CARTER. Will you put into the record the history of the Matilda Manning case, and my letter to the commissioner?

Mr. MERITT. If you want your letter in the record, I will be glad to have it included in the record.

Mr. CARTER. I want the entire correspondence in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe you asked permission to put Mr. Allen's letter in the record.

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. And that permission was granted?

Mr. MERITT. Yes, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. If there are no further questions to be asked, Mr. Meritt, I understand Mr. Davenport is here and wishes to be heard.

Mr. DAVENPORT. I would like to make a short statement.

The CHAIRMAN. We would like to have the record complete in regard to this matter. You may proceed, Mr. Davenport.

STATEMENT OF HON. JAMES S. DAVENPORT, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

Mr. DAVENPORT. Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, it is easy for me to say that I think the Hastings' bill, or a bill carrying provisions similar to those carried in the Hastings bill, ought to be passed.

There was one statement in the testimony of the superintendent which was made here which I regret very much, and which I do not believe Mr. Parker, the superintendent, when he made it intended to make.

I submitted to Mr. Parker a lease on behalf of Mr. G. C. Spillers in November of last year, together with a draft guaranteeing that Mr. Spillers would carry out the provisions of the lease if the lease was granted to him. The matter was decided just last week, and Mr. Parker returned the draft, and so it was somewhere along the line from November of last year until almost the middle of March before it was finally passed upon, and before Mr. Spillers knew he was going to get the lease.

I have no fault to find with the department or with the Indian Office here any more than with the Indian office in Oklahoma, or with any other office situated at such a great distance. You can not expedite matters at all, nor can you transact business satisfactorily through the local people when all their acts have to be forwarded to Washington for approval.

So far as the integrity of Mr. Parker is concerned, he is as honest as any man you will find, in my judgment, and the fact that he was in Oklahoma, his native State, in no way whatever, in my judgment, would affect his integrity. If it be a fact that because Mr. Parker was reared down there he was selected by the Interior Department to fill the position, and he is not believed to be competent, then we have Mr. Meritt, who was raised right over the line in Arkansas, and I know he is competent. If they want to make a change, let them send Mr. Meritt down there in order that the local people may get more expeditious action on the matters with which they are concerned.

I am going to be fair with the department. I have no criticism to make. But I have never yet sought, since I have been a Member of Congress, to get any kind of legislation through relating to the Indians in my district, which, if it sought to take any jurisdiction away from the Indian Office, that the Interior Department did not resist its passage. That is a broad statement, but I challenge the records and I challenge the officials of the Indian Office to show in any case where I tried to get legislation which sought to take jurisdiction away from the Indian Office that the department did not resist it.

Now, Mr. Chairman, I want to refer to another matter, in reference to the question of the removal of restrictions in that country. The superintendent or some other official down there ought to have the right to pass upon that question and expedite the matter. I have in mind a case which Mr. Meritt will recall. That was the case of Miss Vena Johnson, a young lady who was stricken with tuberculosis, and who had made application more than a year ago to get her restrictions removed, and they were removed with limitations. She could not get the necessary medical treatment, with limitations on the sale of her lands, as she would have to go back and forth to a field clerk every little while in order to get \$15, or \$20 or \$25. She made application in the fall to get the restrictions removed in order that she might get the necessary treatment. The doctors said she needed the medical treatment, and I made application personally to the Indian Office to get the necessary action taken. But before that

order could be changed, it had to go back and forth and there was further investigation down there in Oklahoma—before that order could be changed, God, in His infinite wisdom removed her from this earth, and the Indian Office has protected her estate in the Cherokee Nation, but she is dead and gone.

If the superintendent, or somebody had been down there at Muskogee with the necessary authority, they could have sent some man to see what her condition was, and could have passed finally upon the matter within less than 20 days.

The CHAIRMAN. Was the local office notified of her condition?

Mr. DAVENPORT. They were, because I personally talked with Mr. Parker about it when I was down there.

The CHAIRMAN. What reasons did he give—

Mr. DAVENPORT (interposing). It was because of the regulations, Mr. Chairman. He had to send the application up here, when she made application to have the restrictions removed, and then it had to go back through the same channel and come back here. It is all done according to the regulations, but it seems to me that case very vividly illustrates the unnecessary delay which is occasioned in these cases. Nobody is to blame because it is due to the regulations under which the Indian Office is operating. But if there had been somebody located down there with the necessary authority that condition would not have existed.

Now, I want to refer to another matter, along the line of the removal of the restrictions where they remove them with limitations. If you remove them without limitations the Indian may sell the land if he pleases, and if you remove the limitations, then the department sells the land through the local field clerk and the money is paid into the superintendent's office and placed in some bank down there, and either spent in buying a team of horses or buying a wagon, and usually when they buy the horses they put the United States brand on them or, perhaps, they give them \$10 or \$20 a month as the case may be, or as they think they ought to give it to the Indian, and the result is, in my opinion, that if the Indian had been given all the money to spend he would have done just as well, because as it is now he goes around to the field office and gets \$25 this month, and then he goes around again and gets \$25 next month. If the field man there had the necessary authority which would permit him to remove the restrictions that would give the Indian an opportunity to exercise his power to sell the land, or to do as he pleases with it, he could accomplish something with the money; otherwise an order for removal ought not to be granted at all. If the Indian is incompetent and can not handle his own money the restrictions should not be removed.

I think no regulation—and I want to be fair about it—I think there has been no regulation, within my knowledge, where the Indian made an application for the removal of his restrictions and signed an agreement at the time the application was made that he was willing for the lands to be sold through the department and the money handled by the department, that the order of removal was not made. I have made some investigation and have found many orders of removal of restrictions with limitations have been made.

I believe that the administration of the Indians' affairs down in Oklahoma can be handled as successfully, as intelligently, and as honestly right there on the grounds as they can be handled many miles away from there. I can not see to save my life why Mr. Meritt can not sit in that building that cost the Government more than \$500,000 to construct, and act just as honestly, and attach his name just as efficiently to the final order as he can if he sits in this artistic building down here which my old-time ancestor, Col. Meigs designed and helped to construct.

It seems to me no excuse has been presented to justify the department in not doing something of this kind, along the lines of the Hastings bill.

Mr. Chairman, I want now to refer to a matter that is somewhat apart from the Hastings bill, but which is in line with a communication which has been filed with the committee. You gentlemen know that things come up in your personal contact and dealings with the departmental officers that are not always pleasant, and sometimes you have to disagree with them. I think they are efficient, and I have not had very many disagreements with any of the departments since I have been here.

But I do regret to see the letter written by R. C. Allen brought in here and filed with the committee. The reason I regret that is because of the peculiar circumstances under which Mr. R. C. Allen got his appointment as a Creek national attorney. You do not see any of the other attorneys for the different tribes coming in here and filing statements like Mr. Allen's. I may as well be frank with the committee, because the matter will all come out anyway. Mr. Allen was appointed after Mr. Mott was discharged by the Secretary of the Interior and appointed, evidently, at the suggestion of Mr. Mott. Now, he comes back with a rehash, and brings in some unfortunate discussion that occurred on the floor of the House in 1912 in reference to the Mott report.

I said on the floor of the House at that time, and I say it to this committee now, that in Oklahoma in the administration of the Indian affairs there are men who are seeking to buy lands and sell them, and to get them away from the Indians. There were men there who were rascals, who would not discharge their duty as they should discharge it. But the percentage of that kind of men in Oklahoma was no greater, according to population, than it was in any other State in the Union.

I thought and had hoped that the Mott report was gone, and gone forever. I do not care what Mr. Allen may seek to say to this committee. I wish he had stayed here so that he could have been cross-examined, and I regret that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs did not come here so that the members of the committee could have examined him.

M. CARTER. Mr. Allen seems to think that this jurisdiction should not be vested in Mr. Parker because he is an Oklahoma man, and that an Oklahoma man is not strong enough or big enough to absolve himself from any bit of graft that might be rampant in his surroundings. Mr. Parker was not one of our State officers, and Mr. Allen had been a district judge down there, and had been subject to the same influences and impulses as the balance of our politicians.

Is it not much more of a reason to say that Mr. Allen, in his sacred capacity as the defender of the Creek Tribe of Indians against the white man ought to be absolved from that influence than there is that Mr. Parker should be?

Mr. DAVENPORT. I think there is no question about that. I want to say with reference to Mr. Parker that I believe he is honest and that if he thought a thing was not right he would not put his name to any document of any kind, even if his best friend in the country asked him to do it. If he thought it was not right, I do not believe he would do it. And besides—and I say it with all due deference to any other gentlemen in the employment of the Government—I think Mr. Parker is surrounded by as able a corps of lawyers as anybody in any locality where these Indian questions have arisen. I do not care what the reputation of the men as lawyers may be, I say a man who has grown up in that business, and worked on the questions among the Five Civilized Tribes is more competent to pass upon those questions than a man who may be a good lawyer in other localities, but has not had an opportunity to study these Indian questions.

The Five Civilized Tribes have always been exempted from general Indian legislation, and legislation with reference to the Five Civilized Tribes has been special legislation. You can start at the beginning and come down from the first treaty ever enacted between the Government of the United States and the Five Civilized Tribes, and you will find that all the legislation that has been enacted on behalf of the Five Civilized Tribes has been special legislation, and has not been embraced within general legislation for the Indians. In all these cases it has been specific legislation in reference to their property.

There is only one question to be considered in connection with this bill. I have had about 25 years' experience down there in Oklahoma with Indians, and the only question to be considered in connection with this bill is the question as to whether or not the superintendent should be given final power to perform the duties which are now performed by some one in the Interior Department or in the Indian Office itself. Under the provisions of this bill there is simply a transfer of the offices, which are now 1,500 miles away from the Indians. This bill brings the offices closer home to the people.

So far as the aspersions placed upon the people of Oklahoma by the letter of Mr. Allen, I think that answers itself. Mr. Allen was a district judge down in Oklahoma.

Mr. HASTINGS. I want to call your attention to a statement on page 63 of the last annual report of the Secretary of the Interior, where he says:

The State authorities have shown a disposition to cooperate in every way possible with the department, and the Supreme Court of the State of Oklahoma has provided uniform rules of procedure in probate matters, at the suggestion of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, after his conference with county judges, county attorneys, and tribal attorneys in January, 1914.

I want to invite your attention to that as showing what the Secretary of the Interior had to say in regard to the cooperation of the officers in Oklahoma.

Mr. DAVENPORT. That is in line with what I was saying. That simply shows that because there is one man down there who may

not be performing his duty properly, it is not right or fair to say that the others will not do that.

There are a number of the Indian suits that they referred to, and I notice in the letter he referred to some suits of Wagoner. Those charges were made against parties at Wagoner, but the courts could not find anything against the parties sufficient to convict them, and the court was asked to dismiss one of the cases.

A great many charges have been made, but very few of those have been substantiated. They are always ready to bring those charges whenever any Indian legislation comes up in Congress. They are always ready to charge that because some men have gone wrong that everybody down there has gone wrong. At one time there were a lot of lawsuits pending in the Federal court against parties growing out of crooked land deals, and they used them as a leverage to prevent legislation.

My friend Allen, if I am not incorrectly advised, had about 15 or 20 of those suits pending when he was appointed as the Creek national attorney. He does not say anything about that, but I think it is the truth. When he came up for reappointment a year ago, I think that was the situation. A man who comes in and insinuates things against every other official ought to come in with clean hands. I think the record will bear me out in that matter, and I can at least settle it very quickly, because I am going to wire the officials of the Federal court and ask how many cases are pending against Mr. Allen in the Federal court. I am going to wire old man Bilby and ask him if Allen ever paid the \$10,000 he got from old man Bilby, giving him liens upon land, and when it came to settlement it was found that the titles were no good.

I wanted to present that matter, because I say to you gentlemen that every time I have had Indian legislation in reference to this part of the country some fellow has come along, connected with the Creek national attorneyship or some other business, and tried to cast aspersions upon the entire citizenship. I have made a statement against Mr. Allen which, if it is not true, it is because the records are not correct. I wish he had stayed here, because I know there were suits against him, and I know there was a statement of the number of suits filed in the departmental office about a year ago against him, when he came up for reappointment. I am presenting a list showing the number of suits that are now pending against him in order to show I have not made a misstatement.

The suits of John S. Bilby *v.* R. C. Allen are Nos. 4100 and 4101, Wagoner district court, and aggregate a sum of \$8,300.

The foregoing statement of suits against R. C. Allen are only a part of them, but this I deem to be sufficient to show the committee what Mr. Allen has been engaged in:

Case No. 294, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* H. O. Malot et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 16.)

Case No. 356, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Perry McKay et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 27.) Dismissed.

Case No. 357, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Scott Yeatman et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 67.) Dismissed.

Case, No. 498, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* C. E. Foley et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 152.)

Case No. 911, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* W. E. Dixon et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 105.)

Case No. 917, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Frank L. Mars et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 13.) Dismissed.

Case No. 902, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* J. L. Adair et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, pp. 316, 331.)

Case No. 479, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* The August Land Co. et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, pp. 38, 39, 40, 219, 220, 221, 222.) Nos. 39, 40, and 219 dismissed.

Case No. 482, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Levi Ackley et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, pp. 16, 190, 195, 196, 197, 199, 200, 201, 202, 203, 204, and 205.) Nos. 16, 190, 195, 196, 199 dismissed.

Case No. 485, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Charles Bagg et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 19.) Dismissed.

Case No. 487, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Jos. F. Atchley et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, pp. 17, 156, 157, 158.)

Case No. 490, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Albert Anderson et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 149.) Dismissed.

Case No. 492, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* Joe Abraham et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 118.) *

Case No. 496, Equity. United States of America, complainant, *v.* John Bright et al., defendants. (R. C. Allen, special defendant, p. 191.) (Page 191 shows Coveta Realty Co., Ellis H. Hammond, R. C. Allen, and J. C. Pinson, copartners. There are 21 other transactions in this bill showing Coveta Realty Co., but the names of the copartners not given.)

I thank you, Mr. Chairman.

**STATEMENT OF W. T. KERSHAW, ESQ., ATTORNEY AT LAW,
MILWAUKEE, WIS.**

The CHAIRMAN. We will give you five minutes, Mr. Kershaw.

Mr. KERSHAW. Mr. Chairman, I might explain briefly my interest in this legislation. I belong to a society known as the Society of American Indians, and the members of that society are interested in all legislation affecting Indians throughout the country.

The CHAIRMAN. Where are the headquarters of your organization?

Mr. KERSHAW. Our headquarters are in this city. The secretary resides at Albany, N. Y. His name is Parker.

The CHAIRMAN. I believe it is an incorporated organization, is it not?

Mr. KERSHAW. No, sir; it is not. It does not come within the definition of a fraternal organization or a corporation or anything of that kind. It is a voluntary society of men of Indian blood, and we have endeavored to keep track of Indian legislation, and, acting independently, we have done so.

This discussion to-day has confirmed me in the belief that our organization put its finger on the defect of the Indian situation three years ago in our conference at Denver, when we pointed out—I will leave the platform here—when we pointed out the necessity of a revision and codification of all the laws governing the Indians. There was a bill pending shortly after that, sponsored by Mr. Carter, providing for the appointment of a commission to do that work. I do not know what became of the bill, but had that commission been appointed and this codification been carried forward, the revision could have been submitted to a committee of the House within three months after the commission had been appointed and the laws could have been put into concrete form and annotated up to date.

The CHAIRMAN. That is now being done at the request of this committee. The Committee on the Revision of the Laws, which is a

committee of the House of Representatives, have, at the request of this committee, assumed that duty, and they are now getting up that statement.

Mr. KERSHAW. I am very glad to hear it.

The CHAIRMAN. That committee has already reported the codification bill, and this committee insisted that the laws relative to Indians be included.

Mr. KERSHAW. If that is done, it will cut out the cross-purposes of the laws.

Of course, I can not speak to this bill except from my information gathered from the general discussion here to-day, which has been very illuminating. I have learned one thing, and that is the one thing I have been enlightened upon, and that is in regard to the transmutation or metamorphosis of the Indian, who goes in, apparently, as a Comanche or a Sioux and who comes away unrestricted, if not unregenerated.

This bill, it seems to me, would be subject to an objection, if subject to any objection at all, upon some legal ground or upon some basis of administrative policy. I would not be prepared to discuss the legal phase of it offhand; but, as I gathered from the questions put to the assistant commissioner by Mr. Carter, it is revolutionary, radical, and marks a very radical departure from the present system of administering the law in the Indian Bureau. If it did that, it might involve very serious legal problems, because if it is revolutionary and radical I do not quite understand how the Congress would be competent to create an intermediary department between the Federal Government and the State government.

Mr. CARTER. Is it your notion that this bill does that?

Mr. KERSHAW. No; I am simply discussing the matter from what I have heard here. Of course, it is very broad and general in its terms. It says all the authority of the Department of the Interior shall be conferred upon this officer with reference to the property and the money of these Indians.

Mr. GANDY. You understand that this officer is an officer of the Federal Government, and is not a State officer?

Mr. KERSHAW. Yes, sir.

Mr. CARTER. And is appointed in the same way in which the Commissioner of Indian Affairs is appointed, and with the same salary?

Mr. KERSHAW. Yes, sir; but would that not come under the principle of construction which would hold that he is given concurrent, equal, and coordinate jurisdiction in his sphere of authority, under this law as it is framed here?

Mr. DEMPSEY. He is given exclusive jurisdiction?

Mr. CARTER. He is. His jurisdiction is not divided with anyone.

Mr. DEMPSEY. He takes the place of the Secretary of the Interior. He does not act with him if this becomes a law.

Mr. KERSHAW. Then it is the creation of a new department of the interior for the State of Oklahoma. As I have gathered—

Mr. CARTER (interposing). You are mistaken about that. It is not a new department; it is an enlargement of the jurisdiction given to a bureau already in existence.

Mr. SNYDER. Is not this what it does: Does it not simply transfer the authority from one office to another?

Mr. CARTER. Yes.

Mr. DEMPSEY. It does more than that, because the office of the Secretary of the Interior is a recognized constitutional office. This is purely a statutory office, and it does confer upon a man in the field all the power which is vested by law in this constitutional officer.

Mr. SNYDER. That is true; but this power was not vested in this officer by the Constitution; it was given to him by statute.

Mr. CARTER. May I ask you a question?

Mr. KERSHAW. Certainly.

Mr. CARTER. This bill simply transfers jurisdiction from John and puts it on Tom; that is the sum total of the effect of the bill. My thought about the matter was this, that the nearer you put the management of Indian affairs to the Indians the better it will be for the Indians, because it will be a more expeditious way of handling the Indian affairs, and you would have the jurisdiction vested in a man who comes in more close contact with the Indians. Do you object to that principle?

Mr. KERSHAW. No; those things are very practical, salutary, and necessary, I think. But the language of this bill is that the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes shall have and exercise all authority now conferred by law upon the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. HASTINGS. With reference to their money and their property. That is a part of the proposition.

Mr. KERSHAW. Yes.

Mr. CARTER. Not of tribal affairs.

Mr. KERSHAW. What is the residuum of power left with the Secretary of the Interior?

Mr. CARTER. Power with reference to all tribal affairs.

Mr. KERSHAW. In what could they consist to carry out the theory of the legislative purposes in connection with the governing of the Indian? The legislative purpose is settled by the Supreme Court of the United States as the care and protection of the Indian. What residuum of power is there left in the Secretary of the Interior? Of course, there is some. I do not know what it could be that would be fundamental and efficacious, as far as the Indian is concerned, except the control of his property.

Mr. CARTER. This transfers the management of the individual to the superintendent, but none of the tribal affairs. All of the tribal affairs are still in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior, all of the coal lands and the oil lands, and everything else that belongs to the tribe is still in the hands of the Secretary of the Interior.

Mr. KERSHAW. I am not antagonizing this bill, nor your views. I think the chairman has hit the right trail when he has suggested a conference, and I think this might be worked out in that way.

I think this bill is so broad it fixes no limitations of any character, by the civil or criminal law, or otherwise. Suppose your man goes wrong down there and embezzles a lot of funds, or something of that kind. I know that Mr. Parker will not do that. I am not speaking of him at all. But suppose the man down there embezzles some funds; how is he indicted?

Mr. CARTER. The State has jurisdiction of offenses committed by the individual Indian now, and the Federal court would still maintain jurisdiction over offenses committed by Federal officers.

Mr. KERSHAW. No; I am talking about the superintendent.

Mr. CARTER. This bill seeks no change of jurisdiction with reference to criminal offenses or otherwise, so far as the courts are concerned.

Mr. KERSHAW. But there are no presumptions that could arise to overcome the presumption of innocence in a criminal prosecution, unless the law specifies. The Federal Government has no common-law jurisdiction in criminal matters.

Mr. DEMPSEY. The Secretary of the Interior would not have any criminal jurisdiction at all, and so you do not affect that.

Mr. KERSHAW. That might be, but if you are prosecuting him you would have to show by some law that he has violated some criminal statute.

Mr. CARTER. He is a Federal official.

Mr. KERSHAW. Yes. You would have to show that. Here you have a law so meager in its terms—

Mr. CARTER (interposing). We have a law, the law of June 28, 1898, in relation to the Five Civilized Tribes which makes every officer, either of the Five Civilized Tribes or those supervising them, a Federal official with relation to the jurisdiction of any criminal offenses.

Mr. KERSHAW. It occurred to me, from the suggestions made by you and the questions put to the assistant commissioner by the author of the bill, that there could have been no harm in specifying clearly in this measure just the limitations of this man's power and the extent to which he was cooperating with the Secretary of the Interior, if he is to cooperate, if that is the purpose and intention of the law. But your statement that he is accountable to the Secretary of the Interior the same as any other appointee, I hardly think could be gathered from the language of the law, because it says the power of the Secretary of the Interior is transferred to and conferred upon this man.

I understand that there are 101,000 people belonging to the Five Civilized Tribes, a comparatively small number of whom are restricted members of the Five Civilized Tribes. This bill comprehends, apparently, all the members of the Five Civilized Tribes. They are competent men; they are civilized, of course, self-governing, and all that.

The CHAIRMAN. Your time has expired, Mr. Kershaw.

Mr. KERSHAW. I am very much obliged to you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Hastings desires to make a statement, and we will be glad to hear him now.

STATEMENT OF HON. WILLIAM W. HASTINGS, A REPRESENTATIVE IN CONGRESS FROM THE STATE OF OKLAHOMA.

Mr. HASTINGS. Mr. Chairman, the committee was very patient with me for two or three days; my statement was interrupted by members of the committee and I did not have an opportunity to follow closely the argument in this bill, but I think we have about developed all of the facts by the questions asked, whether that has been done in connected argument or not.

I want to say to the committee, as the committee already knows, that this bill does not remove any supervision at all from any

Indian. It simply reduces the distance of that supervision by 1,500 miles. We are bringing the supervision back home, and leaving it in Muskogee, Okla., lodged in a Government official nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate. The man who occupies that position now is conceded by every person who has appeared before this committee to be a high-class, honorable, competent Government official.

This is exactly similar to the fight we had in this country prior to 1776, when the American people said they were opposed to government by Great Britain. It is exactly the same fight that every Territory of the United States has made when it has knocked at the door of Congress for admission to the Union. It has been a fight against "long-distance government."

The people of Arizona were against long-distance government, and the people of Oklahoma were against long-distance government. Every State in the Union and every Territory of the United States has been against long-distance government, and has knocked at the doors of Congress for admission to statehood. That is what we are after in this case.

We are not trying to take away any supervision over any Indian in Oklahoma. This bill does not remove the restrictions from his land; it does not remove supervision over oil leases or over the investment of his money, but it simply takes this authority from an office here in Washington and lodges it in a competent official down there in Muskogee, where the Indian can go in person to that official, face to face, look at the official and let him judge of his competency, so that the matter may be decided there promptly. That is all this bill does.

Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, there are two United States Senators from the State of Oklahoma and eight Members of the House of Representatives. Some of us have lived there all of our lives, and it is not a question of remaining there a day or two with us. I have given 25 years of my life to a study of the subject. I have laid awake as much at night, perhaps, as any other man in the United States studying the Indian question, and I know that the thing that is ruining the Indian in Oklahoma is the prejudice being aroused on account of this "long-distance government." I know that the Indian 10 years ago was much stronger, was much more self-reliant than he is to-day. Every man who has been there and who has studied the question at close range knows what I say is true.

When statehood came we had two-thirds of the offices in eastern Oklahoma filled by Indians. Among them were sheriffs, were county judges, county treasurers, and they occupied many of the positions there. But because of departmental supervision there has been such a prejudice created against the method of governing the Indian that I want to say to this committee now it is fast destroying the Indian's influence in his own State. I feel deeply upon this question, Mr. Chairman. There is no man on earth who will go further than I to help a real Indian.

We have two United States Senators, both capable, honest men. Senator Owen introduced a bill similar to this bill in the Senate a few days ago, and he heartily approves of it. I know I am permitted

to say here that Senator Gore, who has given this question years and years of study, and who knows it from an intimate study of it—I am permitted to say that he is in favor of this bill. I will not speak for Mr. Murray or for Mr. Carter and prejudice them, but the other six members of the Oklahoma delegation who live in and represent Oklahoma and study the Indian, and who are deeply interested in the welfare of the Indian and his future development, are all in favor of this bill. They do not want to see the Indian robbed, but they are in favor of this bill because they want to see the best interests of the Indian taken care of.

Every single Indian in Oklahoma, so far as I know, is in favor of this bill, and I challenge those who come here and advocate the other side to bring to the attention of this committee a single, solitary, substantial Indian in Oklahoma who is a member of the Five Civilized Tribes who does not indorse this bill in toto.

This bill was introduced in the House of Representatives on December 6. I have here some newspaper comments upon the bill, and also a resolution of the Oklahoma State Senate favoring this bill, which I will put in the record, with the permission of the committee:

[The Sallisaw Star-Gazette, Dec. 17, 1915.]

THE SYSTEM WILL FIGHT IT.

Congressman W. W. Hastings has introduced in Congress a bill that will be of tremendous advantage in eastern Oklahoma if it becomes a law. The chief obstacle in the way of the bill is the opposition that will come from the system that is in vogue in the Department of the Interior.

The bill proposes to increase the authority of Gabe E. Parker, superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. Specifically it proposes to give Mr. Parker the authority to finally pass upon and make effective all oil leases, all agricultural leases, removal of restrictions from restricted lands, allow or disallow all claims to be paid out of moneys of restricted Indians.

Now all these minor matters have to go to Washington for approval. That takes weeks and months of time. Then they are not approved by the Secretary of the Interior nor yet by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. They are passed upon by some head of a division. This is generally a person who never saw Oklahoma and has no knowledge of affairs or conditions here.

We submit that Mr. Parker is just as competent to pass upon these matters finally as any head of any department in Washington. Further, he is just as competent as the Secretary of the Interior or the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, if they were personally doing the work sent to Washington from the Muskogee bureau, which they are not. Mr. Parker is on the ground. He knows. Why should these simple business matters be tied up for weeks and months just to get the official O. K. of some department clerk in Washington? Why should the business of the Indians not be conducted just as expeditiously and as satisfactorily as any other business? Why should it not be transacted on the ground by a man who has personal knowledge of these matters?

But Washington and the system that has grown up there, a system that it is difficult to shake loose, is jealous of its authority and supervisory powers. That system is opposed to placing authority where the work is done. It's the same old system that cursed this fair land in the days of Republican rule, and it has been made precious little better since the Democrats went into power.

Congressman Hastings knows what he is doing. Every business man, white or red, will give unqualified approval to this plan. If the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior are gifted with the wisdom their positions imply, they will not oppose this measure. (Muskogee Times-Democrat.)

The above is taken from the Star-Gazette, a newspaper published at Sallisaw, in Sequoyah County, Okla.

[Muskogee Times-Democrat, Jan. 8, 1916.]

THE HASTINGS BILL.

One of the shortest bills ever presented to Congress was that introduced by Congressman Hastings to confer upon the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes the authority now exercised by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior over the individual lands and moneys of restricted members of the Five Civilized Tribes.

It would give the superintendent here: First, authority to approve all oil leases; second, power to remove restrictions; third, authority to approve agricultural leases; and fourth, final supervision over the payment of debts of restricted Indians out of their own funds.

There is every argument in its favor and none, so far as we have heard, against it. It requires on an average of three months or more to get an oil lease approved, unless the lessee at great expense employs an attorney to follow the lease to Washington or engages the services of an attorney at Washington to press early action upon it there.

It requires on an average of nine months to secure favorable action upon an application for the removal of restrictions upon individual lands.

Action upon claims presented for payment out of restricted Indian moneys is unreasonably delayed, and at present but few agricultural leases are approved, because tenants can not afford to wait final action by the department.

There is every argument in favor of this legislation. It should have the hearty support of the department at Washington. It would not only save vexatious delays, but it would also save great expense to all parties concerned and avoid much criticism of the supervision of Indian affairs, but would popularize the department in Oklahoma.

Rules and regulations have been prepared covering all of these matters, and unquestionably the superintendent at Muskogee could be trusted with having sufficient judgment to apply them and finally pass upon these questions here. Everyone, of course, knows that the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior at Washington do not give personal attention to any of these details. They are referred to the head of some division, a clerk who is paid from \$1,500 to \$2,500 per annum. The superintendent at Muskogee holds a position of equal responsibility with the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. He is nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, and receives a salary of \$5,000 per annum.

With this law enacted there is no reason why an oil lease should not be approved within three days, or restrictions removed from land, or an agricultural lease approved, or a claim paid from restricted money, within the same length of time. It would revolutionize the administration of Indian affairs in Oklahoma.

The report of the superintendent shows thousands of pieces of mail annually pass through his office, received, forwarded, and answered. If the proposed bill were enacted it is conservatively estimated that the number of letters received and answered would be reduced at least 50 per cent. At present, when an oil lease or an application for the removal of restrictions is filed with the superintendent to be forwarded to Washington, the party interested becomes impatient after some 30 or 60 days' delay and writes a letter concerning the matter, gets his friends to write a letter, later employs an attorney who writes one, and then writes to his Member of Congress. All these letters go through the home office at Muskogee or the Indian Office at Washington and must be answered. If final action could be taken in Oklahoma without delay, the interested party would not become restless, and it would be an exceptional case in which a letter is written before action was had.

Finally, long-distance government is un-American. Every citizen wants to be able to transact business face to face with public officials as far as possible, where he can have a fair hearing, and where he always feels he is getting a square deal, and where any little defect could be corrected and the lease or application amended and approved.

There is every argument in favor of the immediate passage of this bill. It should be carefully studied by the people of eastern Oklahoma, the department should get behind it, and Congress should unanimously pass it.

The above from the Muskogee Times-Democrat is a fair statement of the purposes and what is intended to be accomplished by it.

[Interview of Solicitor General West, Dec. 17, 1915.]

CHEROKEE INDIANS GET LAST PAYMENT—PRESTON WEST SAYS FINAL DISBURSEMENT MADE TO TRIBAL MEMBERS.

TULSA, OKLA., *December 17.*

Arriving in Tulsa from Washington Friday morning, Preston C. West, Solicitor of the Department of the Interior, whose home has been at Muskogee for the past several years, stated that the last fund to be distributed among the members of the Cherokee Tribe has been given out. This distribution brought to each Indian of that nation something like \$3 or \$4, totaling a large sum.

In speaking of the work that has been done by the Department of the Interior in connection with the different tribes of Indians in the United States during the past several months, Mr. West stated that matters which have been under consideration for the past 15 years have been cleared up and that the office has been so systematized that any proposition coming from the Indians at the present time can be settled within 60 days from the time it is brought to the attention of the department. In case of necessity it can be given immediate action. Most of the old matters which have cleared up since the time Mr. West took up his work with the department, pertained to the land and pension work.

The Solicitor for the Interior Department was loud in his praise of President Wilson and the latter's policies. He said: "It was a hard task to break the crust after the new administration came in and for a long time it seemed that we would not get the red-tape systems eliminated, but much of that has been cleared away now so that matters pertaining to Indian lands will receive prompt attention."

Mr. West expressed himself as heartily in favor of the Hastings bill which provides for a more direct handling of the Indian affairs by placing a representative of the Interior Department in the field, and stated that he believes this measure will go through.

The above is from an interview of Preston C. West. At the time it was given he was Solicitor for the Interior Department.

[The Stigler Beacon, Dec. 24, 1915.]

Congressman W. W. Hastings has introduced a bill in Congress which, if it becomes a law, will relieve the handling of the affairs of the individual Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes of a great deal of the "red tape." The bill is a brief one, and confers upon the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes the authority to handle the affairs of the individual Indians which is now conferred upon the Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. No law could be enacted of greater benefit to the Choctaws, unless it would be a law winding up the affairs of the tribes and paying them the money that is now due them. At present it requires weeks and months to secure action on the removal of restrictions, or any small matter connected with the estate of a restricted Indian. With such matters in the hands of the superintendent at Muskogee it should be only a matter of days. There certainly could be no question of the competency of the present superintendent to handle such matters, and we hope to see Mr. Hastings's bill become a law. The Choctaws have suffered enough from long-distance government.

The above comment is taken from the Stigler Beacon and highly commends the bill.

[The Okmulgee Daily Democrat, Dec. 13, 1915.]

TO MAKE MUSKOGEE HEADQUARTERS FOR ALL INDIAN AFFAIRS—IS PURPOSE OF A BILL INTRODUCED BY HASTINGS—VERY DESIRABLE FOR OIL MEN.

To transfer the entire control of Indian affairs in the Five Tribes to Muskogee in so far as they are now in part controlled at Washington is the purpose of an act which Congressman Hastings proposes in a bill which he introduced on the opening day of the Sixty-fourth Congress. Probably no other bill could be more welcomed by the oil and gas mining interests, to say nothing of the agricultural interests of eastern Oklahoma, than this bill, which is now in course of con-

sideration by the Committee on Indian Affairs, and, it is to be hoped, passage by the body.

The bill is brief, pointed, and plain. It appears in full below. Passed and in operation, the Superintendent of Indian Affairs in Muskogee will have final authority over all things which affect the lands, allotments, and moneys of the restricted classes of Indians, that being now in the office of the Secretary of the Interior and Commissioner of Indian Affairs. As is well known, the time cost in getting approvals of leases has been a serious detriment and constant hampering of oil and gas developments, and also has been the inlet of endless misunderstandings which too often have culminated in litigation. The matter of time is important in many a development as fixing the rights of parties in the oil country. Values are subject to such uncertainty, rising or falling fabulously upon sudden happenings, that agreements are broken during the pendency of approval of leases or transfers; sometimes even fraud is charged to substantiate the breaking, and endless difficulties are feared even when they are not reasonably expected. It ought to be plain that this has a deterrent effect upon the developments and also indirectly a depressing effect upon the value of lands and mining interests of the Indians. Wardship and honest, even strict, supervision of the Indians by the Government is in itself both wholesome and desirable, even if it were not unavoidable in line of our national duty to the Indian. But the circumstances which obtain in this country make it necessary that wardship be attended by the utmost simplicity and dispatch in the handling of the immense business which it entails.

Mr. Hastings, in his extensive experience and by reason of his own Indian relationship, is peculiarly qualified both to understand these things and to accomplish the reform in Congress which he has set upon. He is to be commended and encouraged, as he surely will be throughout the Indian country.

The foregoing is taken from the Okmulgee Daily Democrat, and shows the favorable sentiment in that section of the State. No newspaper has contained an unfavorable comment.

[The Tulsa World, Dec. 26, 1915.]

LONG-RANGE GOVERNMENT.

The World has had occasion to call favorable attention to the bill recently introduced in the National House by Congressman Hastings, of the second Oklahoma district, which had the unusual merit of brevity, of saying plainly just what it meant without the mass of unnecessary and confusing verbiage that is usually characteristic of legislative measures. This bill has struck a responsive chord in the hearts of Oklahomans who have had experience with the "red tape" and dilatory methods which under the present system must precede any action on the part of the Interior Department at Washington. The approval of Indian leases, removal or restrictions, and many other questions of local import, of none of which the department officials are or can be as well informed and able to judge wisely as those in contact with the circumstances, must all pass through the absurd grind of this modern "circumlocution office."

The Hastings bill, shorn of formalities, enacts "that the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma shall, after the passage and approval of this act, have and exercise all the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior, or either of them, respecting the lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma and their individual moneys." That is plain, explicit, and to the point, alike incapable of being misunderstood or misconstrued. This bill is now in the hands of the House Committee on Indian Affairs, which committee will give hearing to those both favoring and opposing the measure. That there will be strong and determined opposition is already apparent, and all those who want to see this much-needed reform accomplished should lose no time in flooding their Representatives and the committee members with letters pleading that Oklahoma be delivered from the twin evils of red tape and long-range government, which have long been such an irritation and impediment to the progress and development of the State.

This is not, as some have imagined, a personal attack upon Commissioner Sells or Secretary Lane, or any of their employees, but is an attack upon the vicious system that has heretofore prevailed. That system has proved itself highly impractical, unreasonably dilatory, unnecessarily autocratic, and fre-

quently unjust and injurious even to the interests of those it was intended to serve. Everybody knows that the greater part of a year is required to secure action on any matter of leases or restrictions, with corresponding expense and loss, and that claims are pending from six months to two years before they are paid. There is neither justice nor logic in such a condition. The superintendent for the tribes is on the ground, is acquainted with the interests of the Indians themselves, and is fully capable of attending to their affairs more intelligently, more satisfactorily and with more promptitude than the dignitaries at the National Capital.

That the Interior Department and the Indian Commissioner are hurt by this proposition is altogether due to their unreasonable and autocratic attitude in these matters. Aside from the commendable justice and practical wisdom of the Hastings measure, the people of Oklahoma irrespective of blood are thoroughly disgusted and tired of the haughty and blundering policy of the department, and will enthusiastically welcome any measure that will curb and restrict their much misused power. It is the department officials themselves, therefore, who are to blame for this insurrection against their authority. If the people of Oklahoma could have their way, the Hastings bill would go through Congress with a whoop.

This is not a partisan measure in any sense of the word, for both Republicans and Democrats are intensely anxious that useless red tape should be abolished and long-range government put out of business. If there is any reason why it should commend itself to one party more than another, it is because the Democrats are interested in its effects in State politics. In the language of a prominent Oklahoma Democrat at the capital, "the passage of the Hastings bill would do much toward popularizing the department; but if we are to continue to be the victims of long-range government, there is every reason to believe the Republicans will carry the State next year." But the Republicans of Oklahoma are patriotic enough to prefer the good of the people before any partisan advantage, and they will be found almost to a man championing the bill offered by Mr. Hastings.

The above is a vigorous analysis of the bill taken from the *Tulsa World*.

[The Haskell News, Dec. 17, 1915.]

Congressman Hastings has introduced a bill in Congress to confer upon the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior respecting lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes and their individual moneys. The purpose of the bill is to give the superintendent at Muskogee final authority over all those things which affect the individual allotments and moneys of restricted Indians. It is well known that it requires from six to nine months to secure the removal of restrictions from a tract of land, and that delay is occasioned and expense incurred in forwarding oil and agricultural leases to the department for approval, and claims are pending from six months to two years before they are paid. There is no good reason why any of these matters should be forwarded to the department for approval and the authority should be vested in the superintendent of the five tribes as the bill provides, and if it becomes a law will be a great convenience to thousands of people who now have business with the Indians of this State.

[The Haskell County News, Dec. 9, 1915.]

CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS INTRODUCES BILL.

Short, sweet, and to the point and yet fitted out with real teeth is the bill Congressman W. W. Hastings, of this district, introduced in the House Monday as the first move toward the elimination of the "red tape" in the administration of the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes.

The Hastings bill, if it becomes a law at this session of Congress—and Mr. Hastings proposes to see that it does—will go further toward a final and satisfactory settlement of the individual affairs of members of the Five Civilized Tribes than any legislation that has been heretofore enacted bearing on the subject.

The Hastings bill, unencumbered with a plethora of parliamentary language, is so brief it is painful to the Interior Department. The bill in its entirety is as follows:

"Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma shall, after the passage and approval of this act, have and exercise all the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior representing the lands allotted to the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes and their individual moneys."

[The Tablequah Arrow, Dec. 13, 1915.]

CUT OUT THE RED TAPE.

The bill introduced in Congress by Mr. Hastings to confer upon the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes in Oklahoma the authority now conferred by law upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior respecting lands allotted to these tribes and their individual money, should it become a law, will inure to the benefit of the individuals of these tribes. That they are civilized goes, or the Government has used a misnomer in their designation. Under the present system, that of an imaginary protecting arm reaching over here from Washington, with neither an eye nor an ear at either end, small as well as greater affairs of interest in the transaction of their individual business requires from 2 to 10 months to conclude, whereas if the authority was vested in the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes business could be transacted in a much shorter time. The fact that unnecessary delays by this long-distance supervision of the business of the Indians has been a detriment has been thoroughly instilled into Hon. W. W. Hastings during his 20 years as national attorney for the Cherokees, and the fact that it was known that he entertained this view had much to do in selecting him for the place he is now occupying, and Hastings by this early move in the matter has already shown himself true to his trust.

The tribal affairs of the Cherokees have been closed, and they as a tribe have ceased to exist. The affairs of the other tribes are fast approaching the time when their tribal relations will have been closed, and each will be left an individual citizen to hustle for a livelihood with his fellow men. When that time arrives quick action should be extended him rather than putting long delays in his way in the transaction of business. Under the present system all actions for removal of restrictions, making of contracts, leases, sales, etc., originate in the office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, and it is upon the recommendations of this office that the department relies and acts, and why it is necessary for long delays that the department may examine proceedings and approve the findings made by the superintendent while the interested parties wait is what puzzles our people. Cut out the red tape and give Mr. Indian a chance, and he will make good.

The above review is taken from the Arrow, published at the home city of the author of the bill. Tahlequah is the old Cherokee capital.

[Muskogee Times-Democrat, Mar. 6, 1916.]

WE EXPECTED OPPOSITION FROM CATO.

The Hon. Cato Sells, Commissioner of Indian Affairs, has addressed a letter to Chairman Stephens, of the House Committee on Indian Affairs, in protest to the Hastings bill.

The Hastings bill seeks to transfer to the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes final jurisdiction in all matters pertaining to the individual Indian; that is, leasing of his land, removal of restrictions, payment of royalties, etc. No matter of tribal interest is affected. Generally speaking, the bulk of the business affected by Mr. Hastings's bill would be the making of agricultural and oil leases and the payment of moneys derived from rentals and royalties to the Indians entitled to them. At present all of these matters must be passed on by clerks, the division superintendent, then Supt. Parker, and then they go to Washington, where Mr. Parker's recommendation is first passed on by some

\$1,200 clerk, and then through the same sort of routine begun here in Muskogee. It takes twice the time, and possibly four or five times the cost to dispatch this business that it would require if it was completed here.

The commissioner seems to think that matters would go to the bow wows if this bill was passed, and he intimates that the Indians would not get a square deal. Certainly even Mr. Sells will admit that Supt. Gabe E. Parker, who is an Indian, is better versed in the needs of his people than anyone at Washington; that having been born and brought up here he understands the Indian as none but an Indian can. Certainly Mr. Sells will admit that Mr. Parker, who gave up an office of as much dignity as that filled now by Mr. Sells, to accept his present place, is as honest, as reliable, as conscientious, and as efficient as any man in the Interior Department.

Mr. Sells says in his letter that he opposes the Hastings bill because there is a local prejudice against the Indian. Let's see about this. Senator Owen, of this State, is an Indian. Congressman Carter and Congressman Hastings are both Indians. Congressman Davenport and Congressman Murray are intermarried white members of the tribe. There are a dozen members of our legislature, house and senate, who are Indians by blood, and a number of intermarried Indians. The leader of the house is an Indian. The chairman of the Democratic caucus is an Indian. Leading ministers and leading physicians of the State are Indians by blood; many of our leading bankers are Indians. As a matter of fact, it strikes us that instead of there being prejudice in Oklahoma against the Indian there is a very strong, active prejudice in his favor. The average white man in this country readily admits that this is essentially an Indian State and that he is entitled to preference.

No, Mr. Sells, there is no local prejudice against the Indian, and there is but one argument which can be truthfully made against it, and that is that it transfers authority now held in Washington to an appointee of the department stationed in Muskogee. This might result in making it wise to very largely decrease the office force in the office of the Indian Commission, but it would very greatly add to the service which both Indians and whites now look to the Department of the Interior to get.

The above article from the Muskogee Times-Democrat completely answers the argument of Commissioner Sells that the people are prejudiced against the Indian.

[The Tahlequah Telegram, Dec. 23, 1915.]

THE GREATEST GOOD TO THE GREATEST NUMBER.

That the bill introduced in Congress by our Representative, Mr. Hastings, providing that the affairs of the Five Civilized Tribes be handled by the superintendent to the exclusion of Washington departmental red tape, will be passed at an early date is the wish of everyone in eastern Oklahoma who is interested in the development of this section of the State.

Owing to the complex system under which the restricted Indian is allowed to dispose of his land, or lease it for agricultural or mineral uses, only those who have devoted years to the business of securing such leases or have the money to secure the services of some one onto the ropes, rarely secure a lease or deed to Indian land.

Such being the case, many good farmers who are capable of developing the land and willing to pay a reasonable price either for a deed or for a lease are deterred from making the effort on account of the length of time required to get the matter through the many departments to final action.

The Tahlequah Telegram advocates the doing away with the "departmental red tape."

[The Daily Oklahoman, Oklahoma City, Okla., Jan. 8, 1916.]

CONGRESSMAN HASTINGS'S BILL.

Representative Hastings, of the second Oklahoma district, has presented for congressional consideration a measure which it seems to the Oklahoman ought to become a law. Briefly, its provisions are that the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes shall in future be empowered with the authority at present con-

ferred upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior regarding land and money belonging to restricted members of those tribes.

If the bill becomes a law it will do away with the ceaseless red tape which has heretofore encumbered these matters. The superintendent, stationed conveniently at Muskogee, will have the necessary authority in transactions involving oil leases, removal of restrictions, approved farming leases, and payment of debts of restricted Indians out of individual funds.

It has taken several months to secure action on questions arising from Indian affairs in Oklahoma, involving much inconvenience all along the line; and if Mr. Hastings is successful in having his measure enacted into law it will mean the removal of much vexatious detail from the hands of the department at Washington, in addition to making it much easier at this end of the line.

Details of Indian affairs have been necessarily intrusted to minor clerks at Washington. It is easy to understand that the Secretary of the Interior and the commissioner do not have the time to handle these important affairs personally, and it goes without saying that they could be much better manipulated—these matters concerning the Indians—by a capable superintendent at Muskogee. Expeditionness is only one of the features which would undergo a great improvement.

Mr. Hastings evidently has an idea that he is in Congress for the purpose of doing things in the interest of his district, and it appears to us that he shows this in the present instance.

The above is from the Oklahoman, published at the capital of the State, and is not in that part of the State formerly embraced within the lands of the Five Civilized Tribes. It expresses the unanimous sentiment throughout the State.

[Stillwell Standard-Sentinel, Dec. 16, 1915.]

The measure introduced in the House of Representatives conferring upon the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes the authority now vested upon the Secretary of the Interior respecting Indian lands and affairs is one tending to help conditions of the full-blood Indian and will result in much good to this class of our citizens. It gives him the same protection as of yore, but more than this, it will give him his money from royalties, land leases, or permit him to sell his surplus land and provide for himself and family when he needs it without long waits and uncertainties as practiced under the present system. The fact is the Government practices more sentiment than practical sense toward the Indian than is good for him. Mr. Hastings knows the conditions here thoroughly and his measure before Congress is receiving popular indorsement at home.

The above is taken from the Standard-Sentinel, published in Adair County.

[Muskogee Times-Democrat, Feb. 15, 1916.]

If the Oklahoma delegation in Congress will stand as unitedly back of the Hastings bill, which provides giving the commission in Oklahoma Federal jurisdiction over all matters pertaining to the individual Indian as they did on the question of Indian payments the bill will become a law. We regard the passage of the Hastings bill as of more local importance—that is, of importance to eastern Oklahoma—than any other piece of legislation before Congress.

[Muskogee Times-Democrat, Jan. 27, 1916.]

EVERYBODY FOR THIS BILL.

We have discussed the Hastings bill, which seeks to transfer final jurisdiction and individual Indian matters from Washington to Oklahoma, with a number of men and have yet to find one who is not heartily in favor of the bill. If this bill could be referred to the Indians themselves by referendum the result would be practically unanimous in its favor. While the white people of this State, having dealings with the Indian agency and Interior Department are thoroughly disgusted with the situation, yet the bulk of the white race know little about this matter, while every Indian is thoroughly disgusted with the system of red tape and delay.

[Muskogee Times-Democrat.]

MAKING A START.

The introduction by Congresssman Hastings of a bill to confer upon the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes the authority now exercised by the Secretary of the Interior with respect to the allotted lands and moneys of restricted Indians has had one good effect, as the Secretary of the Interior has already issued an order conferring final authority upon the superintendent at Muskogee to approve all agricultural leases.

Final authority should be given the superintendent over oil leases, the removal of restrictions, and the payment of claims against restricted Indians out of their funds.

When this is done delays will cease, all these matters will be attended to at Muskogee, and eastern Oklahoma will develop rapidly.

[Muskogee Times-Democrat, Jan. 15, 1916.]

THE STORY OF A HALF ACRE.

Because the transfer of half an acre of land that sold for \$50 had to be approved in Washington instead of in Muskogee a town of 2,000 people has been deprived of a depot on their only line of railroad, deprived of a post office, and deprived of a bank for two months and six days.

This is a very fair example of the reasons why the Hastings bill should become a law and the head of the Indian Bureau in Muskogee given power to pass finally on minor matters affecting Indians and their property.

The town of Kusa needed a depot. The railroad ordered the depot built. But it was necessary to have ground to build it on. This meant buying half an acre of ground from a restricted Indian. The trade was made with the Indian in five minutes. He got \$50 for his half acre and made a deed. It was an ordinary business transaction. But here is where the present ridiculous, cumbersome system in handling Indian matters commenced to grind. That deed to the half acre had to be sent to Washington for approval. The usual happened. It took just 67 days to get the deed back from Washington. It was only a \$50 transaction, and yet the 2,000 people of Kusa were forced to wait those 67 days before the railroad could begin work on the depot. Until the depot is built there can be no postoffice established, and unless there is a post office no bank. The application for a post office has been delayed 67 days. The application for a bank charter has been delayed because of lack of a post office and the people forced to do their banking elsewhere for these same 67 days.

Here is a trivial matter of approving a deed to \$50 worth of land that could have been passed upon and settled in Muskogee in two hours. But it has to be sent to Washington and a certain amount of red tape wound about it and then unwound, and when the department clerk finally found it convenient to write his name on it 60 days had elapsed, 60 days in which no account was taken of the inconvenience and hardship of the 2,000 people at Kusa.

The bill now before Congress would eliminate these exasperating and totally unnecessary delays.

The following is a Senate resolution unanimously passed by the State senate, and introduced by George W. Fields, a restricted Choctaw Indian:

Engrossed senate resolution No. 8. By Fields.

Whereas there is pending in the Congress of the United States a measure known as the Hastings bill, which has for its purpose the removal of a portion of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from Washington, D. C., and placing the affairs of certain members of the Five Civilized Tribes under the supervision of the Union Agency, at Muskogee, Okla., and

Whereas by so doing the "red-tape" methods which have been in vogue since the early days of such Indian tribes in Oklahoma will be eliminated, and

thus relieve all concerned of the unnecessary burdens which are so eminently in evidence in long-range government; and Whereas Oklahoma stands to-day in the foremost ranks of the States of the American Union in advancement and has just cause to expect encouragement and assistance from the Federal Government in affairs over which control is retained and exercised: Therefore be it

Resolved by the senate of the fifth legislature of the State of Oklahoma in extraordinary session assembled, That we earnestly memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact into law the Hastings bill, and thus remove the obstacles that surround certain property rights in Oklahoma, in order that the material advancement of the State be not retarded and that the betterment of this class of citizens be brought about.

Passed by the senate February 19, 1916.

E. L. MITCHELL,
President pro tempore of the Senate.

Attest:

JOE S. MORRIS,
Secretary of the Senate.

Correctly engrossed.

M. S. BLASSINGAME,
Chairman Committee on Enrolled and Engrossed Bills.

Mr. HASTINGS. You will see from these extracts which I have placed in the record that the bill has been extensively commented upon, and if there had been a single protest by any living Indian in Oklahoma, certainly it would have come to the knowledge of the officials in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. More than that, I want to say that the resolution of the Oklahoma State senate indorsing the bill was passed unanimously.

I introduced this resolution not alone as an expression of the sentiment of the members of the State senate of Oklahoma, but for the purpose of inviting the attention of the committee to the fact that up in the right-hand corner of the copy of the resolution is the name of the author, a Mr. Fields. The resolution was introduced by Senator George W. Fields, who went to school at the male seminary and graduated from that school. He represents my senatorial district in the State Legislature of Oklahoma. By reference to the rolls you will find he is enrolled as a half-blood Indian, and in order that he might have personal control of his homestead or his money that man would have to humiliate himself by having his application sent here to Washington in order to have the necessary authority granted by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or by the Secretary of the Interior, before he can have his restrictions removed.

This bill simply gives Mr. Parker, the superintendent at Muskogee, the authority to pass on these matters out there, without having to send them on here and cause unnecessary delay.

I want to say to you, Mr. Chairman and gentlemen of the committee, in reference to Mr. Parker, that there is one man in Oklahoma against whom there is not a breath of suspicion, and I defy any man to bring aught against the reputation for honesty, efficiency, and integrity of Gabe E. Parker. The only reason it has been referred to here is that there has been a little pamphlet put out by somebody claiming to show that Mr. Parker's appointment was a political appointment.

I notice in one or two of the circular letters which have been written there is something said that this was a political appointment, and that is the reason, as I understand it, that Mr. Carter has made reference to it here, to show that it was not a political appointment,

that it was not made upon the recommendation of any member of the Oklahoma delegation in Congress.

I am anxious and ready always to protect the Indians, and I never intend to cast a vote in Congress, while I have the honor to represent the second congressional district of Oklahoma, for any measure which, in my judgment, would be detrimental to them. Upon another occasion I will have some other views to present as to what ought to be done for the Indian, how we can best proceed to make him a substantial citizen of the State, but I do not intend to go into that now.

I want to conclude by saying that those Indians were made citizens of the United States by the act of March 3, 1901, 15 years ago, and to repeat again and again that this bill does not take away any supervision over them. It simply transfers the supervision from the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior here to an honest, upright, competent official in Oklahoma, before whom the Indian can go and present his case and secure prompt action there in Muskogee. In my judgment all this other matter that has been brought in here with reference to probate matters and with reference to wills, and a lot of other matters is foreign to the subject matter of this bill and is simply brought in here to muddy the water.

There is but one issue in this bill and that is, Are you in favor of "long-distance government," or are you in favor of having an honest, competent official upon the ground to pass upon these matters promptly?

I want to say I have always been, I am now, and I always will be in favor of having a local, competent official to pass upon these matters. That is the reason why the first bill I introduced when I entered this Congress was this bill to transfer this authority to the local official in Oklahoma. No man can say that my record shows that I have not been for the Indian in Oklahoma.

As I said before, and, if you will pardon me for saying it again, I have represented the Indians for 25 years in the local courts out there, in the United States Court of Claims, and I have represented them in the Supreme Court of the United States. I went into those early cases where they said there was graft in them, those cases referred to as the probate cases, and helped to fight them out.

I am one of those who went in and helped to clear out some judges referred to by the commission, and I have always been found on the side of the Indian. It is my judgment, and the judgment of the two United States Senators from Oklahoma, and also the judgment of everybody who represents Oklahoma in the House of Representatives, and it is the judgment of every single Indian in Oklahoma that this legislation is in the interest of the Indian. Certainly, if this was bad legislation, you would have gotten a protest against it from at least one Indian in Oklahoma.

I thank the committee very much for your patience and attention.

The CHAIRMAN. Are you in favor of local self-government?

Mr. HASTINGS. I knew if this bill were introduced giving this authority to some local county judge or district judge elected by the people of Oklahoma that the representatives of the Indian Office would come here and say that politics would control it, and I wanted

to get around that, and I wanted to obviate that very thing, and hence I wanted to confer the jurisdiction on a man who was a Government appointee, a man nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate of the United States, against whom there could be no breath of suspicion.

Mr. GANDY. Is it not a fact that when the Indians had their own tribal government they got along very well?

Mr. HASTINGS. The difference between these Indians and the others is, that up to 10 or 15 years ago they managed their own private affairs, and you took away their freedom 10 or 15 years ago, and you have turned the hand of advancement backward. They had their own government, they had their own laws, they did as they pleased with their own property, they handled their own money, they paid their own debts. It was that way for a century, up to the time a few years after the appointment of the Dawes Commission. When they went in to administer the affairs of the Indians Congress by legislation took away the authority from the individual members of the Five Civilized Tribes. So that the members of these Five Civilized Tribes are not like the other Indians that have been referred to here. Those Indians were not members of the constitutional conventions of the various States; they are not members of the legislature, they did not take an active part in the affairs of the State, they did not have their own local self-government, their governors, and legislatures, and all that sort of thing. Those people never dealt with their own affairs like the members of the Five Civilized Tribes. All the members of the Five Civilized Tribes for a century before the appointment of the Dawes Commission had been managing their own affairs. They traded with and dealt with the best of the white people, either in the Indian Territory or the surrounding States; they were bankers, were merchants, lawyers, farmers, laborers, and business men of every kind. They did as they pleased with their own property.

It is said by the Indian Office to an old Indian, decrepit, with one foot in the grave, if he wants to sell 10 acres of land worth \$25, the office is unwilling to grant that authority to the local official who is appointed by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate.

I do not believe when this committee understands this situation, or when the Congress of the United States understands this situation, they will say that every one of these little matters shall have to be sent here to Washington, 1,500 miles from Oklahoma. I do not believe they will say that the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes shall simply be a forwarding clerk to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

I have been careful throughout this entire discussion to say nothing by way of personal criticism of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs nor of the Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs, but I am against the system. I would not care if my brother were Commissioner of Indian Affairs or occupied any position there, I would be against the system just the same. I am unalterably against this system. I am in favor of sending these cases back where they can be promptly and safely transferred and handled by an honest official at Muskogee.

Here is a man in this official position as Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes who has had charge of the expenditure of

\$175,000 in salaries, and yet the Indian Office officials say you can not trust that man to pass upon the removal of restrictions on 10 acres of land which is only worth 50 cents an acre. I do not believe the members of this committee will agree with that.

It is agreed here that 90 or 95 per cent of the oil leases go through the Indian Office here as a matter of course. Therefore, by not giving this authority to this Government official down there there are 7,650 letters or reports which have to be sent from the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes to the Indian Office here, and equally as many letters have to be sent back from the Indian Office to the superintendent. The superintendent, as it is now, is simply a forwarding clerk.

The CHAIRMAN. Would you be in favor of turning over the Indians to the care of the State of Oklahoma?

Mr. HASTINGS. That is not involved in this case, Mr. Chairman. That is the fight which the commissioner would like to inject into it, but it is not involved in the question now before the committee, so far as this bill is concerned. The superintendent is a Federal official nominated by the President of the United States and confirmed by the Senate, and if this man is not a high-class man, then another man could be appointed. This is not a fight for Gabe E. Parker, although I do not believe there is any higher class man. But if he is not a big enough man, if he is not competent, remove him and send somebody there who is competent to fill the position. This is not a personal fight; it is a fight for a principle.

Mr. NORTON. I recognize the gentleman is very well acquainted with the Indian situation in Oklahoma, and I wanted to get his opinion as to whether it would not be a good thing for the Federal Government to relinquish all control over the Indians in Oklahoma and over their property and allow them to become full citizens in every way of the State of Oklahoma and take their rightful place in the Government and in the business life of that State.

Mr. HASTINGS. It would take me longer to discuss it than the committee has at its disposal to-day. It is a question that is very important. I have thought a great deal about it, and it is a question concerning which I have a very decided opinion, but it would take me some time to outline my views in full. I know I have trespassed upon the time of the committee too much already, but with the permission of yourself and that of the committee I will be glad to give my views about it.

Mr. NORTON. I would like to know what you think about that. Can you not answer yes or no to my question?

Mr. HASTINGS. I can not answer that simply by yes or no. Briefly stated, I would not remove all restrictions. I have never favored that and do not favor it now. That is not involved in this bill. I do favor a larger removal of restrictions from the Indian. If I had my way I would remove the restrictions either conditionally or unconditionally off of all the surplus bonds of all adult Indians when applied.

Then I would have more expert farmers appointed, and with the proceeds derived from the sale of this land that is sold I would have these expert farmers help the Indian, instruct him how to inclose his land, and put it in a state of cultivation, and with this money secured

from the proceeds of the sale of the land I would help him buy some horses and some chickens and some hogs, and I would help him build a house and teach him agriculture. I would have him grow cotton and corn and other things adapted to the soil and make him entirely self-sustaining. That is what I would do with the proceeds of the money derived from the sale of the land of the incompetent class of restricted Indians. As to those found competent I would remove their restrictions at once unconditionally and turn them loose without any supervision of any kind.

That is my real solution of the Indian question, but in order to amplify that I would have to take a good deal of time. I believe the Indian would get more good out of his land if he were taught to cultivate it and made a self-reliant citizen of Oklahoma. He would be an honor to himself, to his family, and to his State.

RECAPITULATION.

First. It is the history of every department in Washington that none of them ever want to give up any jurisdiction. They want it all centered in Washington. They want to retain all supervision here.

A representative of the Indian Office appeared before the committee and, in our judgment, presented a lot of matter wholly foreign to the issues involved in this bill. Among other things, he referred to the necessity for supervision of probate matters in Oklahoma. He invited attention to some cases tried there a few years ago, just after Statehood. This has nothing to do with the merits of this bill, because the present Indian appropriation bill carries \$85,000 for probate attorneys in Oklahoma. The bill under discussion does not take away any of that supervision, and we respectfully submit that the introduction of these matters is only intended to encumber the record and confuse the issue. Let us not dodge the issue by attempting to distract attention.

Second. He advocated a change of the law providing for more supervision in the approval of agricultural leases. This is wholly foreign to a discussion of this bill. The bill retains all the supervision with reference to the approval of agricultural leases now provided by law. The only thing this bill seeks to do is to transfer this supervision to a local man in Oklahoma. The issue should not be confused. It should be met squarely. Is it better for this supervision to be made by a competent, trustworthy man in Oklahoma than to transmit all matters by mail 1,500 miles to a clerk at the head of some bureau? This is the point.

Third. It is recommended that the law with reference to the approval of wills be changed. This is also foreign to the subject, as the bill does not seek to change the law in this respect.

Fourth. It is charged that the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes is a political office. It was created by the act of August 1, 1914. The present incumbent, Gabe E. Parker, was nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. The hearings show that he was not recommended by any of the members of the Oklahoma delegation and by no person in Oklahoma, that he was the personal selection of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and that he was

selected solely upon merit. Hence, I submit that such an argument is wholly unjustified.

Mr. Parker is an educated, competent, high-class man. There has not been so much as a breath of suspicion against him, and no insinuation that he is incompetent. He was formerly at the head of one of the schools in Oklahoma. He is a member of the Choctaw Tribe of Indians and thoroughly familiar with conditions in Oklahoma. He is in deep sympathy with the Indians of that State. He was a member of the constitutional convention of Oklahoma and later appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate as Register of the Treasury. He was finally selected for his present responsible position upon the recommendation of the present Commissioner of Indian Affairs.

These facts are not known to many associations, newspapers, and philanthropic citizens of the United States who have the interest of the Indian at heart. They are led to believe that this bill turns over the supervision of the affairs of the Indians to a local official elected by the citizens of Oklahoma and who would, therefore, be influenced by the people who elect him. This is not true, as the superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes is a Federal official. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the Assistant Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the Secretary of the Interior are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. They are Federal officials, as is the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes.

These hearings show that neither the Secretary of the Interior nor the Commissioner of Indian Affairs passes upon any of the matters affected by this bill. On the other hand, the hearings show that when they come through the mail they are referred to some clerk of a bureau paid \$1,800 or \$2,000 per annum, who, in effect, sits in judgment upon the acts of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes. Let us not confuse the issue. What this bill seeks to do is to have final supervision lodged in the Superintendent for the Five Civilized Tribes.

Fifth. The Kagama case (118 U. S., 375) is quoted from. This was a case certified up from the circuit court of appeals in 1886 and is a criminal case involving the constitutional question as to whether or not Congress can confer jurisdiction upon a Federal court in criminal matters over a crime committed by one Indian upon another in a reservation within a State. In it the court took occasion to remark that oftentimes there was prejudice against the Indian in the State in which a reservation was located. This is not a happy argument against the pending bill for many reasons.

The Indians in the Kagama case were reservation Indians. Their lands had not been allotted, and they were not citizens of the United States. They had never been made citizens of the United States, as in the case of members of the Five Civilized Tribes, who were made citizens by the act of March 3, 1901. The Five Tribes have had governments of their own for the past 100 years, and they take part in the local affairs of Oklahoma as actively as white men. The truth is the history of that State for the past few years completely refutes the charge that there is any race prejudice. More than 2,000,000 people are now living in Oklahoma; over one-half dwell in the eastern part, which was formerly occupied by the Five Civilized Tribes.

There were enrolled of all classes 101,521 members, one-third of whom are now dead. Hence it will be seen that more than 100 white persons live in eastern Oklahoma to each member of the Five Tribes. Notwithstanding this, a large number of enrolled Indians were elected as delegates to the constitutional convention which framed the organic law of the State. Riley Copeland, A. S. Wyly, J. T. Edmondson, C. O. Frye, O. H. P. Brewer were all Cherokees; W. N. Littlejohn was an enrolled intermarried citizen of the Cherokee Nation; Gabe E. Parker was a Choctaw; and Henry Cloud was a Cherokee. Many others, whom I do not now recall, were elected members of the constitutional convention. The president of that convention was Congressman Murray, an intermarried Chickasaw citizen. Will anyone say the above showing indicates prejudice on the part of the people of Oklahoma against the enrolled members of the Five Civilized Tribes?

Let us investigate a little further. Hon. R. L. Owen was elected one of our first Senators, and Hon. C. D. Carter, a member of this committee, was elected a Member of Congress. Both are enrolled citizens. Hon. J. S. Davenport is an intermarried Cherokee citizen and a Member of Congress. Hon. W. H. Murray is a member of Congress and a member of this committee. The author of this bill is an enrolled Cherokee citizen. Certainly the reasoning by the court in the Kagama case would not apply to Oklahoma.

I might add in this connection that a very large number of the county officers in Oklahoma, and members of the State legislature, are members of the Five Civilized Tribes. Everyone in Oklahoma knows that there is no prejudice against a member of these tribes. His race is not inquired into. All officers are nominated at a primary and are elected at a general election. Hence we insist that the reference to the Kagama case is not a happy one.

Sixth. The hearings show that 7,650 letters were forwarded to the Department of the Interior last year by the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes and that 7,694 letters were received by him from the department. Excluding Sundays, the superintendent signed and forwarded more than 25 letters and reports each day to the department and received as many from Washington.

Our contention is that the making of reports and the reading of letters to and from the department take up practically all of his time and leave but little time in which he can give attention to the important duties of his office. If the bill is enacted into law, all this would be corrected.

In addition, 116,570 miscellaneous letters were received in the office of the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes and 144,402 miscellaneous letters sent out. If matters brought to his attention could be acted upon in Muskogee expeditiously and not sent to Washington, untold thousands of these letters would never be written. A great deal of the stenographic and clerical help could be dispensed with and the salaries paid them could be used in paying expert farmers, placed in convenient localities among the restricted members of the tribe, who could give them personal attention, aid and encourage them in improving their homes and farms, and be of much more substantial benefit to the real Indian. At present, so far as I am advised, there is not an expert farmer doing exclusive farm work. It is true that some employees are carried upon the pay

roll as expert farmers, but practically all of them are doing administrative work. Very few, if any, are doing expert farm work exclusively. The hope of the Indian needing assistance lies in teaching him farming and stock raising. Instead of doing this, the Government is expending \$185,000 annually for clerical help mostly in a forwarding office at Muskogee, and is not spending money on men to go among the Indians and render them encouraging assistance in their daily tasks.

Seventh. Our contention is further that there would be a great saving of clerical help in the office of Commissioner of Indian Affairs and the Secretary of the Interior if these matters were not forwarded here.

Eighth. The Commissioner of Indian Affairs should look after the broader questions affecting Indians, should shape the policy of the Government as to them, and should be glad to be rid of the numerous little details incident to this work. No business man at the head of a great institution attempts to give attention to minor details. That responsibility is given to others. Congress intended to confer larger authority upon the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes by the act of August 1, 1914, just as this bill does.

The members of the Five Civilized Tribes want their tribal affairs wound up. The Choctaws and Chickasaws want sold their coal and asphalt lands, as well as the remainder of their unallotted lands, including surface and timber lands, and the proceeds divided among them. The members of the other tribes are equally anxious to have their affairs wound up as expeditiously as possible.

The Dawes Commission was created by the act of March 3, 1893, 23 years ago. More than one-third of the enrolled members of the tribes are dead, and yet the affairs of some of the tribes, particularly Choctaws and Chickasaws, will not be wound up for years.

We insist that the time of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs should be devoted to the larger tribal questions, so that their settlement may be expedited rather than to the affairs of the individual Indian.

Ninth. Every Indian in Oklahoma favors this bill. At least, not one has lodged a protest against it. These hearings indicate that the Five Civilized Tribes have had schools of their own—common schools, high schools, and boarding schools—for 100 years. Many of their members are graduates of the various colleges and institutions of learning in the United States. Many other members are leading lawyers, doctors, farmers, bankers, and business men of every kind. This bill was introduced on the first day Congress convened, December 6, 1915, and has been extensively commented on in the press throughout Oklahoma, and yet no protest has been filed on behalf of a single Indian.

Tenth. Every white man who is a citizen of Oklahoma and who is not in the employ of the Indian Office, so far as the hearings show and in so far as the author is advised, favors the passage of this bill.

Eleventh. The hearings show that this bill has been favorably commented upon and analyzed by a large number of newspapers throughout Oklahoma. A number of the clippings have been filed with these hearings. It has not been unfavorably criticized by any newspaper.

Twelfth. All the members of the Oklahoma delegation favor the bill. Senator Owen has introduced a similar bill in the Senate.

Thirteenth. The State senate of Oklahoma unanimously passed a resolution favoring the bill. The resolution was introduced by a restricted Choctaw Indian, George W. Fields.

Fourteenth. It can not be controverted but what the sending of all these matters through, first, the local field clerk; second, the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes; third, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs; and, fourth, the Secretary of the Interior—shown by the hearings to pass through 11 different hands—must occasion delays and criticism against the department and militates against the Indian, and the system has unquestionably aroused more prejudice against the Indian and occasioned more insistent demands for the repeal of all legislation for the supervising of the affairs of individual Indians than anything else. Unless changed it will ultimately destroy the Indian.

Fifteenth. The interests of the restricted Indian can best be subserved by inviting the cooperation of the local officers and the citizens of Oklahoma and not by wholesale criticism of them. A representative of the department can not have any influence with a court or jury, and can not, therefore, protect the restricted Indian unless he invites their cooperation and assistance.

As in all new States, when Oklahoma was first organized some injustices were done the Indian, but when public attention was called to them a splendid citizenship was aroused, and the unworthy officials were driven from their places of trust. Juries unhesitatingly convicted those who sought to despoil the Indian.

The report of the Secretary of the Interior shows that the Supreme Court of Oklahoma has promulgated rules for the guidance of the probate courts of the State, and that all the courts through the State are now working in harmony with the probate attorneys there. It served no good purpose, however, for the representative of the Indian Office to refer to this matter before the Indian Committee for two reasons, first, because the things criticized happened while the department had supervision, and, second, the bill under discussion does not do away with the probate attorneys.

Sixteenth. The department has seen fit to file certain letters and circulars from people throughout the East, who are not acquainted with local conditions in Oklahoma, but who get their information solely through the department. Inasmuch as the same references and arguments are used in all of them, we may reasonably infer how they originated.

Seventeenth. Finally, permit us to say that this bill affects Oklahoma only and we desire to repeat that every Indian there, as well as every white man, the two United States Senators, every Member of Congress representing Oklahoma, every newspaper in Oklahoma, and the State senate of Oklahoma, after the fullest discussion and closest analysis of this bill, all favor its enactment. Can it be that they are all in error? Certainly, if this were not a meritorious bill, after all the discussions which the hearings show have been had upon it in the press throughout Oklahoma, some person, Indian or white, residing in that State would be found to protest against it. We submit that this bill should be promptly enacted into law. Sending all matters to Washington for approval delays the development of the Indian's

property. Preparation can not be made to begin work on an agricultural lease until it is approved and returned, and contracts can not be let to drill oil leases until the action of the authorities at Washington is known. In order to expedite consideration of matters transmitted here for approval a large number of lessees come to the department, either in person or by attorney, and all these delays and expenses could be avoided if final action were had at Muskogee.

The insinuations and criticisms expressed and implied by the representative of the Indian Office in the hearings before the committee against the people of Oklahoma can not be but detrimental to the restricted members of the Five Civilized Tribes. They are residents and citizens of that State, vote and hold office there, attend the public schools, and receive the protection of the State's laws. Under existing legislation, within a few years all of their restrictions will be removed, when they will need the sympathetic cooperation and not the antagonism of the splendid citizenship of which they are a part and among whom they dwell.

I am determined that the issue presented by this bill shall not be confused. It is this: Does Congress favor the supervision of individual affairs of the restricted members of the Five Civilized Tribes by a competent, trustworthy, and efficient Federal official in Oklahoma, known as the Superintendent of the Five Civilized Tribes, nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate, with a salary of \$5,000 per annum, or does Congress favor supervision by a clerk or inferior official in the office of the Commissioner of Indian Affairs or Secretary of the Interior, located in Washington?

ADDITIONAL STATEMENT OF MR. MERITT.

MR. MERITT. Mr. Chairman, I want to ask that there be inserted in the record the statement that if any remarks that I have made contained even an intimation of a reflection upon Mr. Parker I desire to withdraw it. There is no man for whom I have a higher regard than Mr. Parker.

Mr. Hastings made a statement that might be construed as meaning that I was not in favor of investing Mr. Parker with authority to remove restrictions on a 10-acre tract worth \$50.

My objection—and I believe it will be shown to appear clearly in my original statement—is to the general authority to remove restrictions on all Indian lands. Of course, I know Mr. Parker has ample capacity to act in an individual case such as Mr. Hastings cited. I want to make it perfectly plain and clear that any statement that I have made to the committee is not intended in any way to reflect upon the honesty or capacity of Supt. Parker. I consider him my personal friend and hold him in the highest esteem.

I also want to close my remarks with the same thought with which I began it, that any statement I have made before this committee is not intended as a reflection upon any member of the Oklahoma delegation in Congress. I hold each one of those Members in the very highest esteem. Neither is my statement intended as a reflection upon the citizenship of the State of Oklahoma.

(Thereupon, at 5 o'clock p. m., the committee adjourned.)









