
PAYMENTS TO OSAGE INDIANS.

HEARING

BEFORE THE

SUBCOMMITTEE OF THE COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS,

UNITED STATES SENATE,

ON THE

AMENDMENT INTENDED TO BE PROPOSED BY MR. ALLEN
TO THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL IN REGARD
TO PAYMENT TO OSAGE INDIANS.

MARCH 1, 1899.—Reported by Mr. PLATT, of Connecticut, from the Committee
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PAYMENTS TO OSAGE INDIANS.

SATURDAY, February 18, 1899.

Present: Senator Platt of Connecticut (chairman); also Hon. Henry W. Blair, ex-Senator from the State of New Hampshire; Governor Samuel J. Crawford, of Indian Territory, and a number of Indians and others from Indian Territory interested in the hearing.

The CHAIRMAN (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut). This hearing is upon an amendment intended to be proposed by Mr. Allen to the bill (H. R. 11217) making appropriations for the current and contingent expenses of the Indian Department and for fulfilling treaty stipulations with various Indian tribes for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1900, and for other purposes, which is in the following words:

"To enable the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the Osage tribe of Indians, in Oklahoma Territory, a sum equal to seven hundred dollars per capita, as per memorial of the general council of said tribe (or nation) approved January twenty-eighth, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, the same to be deducted from the fund now held by the United States in trust for said tribe: *Provided*, That the money hereby appropriated shall be placed to the credit of the Secretary of the Interior and under his direction paid per capita to the individual members of said tribe, under the supervision of a disbursing officer to be appointed by the said Secretary of the Interior: *And provided further*, That from the share of each member of the tribe shall be deducted and paid by such disbursing officer the amount of his indebtedness, if any, due to persons licensed by the United States to trade with the Osage Indians on their reservation, the amount aforesaid in case of dispute between the parties to be determined by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs: *And provided further*, That nothing herein shall deprive the parties of their right to litigate the amount of such indebtedness before payment, as now provided by law: *Provided also*, That no person licensed by the Secretary of the Interior to trade with said Indians shall hereafter credit them individually to an amount in excess of sixty per centum of their quarterly payments."

Hon. Henry W. Blair appears here in favor of the amendment. Now, Mr. Blair, you may present the case in your own way.

STATEMENT OF HON. HENRY W. BLAIR.

Mr. BLAIR. Mr. Chairman, there is at the present time due to the licensed traders of the United States doing business upon the Osage Reservation, from the annuitants of that tribe, a balance in the aggregate of \$430,548.89, of which I have here the statements by the traders themselves, verified by affidavit, giving the aggregate of each trader's

account and the balance against each individual annuitant indebted to him, footed up as follows:

Albert H. Gibson, Pawhuska	\$64,790.90
R. E. Bird & Co., Pawhuska.....	45,645.25
G. M. Huffaker, Gray Horse	79,901.67
John N. Florer & Co., Gray Horse	83,690.84
Johnson & McLaughlin, Gray Horse	65,664.51
F. C. Wood & Co., Hominy	57,159.67
Morphis Price & Co., Hominy.....	32,694.05

430,548.89

In addition to that, there is about \$50,000 estimated which is due to other special licensees of the United States not included in the amounts verified by affidavit.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. Whom do you mean by special licensees?

Mr. BLAIR. A man is licensed to deal in meat. He is a butcher. Another is licensed to deal in millinery goods. They have a general license to trade and deal in everything that is necessary to the sustenance of the Indians. These accounts are verified in the way I spoke of.

These accounts, or balances of accounts rather, have been accumulating for eight, ten, or twelve years. Generally they are for the necessities of life. Many of the accounts, however, will be seen to be of large amounts, and it may be that nearly one-half—from one-half to two-thirds—of this aggregate amount is for permanent improvements which have been constructed for the Indians at the expense of the traders and now are represented by houses and other improvements that are of a permanent nature.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. You say houses constructed by the traders for the benefit of the Indians. Do you mean that the traders build the houses or that they furnish the materials?

Mr. BLAIR. Both; sometimes furnishing the materials and then paying for the labor. At other times, as I understand it, they actually construct the whole establishment, but by contracts, and the details of all can be shown and verified by an examination of the traders' books. Upon these balances there has never been any interest computed, and the capital invested by the traders has usually cost them from 8 to 10 or 12 or 15 per cent in the way of interest, either their own capital or—which has been very often the case—the capital they have hired from banks and others, upon which they have to pay these large rates of interest.

Some of these accounts have become a matter of question as to whether they are excessive in these original charges. However that may be, these traders tell us, and I have come to think it is a fair representation of the matter, that, considering that these accounts have been so long delayed and that they have received nothing whatever in the way of compensation for the interest involved, it is possible, and in fact it is not only possible but entirely probable—I think really the fact—that the entire amount charged here is less than is really equitably due them from the Indians.

Great effort has been made to obtain the adjustment of these accounts, but without success. The tribe generally are in favor of their payment, but just how, by what method, to effect their payment has been the difficult thing. You are yourself familiar with the fact, I suppose, that there is quarterly paid about \$90,000 interest upon the invested or trust fund of the tribe in the Treasury.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. How much does that fund amount to?

Mr. BLAIR. The fund is eight million and some two or three hundred thousand dollars. I have the exact amount here.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. How many beneficiaries are there?

Mr. BLAIR. Eighteen hundred and something, which is also stated here.

Mr. WISMEYER. Seventeen hundred and eighty-two.

Mr. BLAIR. This matter has been referred to the Department for its opinion. The Commissioner has recommended it strongly, and I have here a copy of his letter and of the proposition which he devised to accomplish the end desired in his report to the Secretary of the Interior. The Secretary of the Interior has carefully considered the matter and has forwarded another proposition to effect the same end, somewhat different in terms from that of the Commissioner, but both going to the same end; and they are entirely satisfactory to the traders, as will be any other proposition which the committee may devise which will result in the fair examination and investigation of the question between these traders and the Indians and the determination of the amount that is due them, and its payment.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, D. C., February 6, 1899.

Hon. R. F. PETTIGREW,

Chairman, Committee on Indian Affairs, United States Senate.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt, by your reference for report, of an amendment to be proposed to the Indian appropriation bill (H. R. 11217), to pay to the Osage Indians \$700 per capita of their permanent fund.

In response, you are advised that the last annuity roll of the Osage tribe contains 1,782 names. For this number the proposed payment of \$700 per capita would amount to \$1,247,400. The total amount of the principal of the trust fund of this tribe now in the Treasury of the United States is \$8,257,939.41, with a credit on the books of \$69,120 more, upon all of which they are paid interest at the rate of 5 per centum, which amounts to \$416,352.97 per annum.

Of this income \$360,000 is paid to them in cash per capita, in quarterly payments of \$90,000, or a fraction over \$55 per capita every three months. In addition to this, they were paid \$300,000 from accumulated interest in 1893 and \$200,000 in 1895.

Notwithstanding this large quarterly income and the two extra payments just quoted, it is represented that these Indians are now heavily in debt. From verified statements of the accounts of several of the licensed traders, which have lately been exhibited in the Indian Office, it is believed that the aggregate of their individual indebtedness will reach nearly \$500,000.

These debts have been accruing for several years, and run from \$1 up to thousands of dollars. Of a list of 150 names of a single trader—

74 owe between \$1 and \$100.
9 owe between \$100 and \$200.
9 owe between \$200 and \$300.
4 owe between \$300 and \$400.
3 owe between \$400 and \$500.
18 owe between \$500 and \$1,000.
22 owe between \$1,000 and \$2,000.
9 owe between \$2,000 and \$3,000.
1 owes between \$3,000 and \$4,000.
1 owes between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

This is probably a fair average of the accounts of all the traders on that reservation, 11 in number.

The licensed traders to whom these debts are due say that they have been accumulating eight or ten years, and that unless they can get some relief soon financial ruin is almost inevitable. The Department is informed that the council of the Osage Nation, speaking for the tribe, has, by proper ordinance, petitioned for this per capita payment, and the Commissioner of Indian Affairs agrees that the debts, so far as they are correct and just, should be paid; but he says that before payment is made they should be thoroughly examined and the just amounts due definitely determined by this Department.

In the Commissioner's views of this matter I concur.

But as to the proposed amendment, I disapprove of its form and some of its provisions. It provides, "to enable the Secretary of the Treasury to pay," and "that the money hereby appropriated shall be placed to the credit of the Secretary of the Interior and under his direction paid." This seems ambiguous and confusing. Again, "that nothing herein shall deprive the parties of their right to litigate the amount of such indebtedness before payment, as now provided by law." I advise against the Indians being thus remitted to the courts. I should say that the right to ascertain and determine the just amount due on the accounts ought to be left to the Secretary of the Interior. The amendment also provides that hereafter no licensed trader shall credit the Indians to more than 60 per cent of their quarterly payments. Unless this limitation is made more specific, it is my opinion that it would amount to nothing. In what way would any trader know to what extent his customer was obtaining credit with the other traders, and when he had reached 60 per cent of his next payment? Moreover, in view of their large quarterly payments, I do not believe it is for their best interests to be allowed credit to the amount of 60 per cent of their payments.

For these reasons I have prepared and herewith submit a substitute for the amendment, providing for the reduction of the credit system to 50 per cent of their income for the present year, to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent in the year 1900, to 25 per cent in the year 1901, and for the total abolishment of it thereafter.

Upon the conditions proposed in this substitute, I would approve the distribution of this \$700 per capita of the principal of their permanent fund for the purpose of extricating them from debt and putting them on a cash basis. But without such limitation and final abolishment of the credit system, it would be useless to make this payment, for it would be but a short time until they would again be just as deeply involved, and the consequence would be inroad after inroad upon their permanent fund, without any real or lasting benefit to them. I do not believe it would work any hardship upon them to abolish their credit system, as proposed in the substitute, but, upon the other hand, I am convinced that it would result largely to their general welfare and relieve the Department of much embarrassment and difficulty in the conduct of their affairs.

The credit system which has so long been practiced there has been the cause of frequent and serious embarrassment to the Department, and is unquestionably detrimental to the business and the moral welfare of the Indians. The abolishment of this system I am sure would work a very necessary and long-needed reform in the financial affairs

of those Indians, and I doubt if a more opportune time for its accomplishment will ever be presented.

Very respectfully,

C. N. BLISS, *Secretary.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1900.

Upon the condition hereinafter expressed, the Secretary of the Interior shall pay, through a disbursing officer of his Department, to each member of the Osage tribe of Indians, or for their benefit, the sum of seven hundred dollars from the principal of the fund of the Osage tribe now in the Treasury of the United States. Any licensed trader on the Osage Reservation desiring payment under this act shall, within forty days after its passage, file with the United States Indian agent of the Osage Agency true and full itemized statements from his books of all his accounts against individual members of the Osage tribe, and afford full opportunity for any official of the Department of the Interior to examine his books and papers. Before making such payment the Secretary of the Interior shall cause all accounts so filed with the Indian agent by the licensed traders against the Indians to be examined, in such manner as he shall prescribe, and ascertain and determine the amount justly due on each such account, and no payment shall be made on any such account until the finding of the Secretary of the Interior as to the just amount thereof has been accepted by indorsement thereon by the trader to whom it is due. The officer making the payment shall deduct from the share of each individual member of the tribe and from the share due each parent and guardian, for their minor children or wards, the amount of each individual member's or parent's or guardian's indebtedness to the licensed traders of the Osage Reservation, as the case may be, as ascertained and determined by the Secretary of the Interior, and pay the same to the licensed traders entitled thereto, respectively: *Provided*, That no payment shall be made of any indebtedness incurred after the passage of this Act, nor to any licensed trader not complying with all the conditions of this Act.

Hereafter no licensed trader on the Osage Reservation shall give credit to any member of the Osage tribe for any amount, except on written permission from the United States Indian agent of the Osage Agency, and the said Indian agent shall not give such permission in the year eighteen hundred and ninety-nine for credit to any Indian in excess of fifty per centum of his share of the next payment of interest on the Osage permanent funds, and such agent shall not give such permission in the year nineteen hundred in excess of thirty-three and one-third per centum of the next payment, nor such permission in the year nineteen hundred and one in excess of twenty-five per centum of such payment. And after January first, nineteen hundred and two, the agent shall not give such permission to any Indian except for medicines or for articles actually needed in case of sickness, or for burial materials, and no licensed trader shall give credit to any Indian after that date, except for such articles. And no account or claim in favor of any person whomsoever, created after January first, nineteen hundred and two, except for medicines or other articles actually needed in case of sickness, or for burial materials, shall be collectible by law.

All expense of carrying these provisions into effect shall be paid by the Secretary of the Interior from the funds of the Osage Nation.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,
Washington, January 28, 1899.

The SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge receipt of a proposed amendment to the Indian appropriation bill for the fiscal year 1900, referred to this office on the 13th instant for report. The proposed amendment is as follows:

To enable the Secretary of the Treasury to pay the Osage tribe of Indians in Oklahoma Territory a sum equal to seven hundred dollars per capita, as per memorial of the general council of said tribe (or nation), approved January twenty-eight, eighteen hundred and ninety-seven, the same to be deducted from the fund now held by the United States in trust for said tribe: *Provided*, That the money hereby appropriated shall be placed to the credit of the Secretary of the Interior and under his direction paid per capita to the individual members of said tribe under the supervision of a disbursing officer to be appointed by the said Secretary of the Interior: *And provided further*, That from the share of each member of the tribe shall be deducted and paid by such disbursing officer the amount of his indebtedness, if any, due to persons licensed by the United States to trade with the Osage Indians on their reservation, the amount aforesaid in case of dispute between the parties to be determined by the Commissioner of Indian Affairs: *And provided further*, That nothing herein shall deprive the parties of their right to litigate the amount of such indebtedness before payment, as now provided by law: *Provided also*, That no person licensed by the Secretary of the Interior to trade with said Indians shall hereafter credit them individually to an amount in excess of sixty per centum of their quarterly payments.

As the number of Osages reported on the last annuity roll was 1,782, the amount involved by the proposed legislation is \$1,246,400.

From sworn lists of claims of the several traders against individual Indians which have been exhibited to this office it is believed that the aggregate individual debt will reach nearly \$500,000.

These debts have been accruing for several years, and run from 50 cents up into thousands of dollars. Of a list of 150 names of a single trader 74 owe between \$1 and \$100, 9 owe between \$100 and \$200, 9 owe between \$200 and \$300, 4 owe between \$300 and \$400, 3 owe between \$400 and \$500, 18 owe between \$500 and \$1,000, 22 owe between \$1,000 and \$2,000, 9 owe between \$2,000 and \$3,000, 1 owes between \$3,000 and \$4,000, 1 owes between \$4,000 and \$5,000.

This is probably a fair indication of the individual amounts claimed by other traders.

With reference to the larger amounts, it appears that in one case, taken at random—the claim of one trader against a single Indian, with 7 in the family, is \$2,345.32; in another case, with 9 in the family, \$4,624.57; in another case, with 2 in the family, \$2,297.70; in another case, with 4 in the family, \$2,300.18; in another case, with 6 in the family, \$3,066.98; in another case, with 4 in the family, \$2,327.30; in another case, with 7 in the family, \$4,246.08; in another case, with 6 in the family, \$3,358.55; in another case, with 5 in the family, \$3,329.25; in another case, with 11 in the family, \$3,843.10, and in another case, with 4 in the family, \$3,001.09.

By the act of August 10, 1890 (26 Stats., 344)—

The Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized and directed to pay to the Osage Indians, in quarterly payments, the interest on their land fund as it accrues, except so much as may be necessary for the establishment and support of schools and pay of employees.

Since then they have been paid \$90,000 quarterly. In addition to this they were paid, of the accumulated interest, \$300,000 in 1893, and \$200,000 in 1895.

The amount of their trust funds in the Treasury at the present time is \$8,257,939.41, upon which they get 5 per cent interest annually, amounting to \$412,896.97. In addition, Congress appropriates, annually, \$3,456, being interest on \$69,120, the value of lands which was never appropriated. So that altogether their annual income is \$416,352.97.

The traders are making an earnest effort to have these debts paid. They say that they have been accumulating eight or ten years, and that unless they get some relief soon financial ruin is almost inevitable. It is generally agreed that the legitimate indebtedness of these Indians should be paid, and in this view this office concurs. At the same time it is equally of the opinion that the claim should not be paid until the account of each Indian is thoroughly examined and the amount legitimately due the trader clearly established. To this end it has been suggested that a commission of three impartial, competent persons be appointed (to be paid by the tribe) to which these debts shall be referred, with power to examine them in connection with the traders' books and fix the amounts justly due. This is probably as good a plan as can be devised to settle this vexed question. The consent of the tribe to the use of their funds for this purpose would be necessary, but that could probably easily be obtained.

As to the legislation itself, the plan for the distribution of the funds is as equitable as can be devised. By it each individual would get an equal share of the tribal fund either in cash or an equivalent by the payment of his debt. In other particulars the amendment is defective. It provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall pay the Indians \$700 per capita, and, immediately after, that the money "hereby appropriated" shall be placed to the credit of the Secretary of the Interior. An appropriation is not necessary, the funds being already to the credit of the tribe in the Treasury, and money can not be placed to the credit of the Secretary of the Interior, as he is not a bonded officer.

As to the payment to the traders direct of the debts of the Indians by the disbursing officer selected to make the per capita payment, this office at present can recall no precedent, unless the payment of the debts of the Creek Nation, authorized by Congress by the act of June 7, 1897 (30 Stats., 68), may be considered analogous. Funds have been paid several times, both principal and interest, to the Indian tribe, with a view of enabling them to pay their debts, but in all the cases now in mind the money has been paid directly into the Indian's hands, leaving him to settle with his creditors.

As to the proviso "that nothing herein shall deprive the parties of their right to litigate the amount of such indebtedness before payment, as now provided by law," it is respectfully submitted that if retained in the amendment it may serve to defeat the very object in view, which is the final settlement of this whole matter of Osage debts, for should a trader feel aggrieved at the findings of the arbiter he has only to refuse to accept the sum awarded him in order to preserve his right to seek legal redress; and if this course were pursued in any considerable number of cases the efforts of the Department and the commission to bring these matters to a satisfactory conclusion would be fruitless.

There is no particular objection to the last proviso—that hereafter no licensed trader shall credit the Indians to an amount in excess of 60 per cent of their quarterly payments, although it is doubtful if it will accomplish the purpose intended, which is to prevent the Indian from getting credit for more than 60 per cent of his quarterly annuity; for,

as each trader would have the right to credit him to the full extent of the limit, and as there are several traders, it would be possible for an Indian to get credit for as many times 60 per cent as there are traders.

In the opinion of this office, should it be decided to pay these debts in the manner proposed, the indebtedness to be paid should be limited to that incurred up to the date of the passage of the act authorizing such payment.

In accordance with the views herein expressed, an amendment to carry them into effect is hereto attached.

The proposed amendment is herewith returned.

Very respectfully,

W. A. JONES, *Commissioner.*

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE INDIAN APPROPRIATION BILL FOR 1900,
BY COMMISSIONER OF INDIAN AFFAIRS.

That the Secretary of the Interior shall, through some disbursing officer to be selected by him, pay, per capita, to the Osage tribe of Indians a sum equivalent to seven hundred dollars each, said sum to be taken from the principal of their fund now in the Treasury of the United States: *Provided*, That before making such payment a commission of three, to be paid from the funds of said tribe, shall be appointed by the honorable Secretary of the Interior, to which shall be referred the claims of all persons licensed by the United States to trade with the Osage Indians on their reservation against the individual members of said tribe, with power to examine the same and fix the amount justly due from each individual, the findings of said commission to be binding upon each of said parties: *And provided further*, That the disbursing officer making the payment hereby authorized shall deduct from the share of each member of the tribe the amount of the indebtedness found to be due, if any, by the commission aforesaid, and pay the same over to the licensed traders entitled to the same: *And provided further*, That the indebtedness to be considered by the commission herein authorized shall only include that incurred by the Indians up to the date of the passage of this act: *And provided further*, That the licensed traders herein described shall present their claims to the commission aforesaid within sixty days from the time of the appointment and qualification of said commission, or the same will be forever barred: *And provided further*, That hereafter the individual Indians shall not receive credit from said licensed traders in excess of sixty per centum of their quarterly payments.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. How much do you say the Indians get quarterly?

Mr. BLAIR. Ninety thousand dollars.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. Which is how much per head?

Mr. WISMEYER. Fifty dollars per capita; the amount they draw.

Mr. BLAIR. I ought to say, though, that of the amount they receive less than 40 per cent is paid to the traders. The rest goes in other ways outside. The same is true of the payments of the \$200,000 and the \$300,000 paid within the last few years ostensibly to pay up these balances, but failing to reach the traders. Therefore these balances are still outstanding.

As there is no interest beyond the amount of the quarterly payments, there is no fund out of which the Indians can pay this accumulated indebtedness, and even of what he does receive but 40 per cent is paid

to the traders, and so the accounts continually increase. He is less and less inclined to pay, until now it has become a fact that the traders are to some extent supporting the Indians out of their own funds. They are obliged to trust them from one quarter to the other. These balances are consequently remaining entirely unprovided for, and the heavy interest these traders are paying is almost ruinous. The result is that most of these men are now poor men. These are the men who have bought into these accounts. Take the three men here to-day, for instance.

One of them is an old trader, to be sure, but he is now doing business under a new license, and the other two have done little business; one of them none until under this Administration. When they take their licenses they find themselves confronted with the old traders' stock in trade and these large unpaid accounts. The old traders are naturally inclined to remain in business to compete, and do succeed in prolonging—projecting themselves into the new establishments, into the new firms, and upon their own terms, either doing that or compelling the new trader to buy them out on their own terms, and with the high interest involved that is ruinous to the new man if he can not collect on these accounts.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. What you mean to say is, I think, that the Department licenses from time to time new men as traders?

Mr. BLAIR. Yes.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. And that they have either to set up new stores or make arrangements with the old traders to go into partnership with them?

Mr. BLAIR. Yes, sir. Buying in the old accounts at such price as the old trader may dictate.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. What induces a man to be licensed as a trader under such circumstances?

Mr. BLAIR. He does not always understand what the circumstances are to be. Here is Mr. Smith, for instance, who took his license and went there and set up a new store, and made his investment and supposed he could go along, and that the old trader would be eliminated, and that he could have the business; but the old trader stayed, and Mr. Smith found that he was obliged to buy him out or lose what he had invested there.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. Was he appointed in place of the old trader?

Mr. BLAIR. He was licensed to trade at Hominy, the same point. The old trader's license is not revoked by the appointment of a new one, and there is a power felt which enables the old trader to prolong himself without much regard to change in administration. Colonel Morphis also, as well as Mr. Smith, took his license under the present Administration and went to Hominy, where he was authorized to set up business. He started in a little store with the understanding that the license of the old trader would be revoked and that the business would come to him. But the old trader remained and continued to remain. The Commissioner did what he could to give Mr. Morphis the field, but the old trader kept staying, and finally Mr. Morphis was informed that he would be obliged to make an arrangement with the old trader, or get out and be ruined, because the investment he had made upon credit would ruin him unless he could continue in business.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. What is the source of the power which the old traders have to monopolize things there?

Mr. BLAIR. Well, sir, for the last three or four years I have had

occasion to look into these things considerably, and I do not know that I could add much to your own information as to the source of that power. I can state what I think it to be.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. I do not know anything about it.

Mr. BLAIR. I think it is political power. It is the influence that capital and the business is liable to exert wherever it exists, and Colonel Morphis has informed me, and he can testify in regard to it, that for a long time he tried to avoid making this new business arrangement, and supposed he was to have the field, and he built a little store and made improvements; but the other man did not go. He was there with large capital and controlled the business. Colonel Morphis was finally informed—he was finally offered a business arrangement, but he rejected it. Some effort was made to break up the old system of doing things—

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. In other words, your idea is that this hateful thing which is called "influence" protects the old trader?

Mr. BLAIR. It protects the old trader to the sacrifice of the new one, and very largely by reason of the fact that these accounts exist against almost every Indian there is belonging to the nation, and the man who is in the ownership of these accounts, while he may not be able to collect them fully, yet he can control very largely the patronage the Indian gives to any trader. The great part of the patronage of the Indian is taken outside of any of them. They get their checks, and a large part of them trade with men off the reservation, or they may go to a trader to whom they owe the least and get him to cash their checks and apply something on his account, or perhaps pay him in full if the account is very small, and with this money in their pockets then they go abroad to other places to patronize other men, and very often when they return home the entire amount is gone, largely being spent in dissipation.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. There was a rule that an Indian could not trade with any person off the reservation, was there not?

Mr. BLAIR. I think there used to be, but it is not a rule now, as I understand it.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. That has been revoked?

Mr. BLAIR. That has been revoked. They trade wherever they please so far as any legal restraint or any order of the Department can restrain them. They trade wherever they please now, I think.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. They go to Arkansas City, I suppose?

Mr. BLAIR. Yes, and across the line to Kansas and Oklahoma, wherever they choose, all along the border. I understand that the Indians are owing to outside traders, for whose claims, of course, the Government is in no way responsible, they not being any part of the general system of Indian affairs, as the licensed traders are, and in no sense under the protection of the Government, fully as much as they owe to the licensed traders, but the men who owe the licensed traders are not the men who owe to others than licensed traders, as a rule.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. You speak of \$430,000 due the traders and \$50,000 due to special licensees, which makes \$480,000. You want \$800,000 of the fund paid over?

Mr. BLAIR. We have no desire for any more money being taken out of the fund, so far as the traders are concerned, than is sufficient to pay their debts, than is sufficient to pay what is found to be due by an investigation—a committee or a tribunal appointed to ascertain the exact state of affairs. But it is in this way. Whatever is paid must be paid out of the principal, the entire trust fund on deposit in the

Treasury, some 1,800 annuitants, and perhaps one-half of them are of those owing the licensed traders. Those who are not owing the licensed traders naturally would and do object to the common fund being used to pay the individual debts of a portion of the tribe.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. You want the fund divided per capita?

Mr. BLAIR. We want whatever is taken from the trust fund divided per capita among all the Indians.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. With the idea that those not in debt will have the money, and can do what they please with it?

Mr. BLAIR. Yes, sir. The licensed traders and the Indians are under a regulation of the Department, and the propositions drawn by the Department assume both the power to ascertain and pay whatever is due to the licensed traders after investigation. The proposition of the Secretary and that of the Commissioner provide that the amount due to the licensed traders from the individual Indians shall be paid, and that all beyond that shall be paid according to the will of the Indians. It is expected that this proposition will be ratified by the tribe. We have not asked that it be taken without the consent of the tribe. The Department seems to think that they can do it without any legal difficulty.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. I was going to ask how the Indians regard this proposition.

Mr. BLAIR. They are almost universally in favor of it. I want to say one word more, and then perhaps we had better hear from some of these witnesses. Some two years ago the tribe memorialized the Department and Congress asking that the demands of the traders be paid from the trust fund and an amount distributed so that the per capita share should meet the traders' claims and that the rest should go into the hands of those not in debt to be applied as they should see fit. And it has been suggested, and friends of the Indians have suggested it, that it would be a good thing to do as an educative experiment, to give them a little money to handle and educate them somewhat in the manipulation and management of property before intrusting them, as it seems to be the tendency of things to do, with the entire amount of their property, both real and personal.

Senator PLATT. There have been some payments made from the fund heretofore for the purpose of paying these debts, have there not?

Mr. BLAIR. Two hundred thousand dollars at one time and \$300,000 at another time, of which about 40 per cent only went to the licensed traders.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. How far back was that?

Mr. WISMYER. 1893 and 1895. Three hundred thousand dollars was paid in 1893 and \$200,000 was paid in 1895.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. I want to get at one other thing. Why do these traders get these Indians in debt in this way? Ought not a man who is doing business there to see to it that no more goods are furnished to an Indian than his annuities will pay for?

Mr. BLAIR. They have to trust them in advance, and the Indian comes and demands of them according to his necessities. The traders, of course, anticipate payment when the money comes, when the quarterly payment is received, but it does not come to them.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. Fifty dollars per quarter is \$200 per Indian, and that applies to the whole family; so if there is an Indian, as the head of the family, with a wife and three children, that family receives \$1,000 a year. Now, why should a trader allow the head of a

family, consisting of the Indian and his wife and three children, to get in debt?

Governor CRAWFORD. Those Indians are improving their farms—some of them at least—and building houses and so on, and as I understand it a large part of that indebtedness is on that account.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. The thing that troubles me is this: Five years ago this same condition of things existed. The Indians were in debt to the traders. They came here and got \$300,000. Then two or three years afterwards they were in debt again to them to the extent of \$200,000. They came here again and the appropriation was made of \$200,000, and that amount was paid from their funds. Now, four years have passed and they are in debt \$500,000. Is this thing to go on? Are we to take the principal fund and thus reduce their interest charges, and every time we do it have perhaps a larger indebtedness immediately after that than existed before? I would like to have some information on that.

Mr. BLAIR. That is not contemplated at all.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. I would like some explanation of that.

Mr. BLAIR. The proposition made by the Department is to make the trusting of the Indian illegal except to a certain amount hereafter and any claim against the Indian noncollectible, and to deny the legality of any trust or credit that may be extended to the Indians. And they say, in concluding their recommendation, that if this be done, they think an opportunity is now presented for putting an end to the abuses, if abuses exist, that may not readily soon occur again. I would read the whole proposition, but I wanted to get the testimony, if I could, of Mr. Wismeyer, who is a man in feeble health and who may not be able to come here again; and also the testimony of one or two other witnesses. Would there be any opportunity within a few days of any further hearing?

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. I am very free to say that I do not feel very hopeful, on this presentation of the case that you have made, of trying to get at the bottom of the thing—of being able to do anything at this session, except perhaps trying to have some investigation of the matter made either by the Department or by the committee during the recess.

Mr. BLAIR. That is what we would like very much to have done. We would like to have these accounts looked into.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. You present a lot of accounts here which of course I have no time to go over; as to some of which you say there is a question as to whether the prices are right and fair?

Mr. BLAIR. Yes, sir.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. Congress won't pay out \$800,000 of the Indians' money just because they are in debt. You realize that?

Mr. BLAIR. The proposition of the Department provides for the filing of the accounts and a full investigation before any payments whatever. There is no proposition to-day to pay out anything until there has first been a careful investigation into the accounts themselves. Now, in regard to the way these are made out. Here is the account of Huffaker, for instance. The first item is to an Indian named Shon kah moh lah, \$1,900. Mr. Wismeyer, you are connected with this firm, are you not?

Mr. WISMEYER. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLAIR. Can you tell how that was made out?

Mr. WISMEYER. Shon kah moh lah was the Indian's name.

Mr. BLAIR. You had better be sworn.

TESTIMONY OF L. A. WISMEYER.

L. A. WISMEYER was duly sworn by the chairman of the committee and testified as follows:

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. How long have you been an Indian trader?—A. Not continuously, but I commenced trading there in 1884. I have been out part of the time; particularly in the last two years, I have been sick nearly all the time. I had to undergo an operation—

Q. Are you connected with any firm there now?—A. G. M. Huffaker.

Q. What is the balance of that account against the Indians?—A. Very nearly \$80,000. Seventy-nine-odd thousand dollars.

Q. During how long a time?—A. That was the balance on the 1st day of January.

Q. About how long have those accounts been accumulating?—A. I have had accounts with those Indians ever since I have been in the trade.

Q. And balances due you?—A. Balances due always; yes, sir. I will say unless you want to ask some question, in explanation of this—

Q. You can make any statement with reference to the old accounts that occurs to you.—A. As to how the accounts are made?

Q. Make any statement. You see what is in the mind of the Senator?—A. He asked the question about those two extra payments. I would like to explain about that. The payment that was made in 1893 of \$300,000 was intended to pay off their indebtedness. The Indians asked for it for that purpose, but when they received the money and the money was paid to them and they took it, they paid as much of their indebtedness as they saw fit to pay. For instance, an Indian would draw \$500 and would come to me and would say, "I will pay you some of what I owe you, but I want to keep some of this money. Give me back \$200 of it and I will give you my check." We would remonstrate with him, and tell him that he ought to pay all he owed; but he would say: "No; if you don't want to give me back part of this then I will go to some other trader, and won't pay you anything on what I owe you." That resulted in us having to compromise with them, and in our getting only a part of what was due us.

Q. What percentage of that \$300,000 came to the traders?—A. Of that, \$121,000, or about 40 per cent.

Q. Take the \$200,000 payment; what proportion of that did the traders get?—A. The payment of the \$200,000 was paid out of the balance of the accumulated interest fund.

Q. What they call their dead money?—A. Yes, sir. It was not enough to pay their indebtedness if it had all been applied at that time, but it was just as the previous payment was, they paid just as much as they saw fit to pay.

Q. And how much did the traders get?—A. A little over \$80,000.

Q. Of the \$200,000?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Will you glance over the items of your firm, and state with reference to those larger amounts, how they are made up?

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. There are no items there.

Mr. BLAIR. I mean the balances.

A. It would make a voluminous document to itemize the account, running over many years. The fact that the Indians come in and trade

almost every day, some of them coming in every day, would make a very large amount of items. But the large balances are caused by the improvements that have been made for the Indians, such as building houses, breaking prairie farm, furnishing wire, and paying for the labor of building fences and digging wells for them. We furnish the material and mechanics for building houses, and pay everything, and these houses run all the way from \$200 in value up to \$2,500. They have had all sorts of houses, stables, and outhouses built.

Q. (Mr. BLAIR). How many?—A. That, as a rule, applies to almost every head of a family.

Q. And to all the traders' accounts?—A. All the traders are the same way; yes, sir. In addition to these improvements they buy horses; they buy cattle and spring wagons and agricultural implements, harnesses and saddles, and clothing and provisions of all kinds.

Q. Can you make any estimate of the proportion of the amount of this aggregate here that your firm, or the traders generally, have put into permanent improvements?—A. Well, yes. I do not think this list would cover the permanent improvements that have been made in the last eight or ten years.

Q. How with the other accounts, the accounts of the other traders?—A. I think the same rule applies to the other traders.

Q. And these balances, at least the amount of these balances— A. Yes, sir, are represented there in permanent improvements.

I would like to say further that the Indians have a very peculiar custom. For instance, take this man Shon kah moh lah. He has \$1,900 due. He had a daughter to marry, and after her marriage he gave his home place to his daughter. They all do that. The old people turn all the farm and home over to the young folks, and the old people then go and make a new place again for themselves.

This man has had two houses built. He is in better shape than some of them, because he has not allowed his debts to accumulate so much. He has two houses built, one costing \$1,500 and another one costing \$600. He occupies the smaller house himself and the larger one belongs to his daughter. There is another Indian here that has had three different houses built. His account is very large. He has a larger family, of course, but he has given away two places to married children.

Q. Look along through the account, please, and as you come to those you remember had houses built, specify them.—A. Well, I say it applies to the head of every family here.

Q. Some of those accounts are small.—A. Well, take the next person, Hlu ah to me, \$265. I remember one item of that is a wagon and another is three head of cattle, and the balance is for dry goods, provisions, and things of that kind.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Take that account of \$1,900. That is the first one. When you allowed that Indian to get \$1,900 in debt, how did you suppose you were ever going to get your money?—A. I will have to go back a little to answer that. When General Morgan was Commissioner of Indian Affairs he made an order permitting Indian traders to make permanent improvements with the Indians—that is, to exceed their credit more than the quarter or two or three quarters. There was an order in existence which was impracticable, which said that an Indian wanting to make improvements should buy his lumber one quarter, should employ the labor the next quarter, and so on.

There was not any Indian who could have bought all the material in any one quarter and bought his provisions and lived at the same time. The result of that order would have been that the material would have remained on the ground during the rain and sunshine and every other kind of weather, and the material would have been ruined before he would have been able to employ the labor to construct the building. When those facts were presented to the Commissioner he revoked that order, and made an order permitting the traders to furnish the material and labor and complete the job as soon as possible.

Q. That does not answer my question. How large a family did this Indian have?—A. At that time he had, I think, seven in the family. He only has four now. Two of his children have been married and one has died.

Q. And he got \$1,400 a year out of his annuities then?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How did you expect that you could let him get in debt to the extent of \$1,900 and still get your pay?—A. He did not get that much in debt at one time. He had a house built costing \$1,500, and a few years afterwards he built the other house.

Q. But you let the account run up to \$1,900. Now, what was your idea as a trader about getting your pay?—A. We expected to get the pay, but other things transpired in the meantime. There were other traders appointed, and when we tried to curtail the purchases of Indians they would say to us that we must let their account run along. They would say, "You must put this off awhile, or else we will go somewhere else and buy." When we refused they would simply go to some other trader and buy, and the next time he would take his money to the other trader and buy because the first man had refused him credit. So he would leave this balance, and then perhaps he would come back in time to the old trader and say, "I am going to pay you the next time, and I will buy from you."

Q. (Governor CRAWFORD.) When you advanced money for the improvement of these places and the Indians got the places improved, would they not have an income from them as well as from their share of the interest on the trust fund?—A. Yes, sir; they have an income from their places. It is usually, however, in the shape of a share of crops, or something of that kind. Very often an Indian will take up a little place in the prairie. He will lease it to a white man for a term of years, the white man getting the crop for breaking the prairie and keeping the place up in shape. He comes to the trader to build a house there and to furnish wire for fences, and so on. He will want to do that for a son or daughter who is going to be married in the fall or spring and to whom he wants to turn it over, and he wants to get a new place himself.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) Do these Indians work much themselves?—A. Not very much; no, sir. You asked why we allowed these accounts to accumulate. When they once owe us they constantly hold the club over us. They say if we do not do this that they will go somewhere else and trade, and we are compelled to advance them more credit. I will admit it is an unwise business proposition to do that, but circumstances have been such that we have been compelled to do it.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Have you also had the idea that these permanent improvements would be paid for from the permanent fund of the Indians, if they were not paid for in some other way?—A. Yes, sir; we thought we did this under permission of the Indian Office.

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Q. It has been the understood policy of the Indian Department to develop permanent improvements among the civilized nations?—A. Yes, sir; to break up their tribal relations and stop their camping out, and to encourage them in cultivating farms and so on.

Q. And they have had this preliminary civilization of the Indians in view, in preparing them for the distribution of their funds?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. (Governor CRAWFORD.) How much land is there in the entire reservation?—A. I think about 1,400,000 acres.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) That is the entire reservation?—A. Yes, sir.

By Governor CRAWFORD:

Q. That would make about 800 acres per capita?—A. Between seven and eight hundred acres, I believe; yes, sir; but a great deal of this land, the hilly and high prairie land, is leased to cattle men for grazing purposes, and very nearly all of the bottom land and all the tillable land is under cultivation at the present time.

Q. Who gets the benefit of those leases?—A. They have a form of government down there—a governor and a lieutenant-governor, a sheriff and a treasurer, and a council consisting of 15 members, and the biggest part of this money is used for their tribal government, for the expenses of paying salaries and so on.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Do these Indians advance in civilization?—A. A great many of them do. The majority of the full-blooded Indians have not advanced as rapidly as it was hoped they would.

Q. Do they still wear the blanket?—A. Yes, sir. A majority of the full-blood Indians do.

Q. Do they keep all their tribal customs?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Their dances?—A. Yes, sir; not so much as they did years ago. They do not have those big meetings they did when you were down there—those big gatherings, which you will remember.

Q. (Governor CRAWFORD.) They live in houses?—A. Every family has a house.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) Do they move out when someone dies?—A. Some are superstitious about that; yes, sir. They have headed that off in this way: when there is danger of an Indian dying they will move him out of the house.

Q. (Governor CRAWFORD.) State how the houses are furnished and how they live.—A. They are nearly all of them furnished with beds and tables and chairs, and some of them have sofas, and a majority of the mixed bloods have pianos and organs. All the full-blooded Indians have sewing machines. There is not a full-blooded squaw that I know of that does not know how to run a sewing machine.

Q. (Mr. BLAIR.) Those are bought from the traders?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. (Governor CRAWFORD.) One more question, if you please. Some are more progressive than others about their farming and stock, and so on?—A. Yes, some are more progressive than others. Mr. Trimby there [indicating one of the gentlemen in the room], is an Osage. He is one of the most progressive in the tribe, and, I suppose, one of the wealthiest.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) What is the proportion of full bloods to half breeds?—A. About 900 full bloods and about 700 half breeds, I think.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Now, about the overcharging that there has been so much complaint about. I want you to state in reference to that about those accounts, to what extent they are padded, if they are padded at all.—A. I wish to say that I do not admit anything of that kind. That report has gotten out through parties in that country, unscrupulous men who are trading along the line, and who use that as an inducement to get the Indians to come over and trade with them. I wish to say that our reservation, the northern line, borders on the State of Kansas, and the west and south lines border on the Territory of Oklahoma, the river making the dividing line. There are towns all the way down to the Creek Nation, perhaps ten little towns all along the line there. A great many live nearer those towns than they do to the trading points, and they go there frequently for the purpose of buying goods, but usually for the purpose of buying whisky, which they can not get on the reservation except from whisky peddlers, and those traders quote them lower figures on goods.

Q. I want you to state in reference to that alleged matter of padding, and if the charges are higher than perhaps they ought to be, or if there is anything in that.—A. No, sir; there is nothing in that at all, and we are perfectly willing to submit our books.

Q. Can those books be all examined?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Every item appears on those books?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would there be any difficulty in comparing them with the prices of corresponding articles for sale along the line outside of the reservation?—A. No, sir.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Who is your agent?—A. We have a new agent; William J. Pollock is his name. He came last summer.

Q. What does he say about this matter? Is there any recommendation from him?

Mr. BLAIR. The Commissioner told me that he had called the matter to his attention, and that they had talked it over, and the Commissioner has made a full investigation on his own account, and I understand the agent recommends it. The Commissioner certainly does.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. The agent is not here?

Mr. BLAIR. He has been here. He has just returned. But the Commissioner knows more about it than he does, because he went down and investigated these matters when he first took his office, and it has been on his mind ever since. He thinks the accounts ought to be thoroughly examined, and whatever is found to be due ought to be paid.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. You have no communication from the agent in which he says—

Mr. BLAIR. I have not. I have not been in communication with him.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Now, Mr. Wismeyer, there has been a report on the condition of things down there by Mr. Allen. You have seen it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. I now read from the report of Senator Allen:

It is shown by the testimony that in 1893 the Indians were heavily in debt, amounting in round numbers to about \$250,000, and that efforts were being made by the licensed traders to secure an extra payment to them of \$300,000 of moneys that belonged to the Indians that were held by the Government in trust. No legislative action was necessary to this end, nor is it apparent that the services of an agent or attorney were necessary, but the licensed traders raised among themselves a sum of \$12,000 to be paid for influence of some kind to secure the payment, and the

money thus raised was paid to Bishop W. Perkins, of Kansas. It is said that the money was paid to him as an attorney, but what legal services were rendered or could have been rendered to secure the payment is not apparent.

In this connection it is proper that the committee should be informed that when it was ascertained a few weeks in advance of the time the extra payment would be made the licensed traders began to swell their accounts against the Indians. Many of them went to Kansas City and other places, bought horses, buggies, wagons, harnesses, and other articles by the carload, shipped them to the reservation, and sold them for prices ranging from 100 to 300 per cent above their value, and by such means increased the total indebtedness of the Osages about \$150,000 within a very few weeks, and within sixty days after the payment had been made by the Government the Indians were as badly in debt as they had been before.

In 1895 an effort was made to secure an additional payment by the Government, which was successful, and \$200,000 was paid to the Indians. In this case the licensed traders raised \$10,000 among themselves to pay some person, whose name is not disclosed, for influence in securing the payment to the Indians, and this money is now in the hands of L. A. Wiestmier, a licensed trader at Gray Horse, in the Osage Nation, who has refused to disclose the name of the person for whom it was paid.

What do you say to that?—A. That to some extent is true and to some extent is not true. They were not so badly in debt after the payment as they were before. I will say this: that of that payment of \$300,000 I collected about \$24,000, and if the Indians had paid, as it was the intention that they should do, and as they could have done, they could have paid every dollar they owed me. They left a balance of between nine and ten thousand dollars with me at that time. Some of them paid in full.

Q. He says the same thing occurred with regard to the \$200,000 (reading from report):

The same thing was practiced by the licensed traders respecting this extra payment of \$200,000; as soon as it was ascertained that the payment would be made an extra effort was made by them to sell the Indians goods and articles they did not need. And again, the Indians' accounts were enormously swollen; and again, within sixty days after payment had been made they were as badly in debt as they had been before. Wiestmier was made custodian of the money raised to secure this payment. He is the go-between between the licensed traders and the person to whom the money is to be paid. I was unable to take Wiestmier's testimony, although it is made to appear that he is in possession of the money and refuses to disclose the name of the intended recipient. This witness I think should be brought before the full committee and required to disclose just what the money was paid for, for whose benefit, and what services were, or were to be, rendered for it; and he should, in a word, be compelled to make a clear and perfect disclosure of his relations to the transaction. That there was corruption in fact or intended in the transaction I do not doubt, and the only question respecting it is whether the Senate will exercise power to compel a complete disclosure of the transaction.

A. I can say that by the books that is not the fact. As I say, I collected about \$24,000 and had a balance of between nine and ten thousand dollars, and that all could have been paid if the Indians had chosen to pay it. They refused to give up their checks unless we would give them back a good large sum of money. Then when the other payment was made the same thing occurred. The traders retained about 40 per cent of the amount the Indians controlled. The Indians could have paid every dollar they owed if they had chosen to do so.

Q. He says the Indians raised a fund of \$10,000 and placed in your hands to try to influence this legislation, and he doesn't know what became of it, and that you ought to disclose it.—A. That is a mistake. There was no legislation—

Q. If there was a mistake, so much the worse. This first payment was made as the result of legislation?—A. No, sir; neither of them.

Q. There was no legislation?—A. No, sir; it was paid out of their surplus interest fund. It did not require any legislation.

Q. What necessity was there for raising \$10,000?—A. Well, the

traders employed parties to get it for them. That was all. They could not do it themselves.

Q. There is a man here somewhere, I forget his name, over at Gray Horse, who says it was prorated among the traders; and that he paid \$2,000. Here is his testimony. He is a Mr. Florer. (Reading from testimony.)

I know that there was a payment of \$200,000 in the year 1895 by the Government to the Indians on the dead-interest fund. I know that there was \$10,000 paid by the traders on the Osage Reservation for the payment of this \$200,000. I suppose that the \$10,000 was prorated among the traders. I paid my portion of it. My pro rata was over \$2,000, and I authorized my bookkeeper to pay it to Mr. Wismeier.

Q. Was there \$10,000 paid to you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What necessity, again I ask you, was there for raising the sum of \$10,000?—A. The traders made a contract with parties to secure these payments for them.

Q. What parties? (A pause.) Did you pay anybody connected with the Government anything?—A. No, sir.

Q. Or agree to?—A. No, sir.

Q. Was not it claimed down there in the raising of this money that some portion of it had to be paid to somebody connected with the Government?—A. No, sir.

Q. In regard to the first payment, \$10,000 of it was paid to a man who was a Senator at the time the payment was made. Is that your idea of the way that things have to be done?—A. No, sir; the gentleman you mention was not a Senator at the time that contract was made with him.

Q. Was he not at the time the money was paid?—A. I could not say as to that, sir. I could not recall the dates.

Q. How much money have you had to raise to try to get this matter through?—A. We have not raised any yet, sir.

Q. How much have you promised to raise; how much are you going to pay in case this \$800,000 appropriation can be made to pass, for the purpose of getting it?—A. We have agreed to pay a per cent of whatever amounts we collect on our accounts.

Q. What per cent?—A. Fifteen per cent, sir.

Q. If this \$800,000 was all collected it would amount to \$120,000?—A. No, sir; I beg your pardon; we are not interested except to the extent of about \$400,000 if we collect all that is due us. We hope to collect that, of course.

Q. Which would be \$60,000.—A. But I doubt if we could collect anywhere near that amount.

Q. Now, what is the necessity of that sort of thing? If you really have got a case that appeals to the sense of justice and fair dealing with those Indians, why is it necessary to put out such a proportion of it for the purpose of getting an appropriation?—A. Well, Senator, we consider it a matter of business to collect our accounts. None of us are able at personal expense to go to work and come to Washington and look up these matters, and be put off from day to day and from month to month and from year to year, and we would always be glad to pay that amount in order to get our money and be relieved from this burden which is ruining almost every one of us. We are largely in debt and we can not keep up under the pressure we are laboring under. I myself am in debt almost \$30,000 to-day, which is costing me interest, and I want to be relieved from that. This is not all profit or gain, these large amounts, and for these reasons we want to get our money as soon as possible.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. There is nothing that is connected with this whole Indian business that gives me so much trouble and grief or pain as the fact that in every claim that is presented here for the payment of money by the Government, or out of the Indian fund, there is a contract with attorneys which eats up a greater or less proportion of it, sometimes as low as 5 per cent and running from that up to 30 per cent. I can not see the necessity for it, and it amounts almost to a scandal. It makes a legislator afraid of every claim that comes here, and causes him to look upon it with suspicion, and compels him to go down a great deal deeper into the matter for the purpose of seeing if there is not something wrong about it than would be the case if the parties came direct to the Government and to members of Congress. It ought to be so that the Indian Committee or the Appropriation Committee, upon any claim being made, would try to make a fair investigation of it and do what is right about it.

I am very much disturbed about these things. We had a claim here only a year or two ago where we paid nearly \$3,000,000 to the Chickasaws on a claim for some land, and we found when it was done that about \$600,000 of it was paid out for attorneys' fees to attorneys who never seemed to have done a thing, unless it was to try to influence somebody. And that thing holds good with regard to every claim that comes here, and I do not like it. I have been putting in some testimony, but I can not help saying it.

The WITNESS. In justification of our own acts, I would like to say that the same rule applies in reference to life insurance and everything else—that claimants are compelled to employ attorneys to settle these matters. We have not the acquaintance or the knowledge to present these matters personally and bring them before the proper tribunals.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) Referring to that \$3,000,000 payment to the Chickasaws. The person who drew the money accounted for it to the Chickasaw government, with the exception of several thousand dollars—I do not remember the exact amount—which he said he had to pay to persons in office. Now, that sort of thing casts scandal upon Congress, upon legislators, upon the Department, and upon everybody. I heard it said that in the matter of obtaining payment from the Indian funds there are parties down in the Interior Department that have to be paid before parties seeking payment can make any progress. I want to know if you know anything about that?—A. No, sir; I do not.

Mr. BLAIR. I want to say right here that for two or three years I have had occasion to know something about these matters, and have done as much toward bringing about investigations and the curing of some serious abuses there as anybody has—abuses which had never been touched before—and in regard to those traders' accounts here, every particle of testimony in the report that the Senator has read from is the result of my work. But I became satisfied that the traders who had large accounts there ought to be paid, and I said if there could be an investigation provided for in any legislation that was obtained, so that what was fairly due could be ascertained and paid to them, I would do what I could to have matters settled up in such a way that abuses would cease and that there would be nothing of the kind in the future.

As to these men employing counsel; anybody familiar with the tendency of affairs before Congress knows how helpless most people are in the furtherance of their claims unless they have assistance, and I understand that Governor Crawford tried to have something accomplished and made no progress, and then came another Congress and no

progress was made; and then another Congress, and at the end of it—I was employed last December, and we hope to get an investigation and examination of it so a payment could be provided for subject to an investigation. As to fees, I offered and much preferred to perform the service for \$5,000, but my clients preferred to pay a contingent fee; and as to the amount of that I have no interest beyond 5 per cent of what may be recovered by the traders. No one can have an idea of the extent and the difficulty of the labor involved who does not perform it, nor of the amount of time consumed and personal expense involved. After years of work one may get nothing in the end.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. Let me see these two plans.

Mr. BLAIR. There is that of the Commissioner.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. You have put them in evidence?

Mr. BLAIR. Yes; they are in evidence. It doesn't help this matter by saying it is awfully dirty, for it is; it needs to be cleaned. And yet several of these men are liable to be ruined, I know, and ruined for the benefit of these Indians, and when they are no worse than other men. And there is this about it. Every dollar these Indians have in the Treasury Department comes from the increased value the white race has given to their lands, and I do not think these men, these licensed traders, a part of our Indian administration, ought to be made use of to support the Indians when there is a fund growing out of the efforts of the white race that ought to be put into the payment for the necessities of life which the Indian receives. There are abuses in the Department and in Congress, as well as among the traders and among the Indians.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. How many do you say there are there now?

Mr. BLAIR. Seventeen hundred and eighty-some.

The WITNESS. Seventeen hundred and eighty-two Indians, as shown by the last roll.

Mr. PLATT, of Connecticut. One million two hundred and seventy-four thousand dollars.

Mr. BLAIR. That does not go to these traders, you know, and if there is anything that can be devised in the way of scrip or anything of that kind if it is inconvenient to pay it out of the Treasury, it would be well. That is a per capita distribution.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Mr. Wismeyer, won't you state the condition of your health and property and why an adjustment of this matter is necessary to you?—

A. My health for the past three years has been in a precarious condition. Two years ago last summer I was operated on for appendicitis; and about six months before I recovered from that, a little over a year ago, I was afflicted with another trouble, stone in the kidney, and I have been having some pretty severe spells, six or seven within the last year, that lay me up usually for from two to four weeks. My doctor in Kansas City tells me I must undergo another operation before I can ever be relieved from it.

Mr. BLAIR. I have asked for this hearing in order to preserve this witness's testimony for further use, as I have reason to think it is wise to take it while we have the opportunity.

Q. Have you a family?—A. A wife, and daughter 13 years old.

Q. Have you any property except what is represented in the indebtedness of these Indians to you?—A. Yes, sir. I have a farm on which there is a mortgage.

Q. Have you any substantial provision you can leave for your family except this claim?—A. No, sir; not another thing.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.

Q. The general practice of the Indians of the Osage Agency with reference to agriculture is to take up a piece of unbroken land, fence it, put a house on it, and hire a white man to do the work, isn't it?—A. To a very large extent; yes, sir.

Q. What proportion of the Indians work themselves at agriculture?—A. When you say Indians I presume you mean to include half-breeds and all?

Q. Take first the full bloods?—A. A very small per cent of the full bloods.

Q. How about the mixed bloods?—A. Well, the mixed bloods, a majority of them are very good farmers and run large farms; a good many of them some very large farms, indeed. There are some trifling men among the mixed bloods, though.

Q. Who are called squawmen there?—A. Squawmen is the name generally applied to white men who marry into the tribe.

Q. They are trifling men, generally?—A. No, sir; I would not say that.

Q. Some of them?—A. Yes, sir; some of them. Some very good white men are married among them.

Q. Does a white man marrying an Indian girl become a member of the tribe?—A. No, sir; but his children do.

Q. And the half bloods consist of the children of the marriage of a white man with an Indian girl or their descendants?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Some of the marriages, I suppose, date way back?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the practice at present with regard to marriages of Indian girls to white men?—A. They are married under the laws of Oklahoma.

Q. But is it encouraged now or discouraged by the Indians? Is it as frequent as it used to be?—A. It is more frequent than formerly, I think. There are more white men marrying into the tribe than formerly did, and also a great many white men marry mixed-blood Indians.

Q. What is the proportion as between Indian girls marrying white men and white girls marrying Indians?—A. It would be impossible for me to give the proportion. I think there are more men marrying into the tribe than women. However, this does not apply to the full-blood Indians. It applies to the mixed bloods generally. A great many of those mixed bloods it would be impossible to distinguish from Indians.

Q. And do white girls marry the full-blood Indians?—A. No, sir. I beg your pardon; I know a few cases of that kind.

Q. But generally not?—A. Generally not. It is only within the past few years.

Q. Now, when an Indian takes up some land and fences it, and gets a house and horse and a white man to work it, does he furnish the white man—his white laborer—with supplies?—A. Very often; yes, sir.

Q. And those are furnished by traders and charged to the account of the Indian?—A. Yes, sir; the Indian purchases the supplies and turns them over to the white man. He comes in with him very often.

Q. So your furnishing of supplies is not only to the Indians but to the white men whom the Indians hire?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Now, as a matter of fact, do the Indians get any considerable income from this white man who works the land which they have taken up?—A. The intent was and is to improve their places, so that in time they can get a living off of it; not only a living, but also to enable

them to accumulate something. As stated before, the sales we have made to Indians are not only for houses and agricultural implements, but also for horses and cattle and all sorts of household goods; everything that is necessary on a farm to improve it. Also digging wells—

Q. Does not the full-blood Osage Indian consider it degrading to work himself on the farm?—A. Yes, sir; he does. He thinks he is better than a white man as a rule.

Q. Thinks he is rich?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. (Continued.) And the rich people do not work?—A. That is true.

Q. How does a white man live who works the farm?—A. A great many put up houses, generally little log houses, on the places.

Q. Do the Indians put that up for them?—A. No, sir; the white man usually puts it up. That is a part of the consideration or the rent for the farm.

Q. If a white man goes away, to whom do his improvements belong?—A. It belongs to the Indian. That is always understood, that it belongs to the permanent improvement of the place.

Q. What is the character of the white men thus doing work for the Indians?—A. Some of them are very good men and others are what is usually termed in that country the ordinary boomer or something of that kind. I have not any doubt but what a great many of those white men expect to live and die on the reservation. They believe that in time the country will be opened up and that they will get part of the lands. I presume that is the thought of the greater number of them. I will say further that there are to-day on the Osage reservation, I would judge, at least four white people to one Osage.

Q. (Mr. BLAIR.) Eight to ten thousand white men?—A. It has been estimated from six to eight to ten to twelve thousand; yes, sir.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Where do the children go to school?—A. Some do not go at all; some have put up little buildings where they go; some go across to Oklahoma, and some to Kansas. But a great many do not go at all. There is a rather bad condition of affairs, I should say, in that respect.

Q. They are not taken into the Indian schools?—A. No, sir.

Q. These Indians are absolutely peaceable, I suppose?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And make no trouble?—A. None at all, sir.

Q. And have no serious conflicts among themselves or with the white people?—A. No, sir; they only have little difficulties sometimes which would be settled in the police court or something of that kind.

Q. They have a court, then?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. A court of their own?—A. Yes, sir. Questions of ownership of claims and those things are settled in their own courts usually.

Q. I suppose they are utterly opposed to dividing the lands. What is the sentiment among them on that question?—A. The Osages have been unfortunate in their home matters. For two or three years they have disputed the right of people on the roll and have been in a constant quarrel about that. Those things are to be adjusted now, I believe, but it has made a dividing line politically. It has been a political question with them very largely.

Q. You have been on that reservation as a trader off and on for thirteen years?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think it possible to make any arrangement with those Indians to divide their lands?—A. I believe it can be done; yes, sir.

Q. They would not want to divide a portion of them and sell the rest. They would want a division which would give them the entire lands, I

suppose?—A. I do not believe they would agree to anything else, at the present time, at least. I do not think they would.

Q. Are not they very strong in their attachment to their tribal customs?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Would a division of their lands among them operate to break up the tribal customs, or could they still keep those customs up?—A. I believe it would operate toward breaking them up to a very large extent.

Q. Has this influx of white men on the reservation been increasing of late?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Growing all the while?—A. Growing all the while.

Q. You think there are four times as many white men as Indians on the reservation?—A. At least that many, if not more.

Q. Is not that state of things going to break up the tribal condition inevitably?—A. I think so. I believe that at least half the tribe would be very willing, and in fact are anxious, to divide their lands. I think they would be only too glad to do it.

Q. Do you talk the Indian language?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you talk with them on these subjects?—A. I have at times. Yes, sir.

Q. What proportion of full bloods have already taken lands?—A. Oh, they all have taken lands?

Q. The male adult full bloods have all taken lands?—A. Yes, sir. For instance the father will take a place—they have what they call the home place—and he will take a place for his different children, and they will make homes on all these different places. The object is to hold the land to prevent others from taking the lands, and they take claims for all their children. They are always on the lookout for that. As I have stated, one Indian has had three different houses built on three different farms. He did that for the benefit of his children.

Q. (By Mr. BLAIR.) Adjoining farms?—A. No, sir; not adjoining at all, but located remote from each other. One place is as much as 10 miles away from the home place.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Do you think the Indians want this payment made?—A. Yes, sir; I have never heard a solitary objection from any of them. Some of them object to one plan and others to another plan, and they have personal reasons for that. As stated before, there is a jealousy between the full bloods and mixed bloods. Some say, "We want this money, but we do not want these mixed bloods to share in it." Of course I do not see how any dividing line can be drawn on that. They are entitled to the same interest as I understand it.

Q. These children, born of a marriage with white people, are just as much members of the tribe and just as much entitled to privileges and properties under the law as the full bloods?—A. Yes, sir. As stated before, there are Indians there—there are persons on the Osage rolls—whom you would take to be white people.

Q. Almost white?—A. Yes, sir; pure white. Some are redheaded and sandy complexions and of all colors.

Q. Do the mixed bloods work themselves on farms?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the less of Indian blood in them the more likely they are to work—or does a half blood work as well as an eighth blood?—A. Some of them do; yes, sir. But I will say there is Mr. Trimby here, a half-blood Osage Indian, and he is one of the most prosperous—

Q. What is your nearest railroad?—A. Elgin, 25 miles, is the nearest point.

Q. Is that on the reservation?—A. No, sir; on the State line.

Q. There is no railroad within the reservation?—A. No, sir; there are railroads near us, though, on all sides.

Q. What do you say to an investigation of these accounts— A. We are perfectly willing—

Q. (Continuing.) And a report to Congress before they are paid?— A. We are perfectly willing to have any investigation that is deemed desirable or proper.

Q. Have you something there from all the licensed traders on that reservation?—A. No, sir; we have not. Some traders we have not the accounts of.

Mr. BLAIR. But I understood that I have them all—all the general license traders.

The WITNESS. They would all participate in this payment?

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) What I want to know is who the licensed traders on that reservation are. You can give that to me, can you not?—A. Yes, I think I can—a majority of them. At Hominy there are two—Morphis, Price & Company and W. C. Wood & Co.; at Gray Horse, which is the other trading point, there is John N. Florer & Co. and L. A. Wismeyer.

Q. (Mr. BLAIR.) This account is in the name of your predecessor.— A. He was licensed during my sickness. I have been unable to be on the reservation for some time.

Mr. BLAIR. G. M. Huffaker.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. You are interested in that firm?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are there no licensed traders at the agency?—A. At the Osage Agency there are Johnson & McLaughlin, R. E. Bird & Co., A. H. Gibson, Hyatt & Donovan, English & Sparrow. Then there is a drug store there; that is the firm of Rooker & Big Heart. Then there is a firm running a butcher business and meat business there; they are Lane & Morris. Then there is another firm, W. T. Leahy.

Mr. TRIMBLY. It is now styled, I think, Harris & Leahy.

The WITNESS. Then there is G. W. Parsons. He runs a millinery and dressmaking store, and photograph gallery, and so forth.

Q. Are these general license traders, all of them?—A. All except the three—the butcher and the drug store and the last one (the millinery store). The others are all general license; yes, sir.

Q. An Indian, whether full blood or half blood, has a right to trade without a license?—A. No, sir. A full blood has, I think.

Q. But there are no full-blood Indians trading?—A. Yes, sir; Big Heart is a full blood. He is in the drug-store business there.

Q. Big Heart does not want this done, does he?—A. Yes; he does, and he does not.

Q. Isn't it a question more of plan?—A. Yes, sir; with him it is a question of plan; at least so he says.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. I have the names of those whose accounts go to make up the \$50,000. See if you have them. Hyatt & Donahue, Morris & Lane, W. T. Leahy, Parsons, Sparrow & English, George Sincook, receiver— A. I forgot them. That is a firm that was out of existence.

Q. That is estimated at \$12,000, a bankrupt firm, and a man that was ruined by some of these performances there. His estate is being settled now. Is he dead or is he crazy?—A. He is crazy.

Q. And Sincook is the receiver?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Shall I leave these sworn accounts?

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. Yes; you can put anything into the record that you think is proper and material as affecting the case.
(The accounts referred to are appended to the record.)

TESTIMONY OF WARREN SMITH.

WARREN SMITH was duly sworn by the chairman, and testified as follows:

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Won't you state to the Senator your connection with the Indian-trader business? You are a member of the firm of W. C. Wood & Co., are you?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. In business at Hominy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please go on.—A. In a general way?

Q. Yes, in a general way, first.—A. I was in Washington two years ago, and at the solicitation of some of my friends, and likewise their recommendation, I accepted a tradership.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) Where are you from?—A. Tennessee.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Perhaps you had better state something of your previous life, where you have been, and your connection with Minnesota, and so on.—A. I lived previously in Minnesota and I have done official business with the present Senator here, who was then governor of Minnesota. I was the State entomologist, and assisted him in bridging over the necessities of two or three counties that were stricken there.

Q. What has been your business outside of your present occupation?—A. I have been inspecting mines. I was an agriculturist when I was in Minnesota. I have a farm in Tennessee; my boys were there. My business has been inspecting mines and making surveys, and last spring I was doing fieldwork for one of the Indian tribes.

Q. When the present Administration came into power you came here, expecting an appointment of some kind, did you not?—A. Yes, sir. I had a business on the Mississippi River, and a break in the levee swept it away. Having figured some little in the Republican party, I thought I had a claim on them, and I came here, and on the recommendation of Senator Davis and W. W. Dudley, who was an old acquaintance of mine (I was born in Indiana) and who, I might say, was an old school friend of mine, and on the recommendation of my representatives from Tennessee and Indiana and other places I applied for the collectorship of a port in Alaska, and I had the assurance of the President, through Colonel Dudley and others, that I should have the place, but at the last moment it seemed that there had been another man slated for it previously and I was ruled out.

Then, a friend of mine, Judge Bullock, who held a place under President Cleveland, and who was an old friend of mine in Tennessee, said that a tradership would be better than any other appointment that I could get, as the President had assured Colonel Dudley that I should have a good place. I accepted it on his recommendation. I asked the Commissioner for restraining orders on the old traders whom we were appointed to succeed. I was appointed to take the place of Bost & Co.

Q. At Hominy?—A. Yes, sir. I went there and asked for restraining orders and he said that none was necessary, for that their license

had run out and expired. I think I went there in April, and found, unbeknown to the Commissioner here, that the traders had been relicensed for a year.

Q. Apparently on the sly?—A. Yes, sir. I appealed to the Commissioner to know what I should do and he said that we should set up business and show our intentions. We applied to the old trader to try to buy him out, but we met with rebuffs of a not very civil character, and we then took a tent, thinking when the license ran out we could buy him out. We took a waterproof tent that we bought at St. Louis and put about \$10,000 worth of goods in, running our credit for the goods.

Q. You and Mr. Wood?—A. Wood—yes.

Q. What interest did you pay on your money?—A. Ten per cent to the bank.

Q. Well, go on.—A. I soon found that the storms incident to that country jeopardized the safety of our goods, and then again we went to Mr. Bost and told them that their license would be out soon, and we still wanted to buy them out. They met us with such a positive refusal to sell out that we then went to erecting a house. We put up a good stone house which cost us considerable money. Not wishing to take the risk, we erected this stone house and moved our goods into it, and then we did business safely and satisfactorily. But when the old traders' license ran out, they refused to quit. They still kept doing business, by whose authority I don't know. In the meantime I went West.

Q. (By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) How long ago did it run out?—A. Last April a year ago. I then went West and my partner wrote me sometime afterwards that it was the wish of the Department at Washington that we buy the old trader out, not only his accounts, but his storehouse and dwelling house and so on. I protested against it. I said that we had not the credit to do anything of that kind, and that our credit was already strained; that we had not gotten the payments we expected and were in debt.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Payments from the Indians?—A. Yes, and we were carrying obligations in the bank. And I protested against buying that property; that we had no need of a great deal of it, such as the large storehouse and the barns and windmills and two or three dwelling houses and outhouses. My partner wrote me that it was imperatively necessary to buy them out, because he had been informed by the agent that if we did not do something perhaps he might be licensed. As a last resort we borrowed the necessary money to buy out his storehouses and outhouses, which we did not need at all. There we are now with \$43,000 or more indebtedness on which we are paying 10 per cent interest at the bank, and we have some \$57,000 against the Indians. We had to buy, I think, \$27,000 of their old accounts, and we will be ruined if we do not get a payment.

Q. Of the recent payments to the Indians—that is, of their quarterly payments as they come—what do you get?—A. Well, we get from eighteen to, I think, about thirty-two hundred. That is according to my best recollection, of course. I wish it understood that while the order for us to buy the old trader out was not mandatory, it came so near it that we felt under obligations to take the risk and do it.

Q. Suppose you had not bought them out, how would you have avoided total loss of your indebtedness already made?—A. I can not

see how. More than that, my partner wrote to me that we were subordinates, and it was to our interest to keep in strict harmony with our officers over us, and at his instance I consented to make the purchase. My better business judgment rebelled against the idea, but we seemed to be under a necessity that we had no power to remove. I have his letters yet on file, where he says that not only the agent, but the Department at Washington urged it. I do not mean that the Commissioner did, as I understand it, but it was the view of the Department, and while I say it was not mandatory, it came so near it that we felt under obligations to obey.

Q. And you say of these quarterly payments you get from \$1,800 to \$3,200?—A. As far as I can recollect.

Q. And there is now due to you some \$60,000?—A. About \$57,000.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Right here let me ask a question. These quarterly payments are about \$50 a head for men, women, and children?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What proportion of the \$50 do you get?—A. We should have been entitled to something like \$5,000 in payment. At least that, so far as I am able to judge.

Q. They won't pay you?—A. No. They offer so much. They say: "We will pay you so much," and if we do not see fit to accept it we haven't any power to compel them to pay any more. There is where we run into debt. If they had paid us up the full extent of their indebtedness we would not have been involved to the extent we have been. We built several houses and did a great deal outside improvement. Then the full bloods there move about a great deal and visit; they have to have large wagons to move their tents and camping utensils, and spring wagons to move their families, and we furnish them a great deal in that line—wagons and harness and so on.

Q. When they get a payment, what portion of it do you get, do you think, according to your best judgment?—A. I could not tell that; Mr. Wood is the business man. I could not give you an exact idea as far as that is concerned, because I am not informed.

Q. You said you ought to get \$5,000.—A. That would be my opinion.

Q. And you get from \$1,800 to \$3,200?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Suppose they pay you half they get; what do they do with the rest of it?—A. So far as I am informed, they go to other places. They go to Hominy and other places.

A BYSTANDER. You do not mean Hominy; you mean Cleveland?—

A. I mean to Cleveland and likewise to Elgin and other border stores just outside of the reservation and do their trading, and there is where the money goes. If there was some law to compel them to pay their entire money to traders we would be in a much better fix.

Q. Do they squander their money?—A. If reports are true, they often do.

Q. No liquor is sold in the reservation? That is a matter of law.—A. None is allowed there.

Q. Is there in fact any liquor smuggled in?—A. So far as my observation went and information given me, they have what they call the boot leggers that come into the hills there once in a while clandestinely with whisky, but I have no positive knowledge of that.

Q. They drink Jamaica ginger and Florida water and those things?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. WISMEYER. Anything that is hot?

A. (Continuing.) Anything that is hot. All I regret is that I was

led to engage in it at all. I would cheerfully get out if I could safely do so without loss.

Q. (Mr. BLAIR.) Now, in regard to the prices charged. Please tell if there were formerly abuses in overcharging, or whether there have been in these later years, or since you have been there. Is there now any overcharging to the Indians?—A. Not that I know of.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Have you a Department regulation as to the percentage of profit you may charge?—A. Yes, sir; on an average, but not on each article. We are compelled to expose in our stores a schedule of our prices on all standard goods, and that is used, and that schedule is there all the time. And then we are subject to an investigation by the Government inspector at regular periods. So I do not see how the trader can charge the exorbitant prices represented. I can not see how he can do it without—

Q. You are at Hominy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How many traders are there there?—A. Just the two firms there.

Q. Have you any agreement between yourselves as to prices other than the Department regulation?—A. I think the agreement is—I don't think so. Now, I don't know; I could not tell you that, because, as I have said, I have not been there very recently.

TESTIMONY OF L. A. WISMEYER.

L. A. WISMEYER resumed the stand as a witness and testified further, as follows:

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. How is that, Mr. Wismeyer; is there competition among the traders?—A. Yes, sir. There is no agreement on prices whatever. Perhaps on one article I may charge more than the other firm, and he may oversell me on others. We are constantly met with quotations from these towns along the border of the reservation, and we have to meet those prices. The conditions are entirely different from what they were ten years ago.

Q. You are in no combination?—A. No combination. Only one thing that might be called a combination, and that is a card which the Indians carry which shows their indebtedness to each firm. That is to prevent them from doubling up their accounts as they have been doing in the past. That is a recent thing, and the traders all observe it strictly. It is the letter and the spirit of the order. The intention of that was to keep the accounts from accumulating larger than they are at the present time.

Q. I want to ask a question right there. Some of these Indians are evidently improvident?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Are some of them thrifty and provident and pay all their debts?—A. Yes, sir; some of them pay very well, as the statement of their accounts shows. Some of them owe small amounts and others owe a great deal. If a plan could be devised to settle this indebtedness we would be only too glad to have that sort of a plan adopted. But we have considered the fairness to the balance of the tribe in this matter, and for them we recently asked this sum of \$700 per capita, which will pay the indebtedness of those who owe the most, and a great many will have a balance, and others will have practically all the money. Mr. Trimby there, for instance, I don't suppose is in debt at all.

Q. The Indians not in debt would get \$700 cash payment?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you think they would make good use of it?—A. I think so from the fact that they have made good use of their credit. It shows they have been frugal, because they have not gotten in debt so deeply. And those who have been extravagant and careless would be able to settle their indebtedness, and that would be a good lesson to them in the future.

TESTIMONY OF MR. WARREN SMITH.

Mr. WARREN SMITH resumed the stand as a witness.

The WITNESS. There is just one other statement I would like to make. That is, there is a condition expressed on our license that we take our goods from the territory of the United States into the Osage Nation at our own risk, while we are going to our place of business and coming from it, or while at the place of business; that any violence that results in the destruction of goods the Government is in no way responsible for; that we run that risk ourselves. Consequently, for running that risk, I think we ought to have a little better price than those outside of the Territory who run no risk of that kind and are under no restrictions.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. There is not much risk, is there?—A. There is liable to be. You can not tell what demonstrations civilized men will make under the heat of excitement, to say nothing about the savage.

Q. Then I suppose you run the risk of being robbed by outlaws from the adjoining States?—A. Yes, sir. Parties have tried to hold them up at Hominy several times—the outlaws have.

Q. (Mr. BLAIR.) How is that?—A. The outlaws have come in and tried to hold up the stores there.

A BYSTANDER. A fellow went into Bost's store once. That was the only case.

The WITNESS. That is about all I have to say.

TESTIMONY OF JOSEPH L. MORPHIS.

JOSEPH L. MORPHIS, sworn as a witness by the chairman, testified as follows:

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. You were an Indian trader under the Harrison Administration, were you not?—A. Yes, sir; I went there in 1891, I believe.

Q. Where are you from?—A. From Mississippi.

Q. Are you now of the firm of Morphis, Price & Price at Hominy?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Won't you make your own statement?—A. I went out there, as I remember now, in 1891, with a license from the Department here to go anywhere I wished on the reservation. I went out and looked at Gray-horse and also at the agency; finding there was but one store at Hominy, concluded to settle there. I built a store 100 feet long by 30 feet wide, and also built two residences and moved my family there, and was in partnership with Ben Price, and remained there in business until the advent of the Cleveland Administration. Then I was notified by the agent there that there would have to be a change; that my politics was

not congenial to that climate at that time, or something of that sort. So I sold out my business then under pressure at a very considerable loss at the time, because this big payment of \$200,000 came on soon afterwards. I sold my interest in the accounts at 70 cents on the dollar, and all the improvements and real estate and everything there, and went across the river 10 miles into Oklahoma and established a little store over there.

Q. At what point?—A. At Cleveland. We started a little town there—Mr. Wismeyer and myself and others. We bought an allotment from the Cherokee Indians, who had entered the land under act of Congress allowing them to do so. That was in the Cherokee Strip. We made the town of Cleveland, and I was in business there until last June a year ago, when I came up here to see the Administration. In the meantime, under the Cleveland Administration, I was here several times trying to get redress for the way I had been treated there. I was only given thirty days to get out of the reservation. I had to move out in August, and had to live in a shanty with my family at a great deal of inconvenience. I came here, and ex-Senator Blair went with me to Secretary Smith and laid the matter before him and got some investigation and so on; but anyway, I finally got a license to go back there.

Q. Not until the next Administration?—A. No, sir. As I said, we had no redress under that Administration. When the new Administration came in I applied for a license and was promised one in June. The license was issued me in September, 1897. That man Price was my former partner, and he took in his nephew, and the firm then consisted of Price & Price. I got a license to take that place. I waited until January—

Q. That would have been January a year ago?—A. A year ago now; yes, sir. Commissioner Jones came down there. I met him at Hominy. He told me I had better build me a house. In the meantime, I had made every effort I could to make some settlement with Price. Having failed to do that I built another storehouse there, and got into business about the 1st of March. The store of Price & Price remained open, although their license had expired. In the meantime I had reported to Colonel Freeman, citing him the order that required them to be closed up when the licenses ran out. Instead of closing them up he reported to the Department here, as I was notified. Afterwards, having failed to get those gentlemen out, or to close up or to do anything with them, and the business not justifying running three stores there (there were three stores at the point), I made an arrangement with the Prices again, and am now in partnership again, I having taken an interest in the store and everything, and getting back the same property I once had there. That is a general statement.

Q. Had you a conversation with Mr. Price in which Mr. Price indicated a likelihood of his remaining there unless you did make an arrangement with him?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Please state it.—A. Mr. Price stated to me that, while he could not secure a license from the Commissioner, he had assurances from the Secretary that he would not be put off the reservation.

Q. As in the case of Mr. Bost, the other firm who was succeeded by Wood & Co., had Price large capital as compared with your own capital?—A. Yes, sir; very. He is a very wealthy man.

Q. And he was in a condition to control most of the trade then?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And your investments already made must have been entirely lost unless you had made this arrangement with him?—A. Yes; as an evi-

dence of that I only sold from the time I opened until the time I changed with him \$4,500 worth of goods. My accounts only amounted to \$4,500 in six months.

Q. How as to extortion in prices? State whether there were any extortionate prices charged.—A. The prices we sell goods for there now will about compare with the prices I sold them for at Cleveland. I sold goods at both places. We do not sell goods there now as high as we formerly did, at least our firm does not, because the competition, as has been stated, is all around us in every direction, and the Indians come across the river, which has a front on the Oklahoma side of 70 or 80 miles, along which there are half a dozen or more villages, and we sell cheaper some things. For instance, we sell flour cheaper than I sold it at any time at Cleveland, and other goods the same way. I am only 10 miles from where I was at Cleveland. It is 9 miles over to the river and then 1 mile up to the town.

Q. You know the feeling of the traders as to the desirability of retaining their trade on that reservation?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Also the feeling with reference to the adjustment of these accounts?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is the state of mind among them? Are they anxious to retain their trade as compared with the collection of the debts, or would they be willing to break up the system rather than lose their indebtedness?—A. All that I have heard express themselves on that subject would be willing on any terms almost to get their pay. As far as I am concerned, I would be willing to go out of the reservation if I could get the money due me.

Q. Do you know of any different feeling on the part of any of these traders?—A. No, sir; I have not heard any express an opinion except that they were willing to comply with any terms that would secure present payment.

Q. How about an investigation of the accounts, if that is thought desirable?—A. We are all willing, as far as I know. Everyone I have heard express himself is willing and anxious to have an investigation of the accounts.

Q. And what you ask for is a payment of whatever is honestly due?—A. Yes, sir. What we want is an adjustment of the accounts, and then if we want to continue business we will take the chances, and if not we will get off the reservation. At least that is the feeling of some of us.

Q. Is there anything else you wish to state?—A. No, sir.

Q. You might say anything you think proper in regard to the necessity of early adjustment.—A. Well, of course, I am exceedingly anxious, and all the traders are, for an early adjustment, because those who have not much money are paying big interest.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Do you think it is good business for the man who keeps a store to let Indians get so much in debt?—A. No, sir.

Q. Can you explain how it was that you, as a storekeeper, let the Indians get so much in your debt?—A. It was the custom when I went there. I am comparatively a new trader, and I had either to recognize the fact that these Indians would have to be trusted and go on in that way, or else those Indians would buy goods from other people and I would do no business at all. If we can get an adjustment of the accounts we can get out whole, and if not we can not get out whole.

Mr. BLAIR. I have urged them not to press this at this time, but

they insist they will have to press it now, for delay will ruin some of them—these three men, at least.

TESTIMONY OF JULIAN TRIMBLY.

JULIAN TRIMBLY, a witness sworn by the chairman, testified as follows:

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

- Q. You are of mixed blood?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. What were your parents?—A. My mother was a half-breed Osage; my father was a white man.
 Q. So you are three-fourths white?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. Where was your father from?—A. From Canada.
 Q. You are in trade?—A. No, sir. I am a farmer by occupation.
 Q. How much land have you?—A. I have a farm of something like 500 acres.
 Q. What are your crops mostly?—A. Mostly wheat.
 Q. Where is your farm?—A. Almost adjoining the south line of Kansas.
 Q. Near what point in Kansas?—A. Elgin, Kans.
 Q. How long have you been there on that farm?—A. I moved there in the winter of 1874.
 Q. And have been there ever since?—A. Yes, sir; on that one place.

By Mr. BLAIR:

- Q. Have you any objection to stating the amount of your property, the probable amount of it, and its valuation?—A. I could not say. I do not know what it would be valued at. It is held there in common.
 Q. Suppose it were in severalty—that which you have improved?—A. I would judge the property I have got there would be worth \$20,000.
 Q. In case of a division I suppose you are entitled to your improvements you have made as your own actual property—I mean a division of the lands without the improvements?—A. I have a large family, and I have not any more places than each and every one of my children would be entitled to in case we were divided.
 Q. Have you built houses on each of those?—A. Not all of them.
 Q. You have on some of them?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. How came you to build those?
 Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) You have more than 500 acres for yourself and family?—A. That is all I have in cultivation now.

By Mr. BLAIR:

- Q. Have you pasture lands attached?—A. No; I could use some that are vacant, but I do not use them.
 Q. You have built houses on these lands and made improvements?—A. Yes, sir.
 Q. Have any of your houses been built through the agency?—A. No, sir.
 Q. You erected those houses yourself?—A. All myself.
 Q. What is the fact as to other houses, as to improvements being made there by the traders?—A. There have been quite a number of them.
 Q. Colonel Morphis, your firm has built houses there, has it not?
 Colonel MORPHIS. Yes, sir.

Q. Could you state the positions you have held in the tribe?—A. (Mr. Trimble, the witness.) As I stated a while ago, I was a farmer by occupation, but for the last ten or twelve years I have been a member of what is called the Osage national council, and all business that had to come to the nation first was submitted to the council, and from there to our agent and on here to the Government.

Q. Have you been president of the council?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your knowledge of the desire of the tribe with reference to the payment of these traders' debts?—A. Every one I ever spoke to says we want that.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) Want it done?—A. We want this debt lifted off of us and paid up.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Now, as to the payment per capita in such way as that those not in debt to the traders will still have money which they may use for their own purposes; do those who are not owing desire it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Why do they want it?—A. Well, some of them are just starting out for themselves, opening up new homes, and they want it partly for that—to help them build up these new homes. Others want this money to educate themselves. They are most grown, and they see that they have not sufficient education, and they know that they can not get it at those little Government schools at the agency—that they have to go outside—and they want money to bear their expenses. The Government refuses to bear the expenses of children that go outside the reservation to those higher schools, with the exception of a few, such as Carlisle, Haskell, in Kansas, and some others.

Q. Now, as to the indebtedness on the part of individual members that is not due to the traders. Is there any desire on the part of that class for distribution in order that they may pay their debts?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. To what extent does that exist?—A. I could not say just what, but I can say for myself that I have now loaned out to my neighbors when they have become pressed \$5,000 of my own money, and I am on two notes of my friends, who had occasion to borrow money from whom ever they could get it, for, I guess, \$20,000; and I am pressed every day to take up those notes, and the result is that sometimes I have to pay them—either get them extended or pay them. That is the way it goes from time to time, and these Osages say, "If we ever get that big payment I want to lift those debts," and so that is the reason they want it.

Q. (Senator PLATT, of Connecticut.) Do you think that a community that has been running in debt this way until they have gotten \$500,000 or \$600,000 indebtedness on them are very likely to change their habits when they get the debts paid up? Will they not do the same thing again if they can?—A. There will be a great many of them that will not repeat it again. At least they tell me, "If we ever once get out of this debt, we will never get into it again. I see it is a terrible thing." While on the other hand, some, the moment they get out of debt, will go back again if somebody will trust them. But I contend that a majority of those in debt, if they are relieved of their debt, will not repeat it again.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Have these people ever had any opportunity of acquiring habits of thrift?—A. The mixed blood; yes, sir.

Q. They are not the parties, as a rule, that are in debt?—A. There

are a few mixed bloods in debt as much as any full blood, but as a general thing they are not.

Q. Generally the full bloods are the ones most in debt?—A. Yes, sir.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Is there any friction between the full bloods and the mixed bloods, politically, so to speak?—A. Well, there has been for the last two or three years, under what was termed the Black Dog administration. The first thing those people did was to cause an investigation of the rolls, and that was done. It was probably extended for two years before it was finally settled, and that investigation cost the mixed bloods, such as were disputed, a great many dollars.

Q. Have you rolls there which are agreed to now?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. The rolls are all settled?—A. All settled, as far as I know. There is a little talk yet that if this administration—the Black Dog administration that I have mentioned—should get in power, they are going to agitate this question again, but I do not apprehend any danger from it.

Q. How is your council chosen? Do you have elections?—A. Yes, sir; by elections. Our little reservation is separated into five districts, and each one of these districts sends three men to represent it.

Q. You elect them in the district?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Annually?—A. Every two years.

Q. And you meet how often?—A. Our laws say we shall meet annually the first Monday in November, but on extraordinary occasions the chief has the right to call us together whenever he wants to.

Q. Who is chief now?—A. I contend that there is neither one now, because they both claim the seat, and it is now before the Department to be settled.

Q. Who are the contestants?—A. Black Dog is one, and O Lo Ha Walla is the other.

Q. And what is this Big Heart?—A. Big Heart was our governor.

Q. You have a governor besides the chief?—A. No; sometimes we call him the governor. Four years ago Big Heart was elected governor, or head chief, and he kept the office for two years. Then, during his administration, is when this big uproar came about investigating the rolls.

Q. What do these two contestants claim; does each claim that he was elected?—A. One claims that he got the majority and the other claims that he got the majority of the legal votes, and it was so close that the Black Dog party came here to the Department about the matter. We will know now in a very few days which is entitled to that seat, as the papers are in the Commissioner's hands.

Q. They will decide it?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What does Black Dog represent?—A. The full-blood element.

Q. And the other man?—A. The progressive party, the entire half-breed party with the exception of a very few, and a good portion of the full bloods also are on the progressive party's side.

Q. You have been president, you say?—A. Yes, sir; I have been president of that council some two or three terms.

Q. You know the feeling, then, of the Indians who belong to this tribe?—A. I do.

Q. How do you think they would take this matter of a division of their lands; with a division of their funds or without division of their funds?—A. It is my opinion that they might possibly divide the lands between themselves, but they would hesitate about dividing the money for a while.

Q. They think it had better be kept where they can receive annuities?—A. A good portion of them are inclined to believe it would be safer with the Department.

Q. Do you agree that that reservation is getting filled up with white men?—A. I can see from day to day that there are more whites coming in.

Q. Do those white men begin to exert any influence on Indian affairs?—A. I can not see that they do.

Q. They do not mix or meddle with the Indian politics, so to speak?—A. No, sir.

Q. And do not appear to exercise any influence?—A. Once in a while a man will express his opinion, but they have no voice in anything, you know.

Q. Are they a pretty reliable set of white men, or are they not? Are they enterprising, or are they shiftless?—A. Some are enterprising and others are shiftless.

Q. Take that land bordering on Kansas. Is it pretty generally under cultivation?—A. Yes, sir; all the good land is.

Q. That is about as good land as there is in the reservation, is it not?—A. Yes, sir; there is a great deal of rough land, too.

Q. Is there a kind of flint hill tract?—A. Yes, sir; west of me. That is good pasture land, but not suited for agriculture at all.

Q. The Cherokee Nation is on the east of you, is it not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where is Big Heart?—A. (By Mr. BLAIR.) He is here in the city.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Do you know anything about that protest that has been sent here recently against this payment?—A. I do not.

Q. You have heard nothing of the kind?—A. No, sir.

Q. Would you have heard of it if it had been discussed in the tribe?—A. I think so.

Q. It would come before the council and you would have heard of it?—A. Yes, sir; because I attend all the meetings.

Q. You do not know, then, of any remonstrance or protest?—A. I do not know of any.

Q. (Continuing.) Made by the official action of the council?—A. No, sir.

Q. Are you a member of the present council?—A. Yes, sir.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. I suppose the balance of the indebtedness of the traders is held in St. Louis?

Mr. WISMEYER. St. Louis and Kansas City and St. Joseph and various markets.

Mr. BLAIR. What do you mean by its being held there?

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. What the traders owe.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Mr. Trimby, what sort of an agent have you got there now? How do you like him?—A. He is liked, as a general thing, pretty well. He is a new man, of course. He has not been there a year yet.

Q. He used to be an Indian agent there, somewhere, did he not?

Mr. WISMEYER. He was an Indian agent in Dakota, I think. He was an inspector.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. An inspector of the Sioux?

Mr. WISMEYER. Yes, sir.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. I met him at Arkansas City.

Mr. WISMEYER. He was living there at that time. He was out of the service I believe at that time.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. As far as you know they are pretty well satisfied with him?

The WITNESS. Pretty well satisfied.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. Were they satisfied with Mr. Freeman?—A. Mr. Freeman had his enemies, but I could not see but what he done about as well as anybody. He always treated me right. Of course he had some enemies.

Q. As far as you know, there is no complaint against the present agent?—A. No; I know of none.

Q. You trade probably at Elgin?—A. Yes, sir; and at Independence. It is on the railroad, you know. We can go there in an hour or two, but do a good deal in Elgin.

Q. Do pretty much all of the Indians along the Kansas line trade outside of the reservation?—A. No, sir; not all of them.

Q. What is your nearest trading place in the reservation?—A. The Osage Agency.

Q. Which is 40 or 50 miles away?—A. Twenty-five miles from my place.

Q. Is the land fairly taken up between you and the agency now?—A. There is so much rough land between my land and the agency that it is not very thickly settled. I will venture to say that there are 50 acres between my place and the agency that are not fit for cultivation where there is 1 acre that is fit for cultivation.

Q. You have some streams there and some bottom lands, have you not?—A. Very small streams and little narrow valleys.

Q. Who is the grazing land rented by? I mean is it rented by the council?—A. Yes, sir; the council authorizes it.

Q. To a few firms; to a few cattle men or to a number of cattle men?—A. I think there is something like thirteen—maybe more or less, I do not know just which now—of leases to different individuals.

Q. How much money does that bring in?—A. I do not know just the number of acres, but they get 10 cents an acre for it.

Q. You do not know, even in round numbers, how much it amounts to?—A. I do not know; no, sir.

Q. That comes to the tribe?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is done with it? What is it spent for?—A. Eight thousand one hundred dollars of it goes to pay the tribal officers; and on one or two occasions I think we drew \$10 per capita out of what we call the grass money, this lease money—

Q. And turned it over?—A. The agent paid it out per capita; yes, sir.

Q. You build new buildings?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And keep the old ones in repair?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you pay the expenses of the whole tribal government out of this grass money?—A. No, not out of this grass money. The buildings which are put up for our agency purposes are put up from money that comes from another source; just our tribal officers are paid from this, from this lease money.

Q. Is not your meeting place, your council chamber or whatever you call it, put up with your own fund?—A. Not of the lease money.

Q. Not with the grass money?—A. No, sir; not of the lease money. I think our last public improvements were put up out of this accumulated interest fund. We have had bridges put up in our country from

that costing \$40,000 built by this accumulated interest—we call it a dead fund—and our council chamber cost us something like \$6,000, and that was put up that way.

Mr. WISMAYER. They had a very destructive fire since you were there, Senator. The old council chamber was burned, and they have rebuilt that district.

Q. Where have your children been educated?—A. (The witness, Mr. Trimby.) When they were small I sent them to the schools in the Territory, and when they became larger, say from 12 years up, I sent them to the Fort Scott Normal School, as it is called, in Kansas, and I have three children there now—a girl 20 years old, a boy 18, and a boy 16. I find it pretty expensive, too.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. You trade both on and off of the nation, then?—A. I trade very little in the nation.

Q. You are very near the line?—A. Yes, sir. Whenever I go to our agency it is to transact business for the nation in the shape of holding meetings with our nation. It is not with the intention of trading.

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. The full-bloods wear blankets and talk Osage?—A. The older ones, yes, sir. There are some younger full-bloods in our tribe that have been educated, some of them at Carlisle and other places, that wear citizen's clothes.

Q. The children of the full-bloods attend the agency schools, do they not?—A. When they become a certain age they are compelled to go to school by law.

Q. They learn English?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do they keep it up?—A. Well, some of them do and some of them go back to the tribe.

Q. If this land were divided up in severalty among the members of the tribe on some fair basis, would they still keep up their council or would they become merged into Oklahoma?—A. That I am unable to say.

Q. You really would not want to belong to Oklahoma, would you?—A. The majority of the tribe is opposed to being attached to Oklahoma, or belonging to it.

Q. You are in it now, in some way; I do not remember exactly how. The lines are extended in some way, so that whenever your tribal lines are given up you will be a part of Oklahoma?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. But the majority of the tribal people would not want to be merged with the people of Oklahoma, would they?—A. I believe they protest against it.

Q. For yourself you would not care?—A. I would not care much; I believe I could hold my own with them.

Q. If there were to be a division there your idea would be to divide the whole property among the Indians?—A. The lands?

Q. The whole land.—A. Yes, sir.

Q. On some basis which would give to each Indian what would be considered a fair share in value of the land?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is, you would not want to give one man good farming land and another mountain land?—A. No. That would not be fair at all.

Q. It would have to be some fair arrangement by which each man would get what was his equivalent portion of the land?—A. Yes, sir; that would be the way.

Q. Do you think the desire to come to that is growing or otherwise?—A. I think it is growing.

Q. Is it talked up much; is it talked about down there?—A. Yes, sir; it is talked up quite a good deal.

TESTIMONY OF L. A. WISMEYER—Continued.

Mr. L. A. WISMEYER resumed the stand as a witness and testified further, as follows:

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Mr. Wismeyer, you might make a statement as to the cash price and the credit price. You have the two, and there is a very considerable difference, is there not?—A. Our cash trade is very limited, Senator. As in all communities, the difference between cash and credit is a matter of material difference.

Q. If an Indian does pay cash down, does he get goods from you as cheap as a man would off the reservation?—A. Yes, sir; just as cheap as any man on earth can buy from us. He gets the same treatment as a white man or any other person would get coming into the store, where the same conditions prevail. I will cite an instance. I sold a farmer a wagon at an advance of exactly two dollars over what it cost, in order to hold the trade. We make those sacrifices very often. That is an example of how we do to retain our trade. We have to fight for it.

Q. Is there any difficulty in determining the justice of these accounts by examination of the original prices as shown by day books and journals?—A. No, sir; there would be no difficulty. There is every facility.

Q. The items can all be shown back to the beginning of your business?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. The books still exist?—A. Yes, sir.

Mr. BLAIR. I have been told by various parties that Father Stephan, who has a large interest in the Osage schools, and I believe is head of the Catholic Indian Bureau, was opposing any payment of these claims, and I went to see him personally and formed his acquaintance. I never saw the man before to know him. I told him what I had heard and asked him in regard to it, and said I would call him before the committee. He said he was not opposed to it; that he knew the situation there very well, and he thought these debts ought to be paid, and an appropriation that would enable those outside traders and others to get the claims existing in their favor would also be very useful. He said he thought it would be a bad thing morally for the Indians to be practically instructed by the Government that they could live without paying honest debts. He said he thought there should be an investigation to ascertain what was really due, and that I was authorized to state what I have now stated publicly, and that he could be called upon to give his views to that effect if desired. Are you acquainted with Father Stephan?

Mr. TRIMBLY. Yes, sir.

Q. Have you conversed with him in regard to the desirability of this payment?—A. I did.

Q. What did he say?—A. He coincided with me and said it ought to be done.

TESTIMONY OF MR. JOSEPH L. MORPHIS—Continued.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Colonel Morphis, you may state the substance of conversations, if any, which you have had with Big Heart bearing on this claim.—A. I have had several conversations with him since I have been here, in regard to it, and he has invariably stated that he favored paying these debts, but he wanted an investigation first. Yesterday evening, in the course of a conversation of a couple of hours, we discussed the question all through and through. He came down to my room and he said that he was in favor of paying the indebtedness of the Indians, but that he wanted to pay it in his way, and that he wanted his folks to inaugurate the movement to get it. That is, he wanted the council to petition the Department to have it paid, and that he and all of his people were in favor of the payment, but they wanted first to investigate it. They wanted a committee to investigate the accounts, and then whatever there was found due he wanted paid. He said he was opposed to paying it in toto; that he was opposed to paying this full amount, but that he was in favor of paying simply what was justly due.

Mr. WISMEYER. In other words, he wanted to make it a national debt against the tribe?

The WITNESS. No. I asked him that question then. I said, "Would you be willing to have this money paid out and charge it to the tribe and make it a national debt?" He said no, that he would not; that under that view you would have the impecunious men drawing the money from those who had taken care of their interests. He said no, that he would not be in favor of that, but he would agree to any plan I would suggest. He said he would recommend favorably a plan when they got an investigation by a committee or by agents appointed by the Department, and then refer it to the next Congress; that he did not want to pay it this time.

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Did you invite him to come before the committee this morning?—

A. No, sir; I did not.

Mr. TRIMBLY. What kind of an investigation do you mean?

Mr. WISMEYER. He wants the accounts investigated.

Mr. BLAIR. Do any of you think of anything else you want to say?

Governor CRAWFORD. No, sir; I do not think of anything, unless Mr. Trimble, having been president of the council at the time this was passed, thinks it would be advisable to state that at that time this memorial was brought forward. Perhaps that memorial should follow his statement.

TESTIMONY OF JULIAN TRIMBLY.

JULIAN TRIMBLY resumed the stand as a witness and continued his testimony, as follows:

By Mr. BLAIR:

Q. Were you president of the council at the time that memorial was passed?—A. No; I was a member of the council.

Q. A member, but not president?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was the nature of the memorial fully understood by the tribe at large?—A. Undoubtedly it was.

Q. And how unanimous was the sentiment of the tribe? Do you

know of any opposition to it?—A. I heard of very few making opposition.

Q. The mass of the tribe —?—A. Were in favor of it. We discussed that question for weeks at a time. I want to say that when that came up before the house we discussed that question for weeks at a time, and every day our council house would be packed full of spectators and representatives of the tribe urging us on, urging us that by all means we should ask for that, and stating their reasons, and it was well understood.

The memorial referred to is as follows:

MEMORIAL.

To the Honorable the Secretary of the Interior and the Congress of the United States:

The General Council of the Osage Nation, assembled, would respectfully represent that the Government of the United States is holding in trust for the Osage Nation about \$8,000,000 upon which it is paying 5 per cent interest. We would further represent:

That the Osage people have adopted the habits and customs of civilized life and are endeavoring to push forward and build comfortable homes, improve their lands, engage in business, pay their debts, and do other things essential to success, and for the good of themselves and their families. But these things can not be accomplished without money. Some of the Indians must necessarily employ help. They can not build their own houses, and they want money with which to buy horses, cattle, farm implements, furniture for their houses, and other things necessary to place them on an equal footing with well-regulated communities elsewhere.

We would therefore respectfully ask that Congress may make an appropriation of an amount sufficient to pay the Osage people \$700 per capita, the same to be deducted from the money held by the United States in trust for the Osage Nation.

That would place the Osage people on the road to prosperity and in nowise injure the United States.

The secretary of the council is hereby directed to furnish certified copies of this memorial to our acting agent, Col. H. B. Freeman, with the request that one each may be transmitted to the honorable Secretary of the Interior and to the Senate and House of Representatives at Washington.

Approved.

SAUCY CHIEF, *Principal Chief.*

I hereby certify that the foregoing memorial was passed by the council this 29th day of January, 1897.

Attest:

W. F. MOSIER, *Secretary.*

Mr. BLAIR. I do not know anything more to say except to thank you, Mr. Chairman and members of the committee, from the bottom of our hearts for this hearing.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. These accounts are taken from the books. This is a balance of the accounts?

Mr. WISMEYER. Yes, sir; those are the balances on the first day of January.

Senator PLATT, of Connecticut. The books would show the items—what it was charged for in each case?

Mr. WISMEYER. Yes, sir; every item and every dollar that has been paid and the credit will appear on the books.

Mr. BLAIR. They can easily ascertain what things were sold for outside the reservation at the same time, can they not?

Mr. WISMEYER. Yes, sir.

STATEMENT OF GOVERNOR SAMUEL J. CRAWFORD.

SENATOR: In addition to what has already been stated, I wish to say that the Osage Indians are the wealthiest people, per capita, of which we have any knowledge.

In addition to the \$8,000,000 which the United States holds in trust for the Osage Nation, and upon which 5 per cent interest is paid quar-

terly, the said nation owns 1,400,000 acres of land, worth on an average \$10 per acre, or \$14,000,000 in the aggregate. This, added to their said trust fund, makes \$22,000,000 in money and land, which, apportioned per capita among the Osage people (1,782, their present population), would give them \$12,400 each. Besides this, the head of every family has a comfortable home, well furnished, and many of the Indians have good farms, farm implements, machinery, horses, cattle and other property. The surplus lands in the Osage reservation are leased for grazing purposes at 10 cents per acre, which yields the Osage Nation a fund sufficient to defray the expenses of their local government. As an offset to this vast wealth the Osage people are in debt to the licensed traders, to each other, and to others, to the extent, on an average, of about \$500 per capita. This indebtedness has been accumulating from year to year in the ordinary course of business, just as indebtedness accumulates in every community among civilized people.

The indebtedness to the licensed traders was for merchandise and the necessaries of life; for lumber and material with which to enable the Indians to build dwelling houses; for furniture, farm implements, stock, and other things which the Indians thought it necessary to buy.

The indebtedness is small as compared with the ability of the Indians to pay; and hence they trust each other, and the traders and merchants trust them.

The national council has memorialized Congress, by resolutions duly passed and approved, asking that the Secretary of the Interior be authorized to pay a certain proportion of their trust fund to the Osage people, in order that they may pay up their individual indebtedness, improve their farms, buy stock, etc., and we earnestly ask, on behalf of all of the parties in interest, that the request of the council may be granted. It is right and just that it should be done.

As already shown, the licensed traders have for several years been furnishing these people with food, clothing, farm implements, household furniture, and other things essential and necessary to their welfare, and Congress ought, of right, to permit the Indians to pay their debts, especially since they are amply able and willing to do so.

Many of the Indians are provident and comparatively free from debt. The payment asked for will enable such persons still further to improve their farms, buy stock, farm implements, etc. It will also set a good example to others.

After paying their debts the Osages will still be by far the wealthiest people in the world, and I trust their request may be granted.

The subcommittee thereupon adjourned.

FEBRUARY 22, 1899.

The subcommittee met at 11 o'clock a. m.

Present: The chairman (Senator Platt, of Connecticut).

TESTIMONY OF JAMES BIGHEART.

JAMES BIGHEART was called as a witness, and, being duly sworn by the chairman, testified as follows:

By Senator PLATT, of Connecticut:

Q. What is your name?—A. James Bigheart.

Q. Are you principal chief or governor of your tribe?—A. No, sir; I am acting secretary of the nation at the present time.

Q. Have you been chief or governor?—A. I have been chief and governor.

Q. There was an election down there a while ago, was there not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And that election is in contest?—A. That election is in contest.

Q. Which party do you belong to?—A. I belong to the full-blood element; those are the rightful Indians.

Q. You are a full-blood?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What do you think of the proposition to take \$700 per head for each Indian out of the fund which is in the Treasury of the United States and pay it over to them, provided that the Indians who are in debt to the traders shall pay up their debts out of this money? Do you understand the idea?—A. Yes.

Q. Then answer it in your own way.—A. My view of the proposition is—of course I am not in favor of the \$700 per capita money. I represent the full-blood element, and they have been bitterly opposed to it—to this suggestion. They are opposed to it for these reasons. I think \$700 per capita payment would be \$1,241,000 out of the Treasury.

Q. A million and a quarter in round numbers?—A. Yes, sir; I think the investment we have in the Government here and the per cent that is derived is exceedingly realized by our people, and they do not think they can acquire any better advantage by using up the principal money they have in the Treasury of the United States.

Q. You have about \$8,000,000?—A. Over \$8,000,000.

Q. This proposition would take in round numbers about one-seve th of your fund?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That would take away one-seventh of your annuities?—A. That would take one-seventh of our annuities. At the same time it would reduce the capital it would reduce the interest about \$65,000 a year.

Q. Reduce it from \$90,000?—A. That is, it would cut off that much interest.

Q. It would reduce it from \$90,000 to \$65,000?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You get now about \$200 a year, do you not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. It would take nearly \$27 a year out of the \$200 which each individual now gets?—A. I think so.

Q. Do you think these traders ought to be paid in some way?—A. I think they should be paid in some way, but I think—that is, I remember the last five or six years the Osages were represented here before the Department, and we have letters, communications in regard to adjusting the rights of traders, showing the overcharges, that have never been heeded, and the people have been induced altogether to extend their indebtedness from one year to another until you find it is enormous.

Q. Do you mean to say that there is some rule in the Indian Office that they shall not give credit beyond a certain percentage?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And you believe the traders have given credit beyond that?—A. I believe they have done that in many instances. Of course we have communicated to the Department to adjust these propositions, and they have never been heeded, and the thing, as the system of trade goes on, grows worse every year.

Q. And it grows larger every year?—A. Grows larger every year.

Q. Suppose it were to be paid up—suppose the Indians knew they were going to get money enough to pay this up—do you think they would keep out of debt then, or would they get in just as deeply again?—A. From what I know I will say this: In 1893—that is, under

a scheme, in order to bring out the indebtedness of the people, there was a payment of \$300,000.

Q. Then there was another one for \$200,000?—A. In 1895 there was another large payment of \$200,000, but that don't seem to show. That is, in a short time after that all indebtedness showed just as large as before they had made any payment.

Q. And larger?—A. And larger.

Q. Do you think it would be so again?—A. I think it would be so again. It would be more encouraging to the indebtedness. It would encourage the Indians more to go into debt. At the same time, many of them are ignorant, and they do not see the future, and they think if they have money in the Treasury of the United States that it is all right, not knowing that when it is extinguished they will be out of means. A great many of our people are ignorant and have no knowledge of dealings, and they go right ahead that way.

Q. It is the same way with white people, is it not?—A. I think so, but the whites are considered more intelligent. The full-bloods can not speak any English at all.

Q. Where did you learn to speak English?—A. I went to school when I was quite young.

Q. Where?—A. At the Catholic Mission in Kansas, an old Osage mission.

Q. Do you think of any way in which it might be ascertained whether these debts are fair and honest, and a way in which the debts that are fair and honest might be paid to the traders? Have you any plan?—A. I think the first plan should be to investigate and bring about whether these indebtednesses are all just accounts. That should be done by the Department.

Q. If that was done would you then be in favor of having so many of the claims as were found to be honest paid?—A. Yes, sir. I believe the Indians would consent to that, and it would require the action of the Osage people themselves. Of course, as I say, the feeling of the people—that is, the Osages—is that they do not wish to use up their fund; but I think we have a surplus of money that might be used in the payment of the debts.

Q. Have you any surplus of money there now?—A. I think we have—that is, considering outside of the \$8,000,000. The Miosha treaty stipulation, I think, is the one, the school fund stipulation, about \$200,000. I think it has been accruing for the last several years. It has not been used, as I say, for this school benefit, but it has been accruing. I think it is in the old treaty. I do not know the date, but in that treaty—that is, the neutral land treaty. The value of that land has not been set apart for school funds—\$69,000; and the interest would be \$3,500 yearly for school funds.

Q. And that has not been used?—A. That has not been used; but I see from the statement that is made that the money from the last treaty—that is, the treaty of 1870—out of the \$8,000,000—that is, the interest of that money—has been used in most of this school expenditure.

Q. That is, instead of using the money for the neutral strip land fund they have taken it out of the general fund?—A. That is it; yes, sir.

Q. What do you think about the traders down there? Do they charge fair prices as a rule or unfair prices?—A. Of course, I am a witness here, and of course I have no specific statement to make, but I am pretty well learned in the value of articles, merchandise and traffic, and I experience they charge too large an interest—percentages.

Q. You mean too large profits?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Where do you trade? Do you trade at a licensed trader's, or do you go outside?—A. My general trade is outside.

Q. What part of the reservation or country do you live in?—A. I live in the southeast.

Q. Over toward the Cherokee country?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What is your nearest point to trade outside of the Osage Reservation?—A. Barkersville and Caneyville and Coffeyville.

Q. Coffeyville is in Kansas?—A. Yes, sir; and so is Caneyville.

Q. And Barkersville is in the Cherokee country?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do you carry on farming?—A. Altogether; yes, sir.

Q. How many acres have you under cultivation?—A. Probably 600 or 700 acres.

Q. Do you think the rolls down there are correct?—A. No, sir. Of course, considering this large payment, that is the one objection the Osages have. For five or six years we have repeatedly complained and asked the adjustment of the rights of the Osages.

Q. How does an Osage get on the rolls? That is, when a person comes and claims to have the right to be on the rolls, how is it decided, and by whom?—A. In some instances it is decided by the council, and in some cases it has been known to be done by the official there in charge.

Q. Without the action of the council?—A. Without the action of the council.

Q. Have there been a good many put on the rolls very recently?—A. In 1895—that is, by the request of Hoke Smith—names were furnished to them amounting to about 470—that is, considered to be illegal on the rolls.

Q. That many illegally on the rolls?—A. Yes, sir; and in 1896 there was an investigation. Two commissioners were appointed—that is, W. Houston, of Atlanta, Ga., and P. Scott, I think of Mississippi. They were authorized as commissioners to investigate these rolls. But Hoke Smith, the Secretary of the Interior, made an investigation and declared the investigation to a limitation only so far back, and in that investigation only 160, I think, were considered to be investigated—I think about that.

Q. Do you mean that he wouldn't go as far back as the former investigation?—A. Yes, sir; that is what I mean.

Q. And, limiting it, there were only 160 in question?—A. Yes, sir; and of course the commission deferred in the judgment, as I understand it—the report. W. Houston reported that there was 140 considered should not be on the Osage roll, and had no proof to be Osages.

Q. That left 20 that were rightfully there?—A. Yes; but in that case—that is, the other commissioner, Mr. Scott, declared that there was 80 who had no right and the rest of them should be on the roll.

Q. So the commission did not agree?—A. The commission did not agree, and the report was conferred upon the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. That is, early in 1897; that is in March, I think, the Commissioner decided that there should be 90 stricken off the roll who had no legal right to be on the roll.

Q. Are they off?—A. No, sir; they are not off. As I understand this decision was submitted to the Secretary of the Interior, I think the 6th of last April, and the Secretary of the Interior declared that all of them had a right to be on the roll, that the Osages did not furnish proof enough, and there were only 26 put off the rolls, and the rest of them were placed back on the rolls.

Q. Do you understand that the Secretary of the Interior can determine who should be on the rolls there? Have you any treaty about it

that tells who shall determine?—A. I have not. I think the Osages should determine, or the law or council should determine, who should be on the rolls.

Q. Is there anything in any of your treaties saying who shall determine it, so far as you know?—A. Concerning it there is a treaty. There is a treaty prescribed. There is a provision to the effect that none except an Osage by blood is entitled to our money.

Q. You have laws?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You have printed, published laws?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Do those laws provide that the council shall determine who shall be on the rolls?—A. Yes, sir; in a legal way. That is, it is provided that anyone with the evidence and proof—official proof—that he has Osage blood, shall be reinstated by the council; that they should reinstate him by decision.

Q. But how does it get from the council to the Secretary? If the council makes a decision how does that decision get from the council to the Secretary of the Interior? Do you have to report to the Secretary?—A. By the decision of the Department to adjust our case. That is why the Department took the authority of investigating rights of citizenship.

Q. The council petitioned, then?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. They present here a memorial of the council asking that these funds shall be paid over to the Indians. Now, did the council pass such a memorial as that?—A. I understood that such a thing was passed, but my knowledge was that the council—that is, a majority of the council—rejected the memorial.

Q. This is what they present [handing memorial to witness]. Please look it over. Have you seen this?—A. (After examination of memorial.) I think I have.

Q. Was that never passed by the council, as you understand?—A. I think if it was passed it was passed illegally; just as we say in our remonstrance.

Q. Have you a remonstrance?—A. I had only one copy, but I can show you what it is. This is not properly written, but I have one. Mr. Pettigrew and several Senators have seen it.

[Black Dog, principal chief. Aleck Tallchief, private secretary.]

EXECUTIVE OFFICE,
Pawhuska, Osage Nation, Jan. 6th, 1899.

Whereas we have been reliably informed that certain parties have renewed their attempt to secure the million-dollar payment of our principal money now in the Treasury of the United States under former treaties between the United States and the Osage tribe of Indians; and

Whereas the majority of the Osage Indians are opposed to such withdrawal of their funds, and have so expressed their opposition in a remonstrance on file in the Department of the Interior at Washington, D. C.: Therefore be it

Resolved, By the Osage National Council, duly assembled in their council hall in Pawhuska, Okla. Ter., this 6th day of Jany., 1899, that a delegation be appointed to convey to the Secretary of the Interior, the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, and the respective Indian committees of both Houses of Congress this resolution and to inform the above officials of the Government that no one has a legal right to ask for said million dollar-payment in the name of the Osage Nation; and said delegation is requested to use all honorable means to defeat the efforts of these people who are trying to secure said payment, and to request

the Department of the Interior to demand of Hon. S. J. Crawford the surrender of a certain contract now held by him purporting to authorize him, for a consideration, to represent the Osage Nation in securing said payment, and said contract is hereby declared null and void and not binding on the Osage tribe of Indians.

PETER BIGHEART,
Chairman of Council.

Attest:

JAMES BIGHEART,
National Secretary.

W. H. CONNER,
Act. Secty.

Approved:

BLACK DOG (his x mark),
Principal Chief.

Q. Why is not that memorial proper? What was the trouble?—A. I consider that the view of this big payment never was brought about in consultation by any party of the Osage tribe. It was merely a scheme worked up and a memorial gotten up here, and of course the view of the ignorant Indians is one presented to them for their actions.

Q. Did they have a regular council meeting at which this came up?—A. It was defeated in regular council meeting.

Q. Then, when did it come up and when was it passed?—A. One or two weeks afterwards it was brought up in the absence of some opposing members, and it was then enacted.

Q. Do you think that Congress can take any of your money and order it to be paid over to the Indians per capita without the consent of the Indians; do you think Congress has any power to do it unless the Indians consent to it and ask for it?—A. I really believe that you have not, without the consent of the Indians. I understand it is an arbitration of that treaty stipulation that the Government of the United States should hold it—to hold their money.

Q. And pay out the interest?—A. Yes, sir; to the Indians.

Q. And that we can not, except upon the legal action of the tribe, pay out any principal to them?—A. That is it; yes, sir; that is my view of it.

Q. Then the last action of the council is what you present—the remonstrance?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Was that done at a regular council meeting?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. How much majority did you have for it?—A. Nine is a quorum, and every one of them was in favor of that.

Q. That is, it was unanimous?—A. Yes, sir; unanimous.

Q. Nine is a quorum, you say. Of how many does your council consist?—A. Fifteen.

Q. And there were nine present?—A. Nine present.

Q. And all in favor of that remonstrance?—A. All in favor of that remonstrance.

Q. If you were going to have all these matters relating to the payment of this money and other matters looked into, how would you like to have it done?—A. Well, we have repeatedly applied to the Department for an adjustment of accounts.

Q. For what?—A. For an adjustment of our affairs at any rate; and we have not had much hearing, considering all these matters, this big payment and this trader question; we have not been justified to any extent.

Q. You mean to say you have not had as much consideration as you think you should have had?—A. That is it. And in view of all these facts I do not think there can be anything adjusted to us except by authority of Congress and the Senate. I think they should take hold and adjust our people there.

Q. When did you have your last election?—A. We had it the first Monday in August last.

Q. And who were contesting as to the chiefship or governorship? Was Black Dog one of them?—A. Black Dog was the properly elected member, and O lo lah walla is the contestant.

Q. How is that going to be settled; I do not mean how, but where; who is to settle that?—A. It will be settled here, as I understand it, in the Indian Office.

Q. Have you ever held council meetings since then?—A. Oh, we have had council meetings since—that is, through a telegram from the Commissioner of Indian Affairs. That is, soon after the election, a contest arising—that is, in the other party—of course we notified the Commissioner what the trouble was, and he telegraphed there, from the statements we made, recognizing Black Dog as the chief.

Q. Which does the council recognize?—A. The council recognizes Black Dog.

Q. Then who is acting as chief? Does he act as chief?—A. He acts as principal chief.

Q. And the other man—O la lah walla—is the contestant?—A. He contests.

Q. Do you people think anything about dividing up all your land?—A. Well, we think about it.

Q. Do you talk about it?—A. We think about it; but my experience is—so far as my view about it is concerned, I think a majority of the people have not come to that extent yet.

Q. Have not decided it in their minds?—A. That is, they have decided it, but I mean to say they have not become competent and intelligent enough to go to that extent.

Q. So you and the people you represent would be opposed to it at the present time?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. The number of mixed-bloods is increasing in proportion to the number of full-bloods, is it not?—A. I think so; and if they keep on this adopting system, the number of mixed-bloods will soon get over them; taking in all kinds of people and putting them on the rolls, they will soon get over them.

Q. Do they keep taking in people now?—A. Yes, sir; whenever they can.

Q. Have the mixed-bloods a majority of the votes yet?—A. No, sir; they have not at present. In the last election they did not.

Q. Do you divide in your elections between the mixed-bloods and the full-bloods?—A. That is, considering, as I have said, the half-breeds with the full-bloods. The rightful Indians hang together. That is on account of some fear; they are always opposing us.

Q. The real half-bloods and full-bloods go together?—A. Hang together. That is to say, of course there are some few even of the full-bloods that can be bribed.

Q. But generally speaking the full-bloods and the half-bloods together control?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. What proportion of the full-bloods wear citizen's dress; very few of them or many of them?—A. All the younger class of the full-bloods

wear clothes now because we have most of our children going to school, and all wear citizen's clothes.

Q. Nearly all the young Indians can talk English?—A. Yes, sir; a great many of them; almost all. One or two in all families talk English more or less.

Q. Take your reservation schools; are they taught English in those schools?—A. They are slow learning.

Q. Almost all of the young people can understand some English, can they not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You are farming pretty well, are you not?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. That is, you have taken up land?—A. Taken up lands, and they have opened up farms. Most of the full-bloods are pretty well off in that line. They have good residences and good farms, generally from twenty-five to a hundred acres or more.

Q. You have about 1,800 on the rolls all told; somewhere in that neighborhood?—A. I think there are seventeen hundred and some.

Q. Between 1,700 and 1,800?—A. 1,762.

Q. How many white people do you think you have in there working?—A. Laborers, you mean?

Q. Yes; laborers and others; all white people, including children and families; how many do you think there are altogether of that class? Do you think there are more of those than there are Indians?—A. A good deal more, I think.

Q. Do you have any trouble with them?—A. In a good many instances there is a falling out of laborers; that is, taking advantage of the Indians.

Q. What is the usual arrangement between the Indian who has land and the white man who works it? Does the Indian hire him out and out, or is it a share-and-share arrangement?—A. In a very few instances they hire him, and most of the cases they are employed just as renters; that is, employed on shares of the crops.

Q. How much do they get out of the crops, and how much goes to the Indian? What is the rule?—A. The general rule is, the Indian gets only one-third of the crops.

Q. And the white man who takes the farm gets two-thirds?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And how do they arrange as to cattle and the increase in the stock?—A. Of course, considering that is the property, things like that, of course the white laborers have nothing to do with the stock no more than the farming.

Q. I understand the hired man has not; but how about the renter? How is it arranged with him about the stock?—A. I think the Osage law provides for all the renters exceeding any more stock. That is, there is a provision in the law, I think, that they may have two teams, either horses or perhaps a yoke of oxen or 2 cows, and 10 head of hogs. I think it provides they will have such privilege, but beyond that they shall pay taxes to the nation.

Q. Suppose an Indian is going to take up some land and he has a white man to come on and work it. Who furnishes the stock in the first place?—A. In case it is rented on shares?

Q. Who furnishes the cattle and such things in the first instance?—A. In that case I think it is very seldom that there is any such agreement.

Q. The Indian usually has the cattle?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. And the hogs?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. Does the renter get any share in the increase?—A. No; unless there is a special agreement to that effect, and if there is no agreement it belongs to the Indians.

Q. If you think of anything else you want to say you may say it.—A. I do not, Senator; I think you have gotten all I should say.

Q. If anybody from this committee came down there I suppose you would give him or them every facility to find out everything, would you not?—A. Of course I would. It would be my duty to do so, because I want to adjust this. My people want to do everything fairly and honorably and present it right.

Q. What I am thinking about is the best way to investigate it; whether it will be better to have somebody go down there, appointed by the President, or somebody appointed by the Interior Department, or somebody go appointed by the Indian Committee of the House or the Senate. Which is the best way, in your judgment?—A. I think your view. That is, I think by the direction of the Senate or by the President. I think that would be better, because, as I stated, we do not get it adjusted fair enough, extensively enough, by the Indian Department. Generally they do not look into it deep enough.

Q. What do you think of your agent?—A. Of course he is not very satisfactory to the full-bloods. He seemed to go and take a good deal of part in this big payment, and I think he is in the way a good deal with our local government, and I think that if it had not been for him you would not have had this contest of the chiefship.

Q. The present agent was not there when the big payment was made, was he?—A. No; he has just come there.

Q. Do you mean that this agent, Mr. Pollock, had anything to do with the big payment?—A. I heard him make a speech to the Indians that the indebtedness should be paid.

Q. Oh, the proposed payment of the indebtedness is what you refer to?—A. Yes, sir.

Q. You think he tries to run the council to some extent?—A. Yes, sir. Thereupon, at 12 o'clock, the committee adjourned.

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS OF OSAGE ANNUITANTS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 31, 1898.

To G. M. HUFFAKER, *Gray Horse, Okla.*

Big Chief band:		Moh e koh moie band—Cont'd.	
Me tsa he	\$34. 30	Hum poh to koh.....	\$85. 30
Joe band:		A non to op pe	18. 00
Shon kah moh lah.....	1, 900. 97	Wilson Kirk.....	1, 251. 65
Hlu at to me	265. 75	Ne koh woh she tun koh band:	
Wah brat lum pah	567. 55	Che she woh ke poh	968. 10
Wah shat the wah shon tsa.	1, 865. 04	Pun koh woh ti an koh...	1, 403. 15
Wah she hun kah	875. 65	Ne koh lum poh.....	2, 304. 79
Wah tsa maie	415. 00	Guerney Miller.....	579. 10
O pah shu ah.....	1, 425. 18	Son se o gra	1, 209. 25
Tsa po in koh	2, 327. 30	Me woh kon toh.....	95. 00
Moh e koh moie band:		Moh hoh oh gra	1, 211. 45
Woh to he oh	4, 246. 08	Tom poh pe	146. 67
To won gah she	1, 583. 00	Nun koh woh tsa.....	484. 99
Num poh se	313. 25	Gra toh su oh	1, 124. 65
Herbert Spencer.....	514. 60	Che sho hun koh	1, 185. 60
To won ge he.....	1, 799. 05	Ne koh o e bloh	553. 85
Gro toh shin koh	264. 90	Me gra to me.....	352. 30
Koh wah shin koh	2, 424. 00	Woh tsa oh hoh	232. 00
Moh shon oh she	417. 35	Hun koh hoh ho.....	2, 396. 47

STATEMENT OF INDEBTEDNESS OF OSAGE ANNUITANTS AT THE CLOSE OF BUSINESS ON DECEMBER 31, 1898—Continued.

Ne koh woh she tun koh band—Cont'd.		Claremore band:	
Robert Dunlap.....	\$830.20	O poh tun koh	\$1,002.90
Big Hill band:		Gra she oh tse a.....	37.00
Moh shoh ke toh	2,109.35	Ben Wheeler	22.25
Ben Harrison .....	.50	Woh ti an koh band:	
Ne koh e se y.....	3,358.55	Moh soh num poh	1,393.15
Ne koh o e bloh	624.60	He oh to me.....	4.80
Ernst Roe.....	367.15		<u>1,397.95</u>
Sin tsa woh kon toh.....	3,329.25	William Penn band:	
To woh e he.....	1,537.40	Ralph Cotton	258.15
Poh hu loh go ny.....	2,029.80	Moh shoh ke toh	694.20
Toh woh ger oh	786.95	Elias S. Bigheart	39.50
White Hair band:			<u>991.95</u>
Koh to moie.....	1,157.15	Little Chief band:	
Tall Chief band:		Heh scoh moie	3,001.09
Woh tsa moie	125.25	Ki he koh noh she.....	1,760.65
E to koh woh ti an koh.....	1,441.00	Hlu oh woh toh	1,316.14
Woh shoh hoh me	634.92		<u>6,077.88</u>
Koh woh ho tsa.....	3,843.10	Total full-blood accounts	79,583.00
Hon tsa ot gro	1,872.90	Half-blood Osage accounts:	
Tom Tall Chief.....	631.65	Alex Revard	28.32
Woh she wol la.....	1,625.75	Solomon Revard.....	1.90
Woh shohshe woh ti an koh	1,132.25	Jacob Masier.....	12.15
Hlu oh woh kon toh	1,529.40	E. A. Brunt.....	7.75
Ne wol la.....	788.64	Leonard Revard.....	12.45
Son se gra	298.74	Paul Revard	19.60
Black Dog band:		J. T. Baker	60.00
Woh tsa a toh	5.60	Louis Tinker	1.50
Saucy Chief band:		Charles Vesser.....	175.00
Saucy Chief	5.45		<u>318.67</u>
Robert Panther	11.00	Total outstanding	
E stoh o gra she.....	2.50	against Osage annu-	
Beaver band:		tants.....	79,901.67
Beg goh hoh she.....	2.50		
Fred Lookout	2.00		
Joe che sho wol la.....	8.90		
John Scott	2.75		
Strike Axe band:			
Gra toh shin koh	1.00		
Woh we se oh	4.75		
Ne koh ke poh ne band:			
O lo hoh wol loh.....	3,110.82		

I hereby certify that the foregoing statement is a true and correct statement of the indebtedness of Osage annuitants to me at the close of business on December 31, 1898.

G. M. HUFFAKER,
Licensed United States Indian Trader, Gray Horse, Okla.

Sworn to before me and subscribed in my presence this 16th day of January, 1899.

W. C. TUCKER, Notary Public.

(My commission expires November 26, 1901.)

Account of Allen H. Gibson, licensed United States trader, Pawhuska, Okla.

FULL-BLOOD ACCOUNTS.

Big Chief band:		Joe band—Continued.	
Gra moie shin kah.....	\$5.85	Wah shah she wah shon tsa	\$7.00
Me loh tah moie.....	10.90	Wah she hun kah.....	8.50
Koh she moie.....	1.00	Wah tsa moie	6.00
Wah pah sho sah.....	64.60	Nun tsa wah hu	58.82
Wah tsa ah she.....	13.05	Opah shu ah	29.35
R. White.....	3.50	Tsa po in kah	221.85
Joe band:		Gra she lu sah.....	2.00
Shon kah mo lah	40.50	Frank Steele	4.50
Wah ses pe she.....	14.65	Moh e Kah moie band:	
Wah ses tah shin kah.....	3.70	Hun Kah.....	2.00
Kah wak e.....	15.75	Wah to k ah	4.00

Account of Allen H. Gibson, licensed United States trader, Pawhuska, Okla.—Continued.

FULL-BLOOD ACCOUNTS—Continued.

Moh e Kah moie band—Cont'd.			Saucy Chief band—Continued.	
N ses tah wah hah	\$2.00	Hun kah heah-La Force ..	\$223.42	
Hlu ah to me	35.20	Paul Albert	69.15	
Che ke kuh lah	22.15	Me sah e	60.05	
To wange he	5.00	Harry Kolpay	165.81	
Mo shon tsa e tah	4.00	Anon to appe	45.25	
Hun pah to kah	104.10	Wy e gla in Kah	31.35	
Epah shon kah me	4.00	Sah pah ke ah	22.55	
Ne wal lu	17.25	Me lieh kah	185.47	
Ne Kah wah she tun Kah:		Chas. Michelle	50.95	
Kah scah	13.00	Wah shah she me tsa he ..	182.40	
Eto moie	90.90	N pah shon kah me	299.85	
Pun kah wah tian kah	3.00	Pah e hun kah	72.80	
Ne kah lum pah	26.20	Anthony Penn	2,556.46	
Bro ki leh kah	7.25	Wah hu sah	446.20	
Embrey Gibson	533.51	Pah pe son tsa	294.25	
Shon kah tsea	8.00	E stah o gra she	5.25	
Hlu ah shu tsa	33.10	Hun kah hop py	64.75	
Ion se gra .....	.55	Beaver band:	
Wah hu sah e	4.05	James Bigheart	245.83	
Che sho lun kah	6.25	Che sho shin kah	22.80	
Me gra to me	22.50	Tsa me tsa	11.20	
Hun kah hop py	45.25	Andrew Bighorse	146.25	
R. Dunlap	6.40	Wah shah she me tsa she ..	231.60	
Hlu ah to me	1.00	Wah no pat she	1.00	
Big Hill band:		Shon gah hee	1,144.46	
Moh shoh ke tah	38.60	Frea Lookout	700.00	
Ben Harrison	350.13	John Lookout	172.85	
Ne kah e se y	9.60	Louis Bighorse	1,628.12	
Ke ne kah	2.00	Ke nun tah	6.00	
To wah e he	2.00	Wyea se gra	479.75	
Wa he ah lum pah	132.30	Wah she pah	158.80	
Pah hu lah gony	5.25	Me he lah	1,491.40	
Tah wah ger ah	11.25	Ne ke kun tsa	1.00	
White Hair band:		Hugh Miller	177.40	
Che sho hun kah	3.50	Mo se che he	18.85	
Kah toh moie	4.00	Che sho walla	124.07	
Wah she ho tsa	43.35	Nin kah she	93.80	
Ho lah go ny	1.65	Me hoe	46.89	
Pah se to pah	102.00	E. wah kon tah	1,273.50	
Tall Chief band:		John Scott	450.82	
He lo ki he	33.85	Strike Axe band:		
Me ti an kah	89.60	Bennie Strike Axe	1,394.67	
Hon tsa ah groh	8.85	Moh e kah moie	10.00	
Thos. Tall Chief	10.70	Wy e nah she	1,638.28	
Nah she wal la	3.00	Saucy Calf	8.35	
Ne wal la	14.00	To op pe	1,313.48	
Black Dog band		Foster Strike Axe	41.60	
Black Dog	3.95	Wah tah hon lah	179.90	
To wah e he	2.85	James Martin	36.45	
Wah tsa ah ta	7.60	Me tsa he	23.95	
He lo ke he	35.75	Shim e hun kah	1,118.42	
Saucy Chief band:		Wah ko ke behe kah	8.40	
Saucy Chief	159.95	O sah ki pah	116.20	
Alex Eagle Feather	39.95	Min kah she	26.30	
Wah te sah	430.34	Heh kah mon kah	236.20	
Lawrence	7.00	Pah se to pah	425.23	
Epah ah hee	1,640.49	Wah tsa kah wah	4.34	
Hah moh sah	724.94	Hun kah me	5.75	
Sophia Choteau	16.40	Wah we sea	2,006.00	
R. Panther	38.05	Frank Corndropper	93.68	
Hun kah me (dead)	120.95	Pin y tah	85.65	
Nah heh in kah	4.50	Pin tsa moie	6.25	
Ne kah ki nah	1,152.90	Wak kon tah eum pah	851.38	
Me shet sea	35.80	Lah blah wah hle	4.55	
Pin y tah-Pryor	597.67	Che she huh kah	56.75	
		John che sho hun kah	11.75	

Account of Allen H. Gibson, licensed United States trader, Pawhuska, Okla.—Continued.

FULL-BLOOD ACCOUNTS—Continued.

Hominy band:		Sycamore band—Continued.	
E wah kon tah	\$8. 00	Gorman, Katie	\$3. 00
O loh hah walla	12. 00	Girard, Minnie	418. 06
Che sho shin kah	14. 50	Gaylor, Sam	26. 23
Wah kah le tun kah	9. 05	Gothrey, Addie R., admin- istatrix	725. 84
To o pe pe	25. 10	Holloway, J. C	274. 00
Hon tsa moie	12. 35	Hildebrand, James	24. 40
Hun kah ah grah	23. 60	Hortz, Rosa	16. 75
No pa wia	429. 66	Hunt, Mary A	24. 71
Wah sis tah	143. 95	Hampton, Roslie	10. 40
O pah tun kah	2. 00	Johnson, Julia M	147. 60
Arthur Bonnacastle	9. 00	Javine, Peter	4. 55
Ah hu me sah	8. 65	Leahy, W. T	57. 88
Maud Tall Chief	129. 30	Lane, Josephine	186. 17
Sophia Tall Chief	15. 20	Lombard, Joseph	1, 700. 17
Wah tan kah band:		Kennedy, Adeline	40. 31
To wah e he	8. 00	Lane, Joseph	33. 40
Hah moie	3. 55	Labodie, Edward	453. 61
Pah sheo lah hah	831. 65	Leahy, Bertha	205. 29
He ah to me	2. 00	Lawrence, Lucy .....	. 50
Ho he ah se	15. 50	Leahy, Mary L	30. 26
Wm. Penn band:		Lawrence, Maggie	4. 00
O loh hah moie	6. 00	Milam, Sarah, administra- trix	2, 115. 13
Tah heh gah heh	9. 50	McGnire, Mary E	748. 50
Tom pah pe	15. 25	Mosier, Thos	4. 30
Ne kak sti wah	182. 45	Martin, Alex	261. 13
O ke sah	8. 00	Moncravie, J. B	54. 03
Me tsa he	7. 00	Mosier, Jacob	3. 20
Sycamore band:		Mosier, John	73. 22
Heh seah moie	53. 00	Mongrain, Stewart	1. 60
Ki heh kah nah she	26. 25	Moncravie, Chas	10. 85
Me tsa he	9. 00	Martin, Lee	1, 074. 35
Shou kah me tsa he	10. 00	Martin, Jack	32. 66
Me tsa no	78. 50	McLaughlin, Nancy	72. 89
Lucy Mud	22. 80	McKeehan, Pearl .....	. 25
Avant, Rosa	5. 85	Pettet, S. W	1, 770. 84
Alberty, Cynthia	8. 25	Palmer, John F	3, 769. 17
Brunt, E. A	1, 527. 08	Pettet, C. H	97. 78
Bradshaw, Rosa	24. 50	Pappin, John	228. 56
Boulanger, Wm	140. 00	Pappin, Alex	791. 74
Bryant, Joe	475. 41	Plomondon, Cleme y	109. 00
Bowman, Agnes	124. 25	Perrier, Richard	15. 21
Brown, Mary Jane	229. 77	Prudom, Frank	3. 00
Brook, Philomine	321. 55	Quinton, Julia	345. 00
Baker (T. J.) J. T	176. 34	Rogers, Jasper	431. 63
Breeding, Lucreitia	114. 07	Revard, Paul	412. 55
Canville, Alfred	2. 25	Revard, Joseph, jr	1, 842. 61
Canville, L. C	22. 84	Rogers, T. L	1, 222. 01
Connor, W. H	} 266. 36	Ryrie, Josephine	156. 55
Connor, Kate		Revard, Leonard	96. 55
Cedar, Augustine	80. 85	Revard, Frances	108. 63
Cedar, Moses	363. 20	Prue, Henry	254. 96
Chambris, Miss Gie S	4. 05	Ross, John	78. 40
Callahan, C. A	57. 23	Rovelett, Frank	71. 05
Carlton, Kaiser	60. 70	Rogers, Arthur, jr	7. 35
Carter, George .....	. 80	Rogers, Lucille	100. 00
Dial, Eliga	245. 31	Rogers, T. A	321. 47
Donaldson, Miss Dave	46. 13	Rodman, Antwine	397. 51
Dekoye, Louis	61. 60	Rogers, Louis, sr	59. 33
Deal, Julia	322. 60	Rogers, Mes John M., ad- ministrator	374. 13
Del Orier, Julia	1, 152. 14	Rogers, A. L	64. 75
Denoya, Frank	2. 30	Revard, Solomon .....	. 15
Dunn, Dora	236. 30	Revelett, Charles	4. 25
Denoya, Clem	28. 15	Revard, Franklin	23. 70
Easley, Wm	15. 15		
Fronkier, Wm	9. 45		
Fronkier, Mary E	21. 90		

Account of Allen H. Gibson, licensed United States trader, Pawhuska, Okla.—Continued.

FULL-BLOOD ACCOUNTS—Continued.

Sycamore band—Continued.		Sycamore band—Continued.	
Simpkins, Mary	\$12.97	Tinker, Geo. E	\$121.17
Stevens, J. W	7.00	Trumbly, Andrew	2.50
Simms, Mary Jane	5.75	Ware, Aggie	74.01
Trumbly, J. B	134.60	Wooding, Tena	621.50
Turner, Bratrice	2.00	Wyrick, Mary	1,304.16
Tayrien, Cyprian	19.55	Wheeler, Paul	10.70
Tinker, Charles	73.50	Wheeler, Elmer	5.75
Tinker, Frank	916.71	Vessar, Eliza	381.92
Tyner, Ben	271.85		
Thompson, N. A	48.12	Total	64,790.90

I hereby testify that the foregoing statement is a true and correct statement of the indebtedness of Osage annuitants to me at the close of business on December 31, 1898.

ALLEN H. GIBSON,
Licensed United States Trader, Pawhuska, Okla.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 16th day of January, 1899.

W. C. TUCKER, Notary Public.

(My commission expires November 26, 1901.)

Statement of amounts due K. E. Bird & Co., United States licensed traders at Pawhuska, Okla., from Osage annuitants, December 31, 1898.

Half-breed band:		Half-breed band—Continued.	
Arunt, E. A	\$411.36	Truker, George Edwards ..	\$300.40
Alberty, Mrs. Cynthia	86.33	Simms, Mary Jane	27.98
McLaughlin, Mrs. Nancy ..	4.80	Tyner, Benjamin	5.35
Deal, Mrs. Eliza	110.30	Revard, Joseph	65.20
Conner, W. H	51.55	Deal, Julia	247.42
Denoya, Clement .....	.40	Cauville, Alfred	102.50
Brook, Mrs. Philomena	60.55	Lessert, Frank	46.50
Begheart, James	6.10	Frankier, William	131.28
Cedar, Moses	63.70	Palmer, J. F	124.22
Cedar, Augustine	2.25	Vessar, Eliza	84.23
Gilmore, Mrs. Mary A	150.40	Revard, Franklin W	30.00
Girard, Mrs. Amelia	35.64	Woodring, Mrs. Tena	38.00
Rodman, Antwine	264.20	Thompson, N. A	108.28
Moneravia, Mrs. Rosa	2.75	Mosier, Eugene	19.00
Gaylor, Mrs. Victoria	2,790.58	Revard, Leonard	39.10
Hampton, Mrs. Harrison ..	2.00	Perrier, S. H	93.14
Johnson, Mrs. Julia M	3,723.30	Big Chief band:	
Labardie, Charles	45.95	Wy u tsa Kah she	6.50
Milan, Sarah	57.82	Gra Maie shin Kah	12.65
Leahy, M. F	11.53	Me lo tah moie	8.00
Labardie, Edward	7.50	Wah shah she me tsa he ..	6.75
Lane, Joseph	178.30	E gron kah shin kah	4.00
Lane, Josephine	94.05	Wah she hah	45.90
McDaniels, Mrs. Fred'k	13.60	Wah te sah	1.50
Masier, Thomas, sr	8.00	Ko she maie	3.90
Masier, W. F	9.12	Hu lah shin kah	5.00
Martin, Emery	1.75	Wah pah sho sah	607.55
Pappin, Alexander	5.65	Joe's band:	
Prudom, Frank	56.40	Shon Kah mo lah	4.50
Martin, Lee	54.60	Wah ses tah shin kah	3.10
Pappin, John	1,361.86	Nun tsa wah hu	93.10
Myrick, Mary	271.70	O pah shu ah	2.50
Masier, John	382.68	Tsa Po in kah	22.50
Petitt, Charles	2.80	Kah wah Pool	8.75
Plomondon, Barney	2.50	Wah e Kah maie band:	
Rogers, Thomas L	137.75	Kam pah to kah	713.85
Rogers, Lewis A	54.60	Ne Kah Wah she tun Kah band:	
Rogers, Arthur L	31.22	Nun kah wah tsa	1.00
Trumbly, J. B	2.00	E to maie	1.00
Simpkins, Mrs. Mary	1.15	Ne ah tse pe	10.00
Shaw, Mrs. Monica	1.25	We kah lum pah	15.80

Statement of amounts due K. E. Bird & Co., United States licensed traders at Pawhuska, Okla., etc.—Continued.

Ne Ka Wah she tun Kah band—Contd.	
Bro ki heh kah.....	\$12.00
Ne kah ah se.....	3.00
Eneby Gibson.....	5.00
Son se o gra.....	2.00
Che sho hum kah.....	4.50
R. Dunlap.....	1.00
Pum Kah wah to an kah..	4.00
Gra to maie.....	1.00
Hlu ah shu tsa.....	1.50
Big Hill band:	
Ne kah e se y.....	6.90
Ne kah o e blah.....	1.00
Sui tsa woih kon tah.....	16.00
To wah e he.....	126.05
Pah hu lah go my.....	3.10
Tah wah ger ah.....	15.30
Moh shah ke tah.....	2.00
Ne me kah.....	3.00
White Hair band:	
Ho lah yo my.....	3.00
Wah she ho tsa.....	25.10
Tall Chief band:	
Wah tsa Maie.....	.75
Me ti aw kah.....	90.90
E to kah wah ti aw kah..	4.00
Kah wah ho tsa.....	6.00
Black Dog band:	
Black Dog.....	1.75
Ke lo ki he.....	746.00
Hlu ah me tsa he.....	5.75
Saucy Chief band:	
Saucy Chief.....	1,635.10
Alex Eaglefeather.....	292.90
Lawrence.....	11.00
Felix Red Eagle.....	872.00
Theodore Red Eagle.....	26.55
Ne kah pah koo nah.....	10.25
E pah hah hre.....	60.00
Che shah him kah.....	31.00
Sophia Chateau.....	554.20
Ah hu shin kah.....	472.10
Hah mah sah.....	90.70
Robert Panther.....	1,654.08
Nah he hin kah.....	1,847.90
Me she tsea.....	648.89
Ce le cam pe.....	295.90
Tsa to kah tuns kah.....	15.45
Huh kah he a.....	5.00
Paul Albert.....	1,786.35
Wah shah she me tsa he..	82.85
Me tsa he.....	109.05
Anou taappe.....	2.85
My e glain kah.....	843.15
Heh gah heh seah.....	287.25
Meh heh kah.....	1,034.80
C. S. Nichelle.....	1,425.15
Wah shah she me tsa he..	18.00
U pah shon ka h me.....	14.25
Pah e him kah.....	1,389.00
Anthou Penn.....	65.00
Him kah happy.....	196.45
Wah hu sah.....	8.25
Pah pu son tsa.....	1,652.13
Esta o gra she.....	503.55
Beaver band:	
Louis Bighouse.....	26.00

Beaver band—Continued.	
Big gah hah she.....	\$1,254.29
Andrew Bighorse (No pah she).....	1,224.35
Shon gah hre.....	15.60
Frederick Lookout.....	8.00
John Lookout.....	15.50
Mah se che he.....	30.00
He nim tah.....	457.35
Hu lah tim kah.....	382.15
Wy en se gra.....	90.60
Wah she pah.....	5.00
Wah kon tah e um pah...	33.95
Meh heh leh.....	26.00
Ne kah kim tsa.....	206.50
Mo ho gla.....	363.25
Mah che se he.....	12.60
Mah kah sah me.....	85.90
Me ho e.....	812.70
Ewah konbtah.....	17.75
John Scatt.....	57.85
Nim Kah she.....	27.50
Antwine Pryor.....	36.90
Strike Axe band:	
My e mah she.....	1.00
Tsa shin kah wah ti an kah.....	25.40
To ap pe.....	118.67
Bennie Strike axe.....	203.70
Foster Strike axe.....	531.70
Wilson Martin.....	97.90
Me tsa he.....	693.66
Wah tsa a tah (Louis Pryor).....	4.45
Wah tsa wah kah.....	7.33
She me him kah.....	6.75
Wah ko ki hehekah.....	640.76
Men kah she.....	236.80
Hehkah mon kah.....	1.00
Hum kah me.....	123.45
Me him kah.....	462.30
Wah we sea.....	121.55
Pin que tah (Mary Corn-dropper).....	17.20
Peh tse moie.....	242.95
Lah bla bwabble.....	97.40
Che sho him kah.....	1,023.25
Ne Kah Ke Ponah band:	
A she gra hre.....	17.50
Tsa pah shin kah.....	357.35
Ewah kon tah.....	25.95
Olo hah walla.....	18.75
Him kah tim kah.....	38.30
Shah ke pah hre.....	.75
Hon tsa moie.....	85.30
Claremore band:	
Claremore.....	31.50
Opah tum kah.....	15.85
Kah wah ho tsa ah go my.	1.00
Ah hu me sah.....	2.65
She ah q.....	583.65
Shah pah tse a.....	8.50
Wah Ti an Kah band:	
To wah e he.....	1.85
Pah she o lah hah.....	10.30
Ne moh hah.....	182.65

Statement of amounts due K. E. Bird & Co., etc.—Continued.

William Penn band:		Little Chief band—Continued.	
Olo hah walla.....	\$2.00	Hlue ahtwah tah.....	\$1.75
Ne kah sto wah.....	1, 193.90	Shon kah me tsa he.....	2.00
Tom pah pe.....	8.00	Me tsa ne.....	289.15
Little Chief band:		Me hine kah ke tah.....	210.09
Heh sca moie.....	5.90		
Me tsa he.....	8.00	Total.....	45,645.25
He ah to me.....	2.00		

TERRITORY OF OKLAHOMA, *County of Pawnee, ss:*

Personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for said county and Territory, W. C. Tucker, a member of the firm of R. E. Bird & Co., licensed traders at Pawhuska, Oklahoma Territory, and who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says: The foregoing statements of accounts are the several amounts due R. E. Bird & Co., from Osage annuitants, December 31, 1898, and are true, just, and unpaid, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there are no offsets to the same which have not been allowed.

W. C. TUCKER,
A Member of the Firm of R. E. Bird & Co.

Sworn to and subscribed to before me this 16th day of January, 1899.

O. H. RUSH, Notary Public.

(My commission expires September 9, 1902.)

Account of Morphis, Price & Price against Osage Indians.

Family.	Name.	Amount.	Family.	Name.	Amount.
5	Pah huscah (Big Chief band) ..	\$831.20	2	Wah tse moie (Tall Chief band) ..	\$4.35
1	Metse he.....	49.35	3	He to ki he.....	2.00
3	Konsahatre.....	36.10		Hon tsa ah grah.....	3.00
1	He ah to me.....	2.80	10	Kah wah ho tsa.....	24.05
3	Moh she tah moie.....	644.01	3	Wah she wal lo.....	35.75
5	Wyutsa koh she.....	1, 151.15	2	Ne wallo.....	2.00
4	Heh scah moie.....	260.05	5	Black Dog.....	86.45
4	Gra moie shinkoh.....	1, 014.79	3	Towoh e he.....	773.15
5	Melo toh moie.....	297.85	2	Amos Hamilton.....	21.25
3	Wah te sah.....	151.35	4	Wah tse etah.....	992.90
3	Koh she moie.....	17.25	3	Me hoe.....	447.20
4	Wah poh she sah.....	88.45	1	Woh tse etoh (Ward).....	63.63
2	Son soh kah hah.....	75.50	2	Henoh me tse he and Myron Bangs.....	323.65
2	Edgar McCarthy.....	4.00	2	Hun poh me.....	560.65
1	Woh shah she me tse he.....	27.05	5	Me shet sea (Saucy Chief band) ..	109.40
1	Met se he.....	26.20	3	Louis Bighorse (Beaver band) ..	7.70
2	Me shet sea.....	726.00	1	To won go hle.....	414.35
3	Mon koh soppo.....	389.90	5	Ashe go lre (Hominy band).....	396.87
3	Wah lre she.....	20.05	3	Lo tah sah.....	299.20
3	Woh shin koh soppo.....	196.05	2	Me to appe.....	385.00
6	Shun koh shon.....	1, 047.63	4	Tsa po shinkah.....	56.40
5	Mekewalti anakah.....	1, 101.70	1	Shah ke poh lre.....	1.25
4	Hen ah wah kon toh.....	970.15	3	De he pe.....	454.66
5	Woh she bah.....	1, 318.37	1	Moh se che he.....	223.80
6	En gron koh shinkoh.....	1, 812.40	1	E wah kon tah.....	298.80
2	Woh she pe zhe (Joe's band) ..	8.00	12	Olohah wallo.....	1.25
4	Wah ses tah shinkah.....	14.25	3	Hun kah tun kah.....	40.85
2	Woh broh hun pah.....	7.10	3	Wah ko loh tun koh.....	547.25
2	Wah tse moie.....	417.10	1	To appe.....	283.73
6	Wah shah she wah shon tsea.....	1.00	3	Hon tsa moie.....	49.85
6	Mfn tsa wah lu.....	1.00	3	Clorenndre.....	1, 109.63
2	Gra she lusah.....	51.90	2	Ah sinkah.....	15.50
4	Hlu ah to me (Mohe kah moie band).....	2.25	4	No pah woia.....	1, 197.19
5	Che ko ko lah.....	308.65	4	O pah tun kah.....	17.00
4	E toh moie (Ne kah wah she tun kah).....	17.40	1	Gra ah she ah tsa.....	5.00
3	He se moie.....	1.00	5	Shah pah tse a.....	68.77
4	Hen ah shu tsa.....	101.90	1	Ah lu me sah.....	148.72
3	Moh hah ah grah.....	.50	3	Kah wah ho tse ah gony.....	771.65
5	Moh shah ke tah (Big Hill) ..	.50	1	Arthur Bonnicastle.....	4.00
1	Dan McDougan.....	11.35	3	Hlu ah ne kah.....	815.14
6	Ne ka he se y.....	21.80	1	Hun kah ah grah.....	60.60
5	Wah she ho tsa (White Hair band).....	6.05	2	She ah q.....	93.95
			2	Honego (Wahiankah band) ..	34.75
			4	Hah moie.....	1, 384.85

Account of Morphis, Price & Price against Osage Indians—Continued.

Fam-ily.	Name.	Amount.	Fam-ily.	Name.	Amount.
3	Sheshe.....	\$578.19	2	Fred Penn.....	\$446.50
3	Pah she o lo hah.....	266.85	6	Heh seah moie (Sycamore band)	7.75
5	Pah hah ne gah hie.....	687.10	5	Ki heh kah noh she.....	2.00
1	Son se gra.....	310.95	3	Met se he.....	1.00
1	Kemoh hah.....	573.20	3	He ah to me.....	2.00
4	Ho ke ah sea.....	1,099.45	1	Hlu ah to me.....	2.00
9	O lo hah wallo (Wm. Penn band)	1,117.19	4	Hlu ah woh toh.....	21.00
1	Ralph Cotton.....	.35	3	P. F. Canville (mixed bloods)...	623.46
7	Tah heh gah heh.....	352.00	5	G. E. Tinker.....	73.93
4	Tom pah pe.....	327.60	3	C. H. Pettit.....	313.04
4	Ne kah sto wah.....	.25			

No. 1.....	\$13,090.60
No. 2.....	4,031.98
No. 3.....	12,281.40
No. 4.....	2,279.64
Mixed bloods.....	1,010.43
Total.....	32,694.05

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss.

On this 20th day of January, 1899, before the subscriber, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, came and appeared J. L. Morphis, one of the members of the firm of Morphis, Price & Price, of Hominy, Osage Nation, Okla., who, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that the foregoing and annexed account is just and true to the best of his knowledge, information, and belief.

J. L. MORPHIS.

Subscribed and sworn to before me the day and year aforesaid.

E. G. WHITE,
Notary Public for the District of Columbia.

Accounts of John N. Florer & Co., licensed Indian traders at Grayhorse, Okla., against Osage Indians.

Big Chief's band:	
Me lo tah moie.....	\$4.95
Wah te sah.....	3.20
Son sah kah hah.....	5.40
Wah she hah.....	4.00
	<u>17.55</u>
Joe's band:	
Wah zhe pe she.....	644.35
Wah ses tah shin kah.....	1,385.35
Pun kah shin kah.....	1,025.75
Kah wah c.....	2,315.32
Nun tsa wah hah.....	2,075.60
Kon sah si ke.....	112.20
He ah to me.....	1.00
Frank Steele.....	159.10
O tsa nah she.....	279.90
Son se gra.....	2.00
	<u>8,020.57</u>
Moh e kah moie band:	
Moh e kah moie.....	1,545.86
Hlu ah to me.....	1,122.40
Hun kah.....	181.85
Wah to kea.....	65.50
U ses tah wah hah.....	729.35
Moh sah o nah she.....	620.45

Moh e kah moie band—Continued.	
Hlu ah to me.....	\$2,485.75
Che ke kah le.....	702.20
Wah tsa q tah.....	303.40
Moh shon tsa a tah.....	429.30
Hu lah wah kon tah.....	19.25
Wilson Kirk.....	566.58
Ne walla.....	174.25
E pah shon kah me.....	486.50
Hum pah to kah.....	4.70
Me tian kah.....	4,624.17
	<u>14,081.51</u>
Ne kah wah she tun kah's band:	
Ne kah wah she tun kah..	1,652.70
Kah seah.....	10.00
E to moie.....	1,767.20
Hun wah ko.....	1.50
Hah lah.....	64.18
Paw ne wah weth tah.....	684.40
Ne altsa pe.....	880.25
Bro ki he kah.....	2,288.50
He se moie.....	1,229.25
Wah tsa ah hah.....	1,388.25
Evpah son tsa.....	164.60
Gla to moie.....	883.60
Emory Gibson.....	14.80
Shon kah tse a.....	1,573.60

Accounts of John N. Florer & Co., etc.—Continued.

Ne kah wah she tun kah's band—Continued.		Hominy band:	
Hlu ah shu tsa	\$177.36	Wah moh kah wah she ...	\$2,210.48
Wah lu sah e	28.25	Wah shah e no pe	568.00
Shah wah pe	211.55	Wak kah le tun kah .....	.50
Heh shah ah hile	1,763.86	Claremore band:	
Wah tah	263.30	No pa wia	6.00
Wah tsa ki he kah	1,455.05	Hlu ah ne kah	10.35
Punkah wah ti an kah	3.75	Hun kah ah grah	11.35
Gra tah su ah	2.00	Wah ti an kah band:	
Big Hill band:		Gra she lu sah	404.85
Moh shah ke tah	69.32	Hah moie	4.30
Dan McDougan	232.10	Pah she o lah hah	7.15
Wah shah she	834.15	Ho ke ah se	6.64
Ben Harrison	10.10	William Penn's band:	
Ke ne kah	164.25	Peter C. Bigheart	1,596.88
Ne walla	40.80	Geo. Bigheart	145.00
Leroy Thompson	78.25	Wah she wah hah	2,746.80
Wah hrah lum pah	2,297.70	O lo hah moie	812.90
Wah sqh (Moh shon)	20.00	O ke sah	1,282.90
White Hair band:		Me tsa he	332.35
Che she lun kah	2,300.18	Num pah se	367.60
Wa she ho tsa	1,588.27	Ne walla	297.00
Ho lah ga ny	1,596.45	Sycamore band:	
Hon nah pos sy	1,382.08	Me tsa he	1,154.68
Wah ko sah moie	1,088.85	He ah to me	856.92
Pah se to pah	2,343.45	Hlu ah to me	198.50
Num tsa tun kah	296.10	Kon sah ah hre	1,185.60
Tall Chief's band:		Moh no poh she	563.85
Tall Chief	762.25	Half-breed band:	
He ah to me	349.25	Alex Revard	794.34
He lo ki he	1,601.52	Jemina Goodson, guardian	808.28
Me ti an kah	1,980.75	Jacob Mosier	582.99
Louis M. Drum	233.05	Chas. E. Revard	48.18
Alex Tall Chief	1,099.10	Frank Lessert	99.14
Tom Tall Chief	341.46	M. Plomondon	54.10
Nah she walla	229.40	Julia Herridge	3,066.96
Kah wah ho tsa	1.00	Lucy Webber	821.73
Wah shah she wah ti an kah	1.00	Ed. Brunt	8.45
Black Dog band: Hlu ah me tsa he	4.65	W. H. Connor	3.00
Saucy Chief's band:		Mrs. Chas. Choteau	1.60
Saucy Chief	9.05	Mrs. A. De l'Orier	7.95
Che sho hun kah	12.50	Mrs. Kennedy	2.85
Robt. Panther	4.00	Ben Lessert	13.15
Nah hah in kah	7.95	Chas. Lessert	5.00
Me shet sea	30.30	Stewart Mongrain .....	.40
Hun kah hea	11.55	Eugene Mosier	19.35
Paul Albert	4.00	Dick Mosier	1.00
Chas. Michelle	33.20	John Palmer	2.90
Pah pu son tsa	11.20	Billy Fronkier	35.20
Beaver band:		Frank Ravellette	3.67
Che sho shin kah	12.10	Leonard Revard	39.38
Fred Lookout	2.00	Louis Rodgers	8.10
Nin kah she	5.00	Geo. Ed. Tinker	32.90
Strike Axe band:		Louis Tinker	1.00
Ben Strike Axe	5.25	Mrs. Norris Watkins (Rose)	294.05
Tsashin kah wah ti an kah	76.70	Sol Revard	6.30
Jas. Martin	58.25	Jos. Revard, jr	20.60
Wilson Martin	33.25	Mrs. R. Hunt (Ang'e)	6.55
O sah ke pah	5.00	John Pappin	1,036.63
Mc hun kah	3.00	Nichs. Thompson	52.10
Pah se to pah	7.00	Total	83,690.84

TERRITORY OF OKLAHOMA, *County of Pawnee, ss:*

Personally appeared before me, a notary public in and for Pawnee County, Territory of Oklahoma, John N. Florer, of the firm of John N. Florer & Co., licensed

United States Indian traders at Gray Horse, Okla., who, being first duly sworn, deposes and says that the list hereto annexed is a true transcript from the books of the said John N. Florer & Co., and the amounts are justly due and owing to the said John N. Florer & Co. from Osage annuitants, as therein listed.

JOHN N. FLORER,
A Member of the Firm.

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 17th day of January, A. D. 1899.

W. C. TUCKER, Notary Public.

(My commission expires November 26, 1901.)

Accounts of Warren Smith, of the firm of W. C. Wood & Co., licensed United States Indian traders, Homing, Okla., against Osage Indians.

	Name.	Amount.		Name.	Amount.
1	Pah Huo Scah	\$798. 18	67	Black Dog	\$1,249. 76
2	Hun pah To Kah	29. 00	68	To wah e bi	440. 97
3	Me tso he	41. 59	69	Amus Hamilton	350. 80
4	Fred Conway (Kan se ah bre)	5. 35	70	Wah tsa a tah (To Tan Kah)	1,973. 74
5	He ah to Me	32. 25	71	Me ho e	120. 12
6	Mah she to moie	166. 41	72	He lo Ki he	31. 45
7	Hoh uah Moie	1,089. 88	73	Wah tsa a tah (Ward)	618. 50
8	Gra moie shin Kah	810. 35	74	O pah wu sa Moie (D. West)	100. 00
9	Me lo to Moie	1,103. 51	75	Hu ah Met sa he	80. 95
10	Wah to soh	1,503. 30	76	Hun pah me	113. 10
11	Ko she Moie	1,436. 60	77	Shah Ke scah	48. 70
12	Was pa sho sa	2,981. 41	78	Wah ta sah	3. 75
13	Edgar McCarthy	356. 56	79	E pah oh lire	45. 80
14	San se Kah bah	854. 35	80	Sophie sho to	115. 80
15	Wah sha she met so he	487. 00	81	Hun Moh Sah	23. 20
16	Met sah he	666. 85	82	Robert Parther	. 25
17	Me shet se a	712. 54	83	Ne Kah Ke pah ne	1. 40
18	Mon Kah soppy	119. 26	84	Me shet si a	968. 31
19	Wah sha	681. 64	85	Pera Q tah	2. 80
20	Wah shin Kah soppy	1,264. 13	86	Paul Albert	45. 00
21	O hian Kah shon	1,501. 98	87	Auan to Op pe	4. 00
22	Me Ke wah ti an Kah	245. 12	88	Sah pah Ke a	20. 00
23	Hu lah wah Kan tah	1,104. 12	89	Chas Ma shill	38. 75
24	Wah she had	871. 19	90	Pah E Hu Kah	4. 10
25	Egran kah shin Kah	974. 44	91	Pah pu son si a	6. 85
26	Shiu Kah Mo loh	11. 00	92	E stah o gra sha	15. 35
27	Wah shin pu Zhe	59. 55	93	Hun pah to Koh	33. 50
28	Wah shes ti shin Kah	2. 50	94	Che sho shin Kah	31. 60
29	Ki wah si	4. 95	95	Hu ah shu tsa	6. 25
30	Wah hah lum pah	9. 00	96	Be got ha she	11. 60
31	Wah tsi Moie	661. 12	97	Wah she met se he	12. 25
32	Wah she Hun Kah	6. 00	98	Wah no pah she	2. 00
33	O pah su ah	10. 45	99	Fred Lookout	6. 60
34	Gra she lu roh	1,809. 10	100	Lewis Bighran	32. 20
35	Mun pah se	2. 50	101	To wan gat he	95. 20
36	Hu ah to Me	1. 15	102	Ke mon tah	49. 50
37	Lah sah sah	68. 05	103	Hu lah ton Kah	2. 85
38	Che Ke Ko loh	2,304. 04	104	Wy au se gra	7. 65
39	To wan Go he	23. 00	105	Msh ho gla	11. 50
40	Moh shan tsa Etah	3. 00	106	Ne koh Kan uh	1. 10
41	Hu lah wah Kan tah	1. 85	107	Moh se che he	7. 00
42	Hun pah to Kah	15. 00	108	Nin Kah she	25. 65
43	Hu ah wah Kan tah	24. 65	109	E wah Kan tah	17. 10
44	E to Moie	37. 30	110	Jno. Scott	5. 00
45	Pan Kah wah ti an Kah	. 25	111	Bennie Strike Ax	4. 95
46	Pah ne wah with tah	13. 27	112	Foster Strike Ax	. 70
47	Ne Kah lina pol	. 25	113	Mary Pryor	146. 80
48	Bro Ki he Kah	5. 85	114	Min Kah she	4. 20
49	E se Moie	9. 50	115	Pah se to pah	11. 55
50	Hu ah shu tsia	2,905. 78	116	Wah sah Kah wah	16. 70
51	Mo bah ah gra	5. 40	117	Wah we si a	24. 05
52	Pah su tun Kah	3. 75	118	Frank Corn Dropper	74. 50
53	Wah tah	5. 25	119	Petse Moie	1. 25
54	Hun Kah hoppy	5. 75	120	Che Cho him Hah	9. 50
55	Wah tse Ki he Kah	16. 00	121	Josephine Mortie (guard)	4. 95
56	Ben Harrison	2. 00	122	Alika gah he	1,920. 06
57	Ne Ki E sah wy	10. 45	123	Lo tah sah	59. 18
58	Wah she ho tsu	10. 75	124	Me to op pe	525. 34
59	Wah sti Moie	523. 55	125	Soth pah shin Kah	2. 90
60	He lo Ki he	1. 00	126	Sha Ke pah bre	26. 35
61	Min ti an Kah	69. 50	127	De he pe	1,225. 23
62	Kah wah ho tsia	50. 65	128	Mo so chu he	41. 69
63	Hon tsi ogra	10. 50	129	John Logan (se wah Kan tah)	418. 20
64	Hu ah wo Kan tah	17. 50	130	Labor Miles (O lo ho walla)	. 25
65	Hun pah to Kah	4. 00	131	Hun Kah tun Kah	1,504. 13
66	Wah sha she wah ti an Kah	21. 25	132	Che cho shin Kah	960. 04

Accounts of Warren Smith, of the firm of W. C. Wood & Co.—Continued.

	Name.	Amount.		Name.	Amount.
133	Wah Kah lo tun Kah	\$379.13	155	He ah to me	\$876.51
134	To oy pe	157.97	156	Pah Huh ne gah hre	112.20
135	Hartsi Moie	510.74	157	Soo se gra	185.97
136	Clairmower	510.74	158	Ke moh be	51.55
137	Ah sin Kah	240.16	159	Ko Ke ah so	458.76
138	Henry Pratt (No Prbwah)	1,079.36	160	O lo ho wal la	567.81
139	O pah tim Kah	39.15	161	Wsh tsi Moie	45.15
140	Shah Pet sea	718.84	162	O lah hoh Moie	8.45
141	Eugene Ware (Ah hu nu sah)	251.58	163	Ti he got beh	2,000.29
142	Kah wah ho tsi oging	468.73	164	Moh Shah Ke toh	5.00
143	Wah no tah	6.25	165	Tou pah pe	31.41
144	Arthur Barnicastle (Wah ne a tah)	63.40	166	Ne Kab sto wab	10.00
145	Maud Tall Chief	5.00	167	Fred Pinn	49.70
146	Hlu ah ne Kah	477.83	168	O Ke soh	3.50
147	Hun Kah ah gra	184.21	169	Num pah se	295.00
148	She ah Q	318.30	170	Hah scho Moie	24.00
149	Wah se num pah	2.00	171	Ki he nah she	48.00
150	Tow ah e he .....	.....	172	Met na be	4.00
151	Ho ne ago	1,379.02	173	He ab to me	11.60
152	Ihah Moie	302.24	174	Hbe at to me	7.00
153	She she	1,024.51	175	Kan se ab bre	10.00
154	Moh se che he	309.04		Total	57,159.67

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, ss :

On this 20th day of January, A. D. 1899, before me, a notary public in and for the District of Columbia, personally came and appeared Warren Smith, of Hominy, Osage Nation, Okla., a member of the firm of W. C. Wood & Co., who, being first duly sworn according to law, deposes and says that the foregoing and annexed account is just and true to the best of his knowledge and belief.

(S.)

WARREN SMITH.

Subscribed and sworn to before me the day and year aforesaid.

E. L. WHITE,

Notary Public for the District of Columbia.

Accounts of Johnson & McLaughlin against Osage Indians.

[From Osage Annuitants, January 1, 1899.]

Big Chief band:		Moh e Koh moie band—Cont'd.	
Pawhuska	\$43.70	Hlu ohto me	\$1.10
Humpohitoka	2.00	Che ke Koh loh	4.75
Heh scoh moie	48.60	To wan ge he	4.50
Gro moie Shunkah	10.50	Gro toh shun Kah	3.00
Melo tah moie	171.55	Wah tsa q tah	20.00
Wah te sol	61.85	Kah wah shin Kah .....	.90
Kah she moie	118.25	Hum poh to Koh	51.95
Sau soh Koh hoh	68.70	Wilson Kirk	10.90
Me shet sea	187.70	Ne wal la	70.70
Wah hre she	1.25	Ne Koh woh she tum Koh band:	
Me koh woh te aukoh	2.00	Eto moie	121.40
Hu loh shunkoh	24.95	Che sho wan Ke poh .....	.....
Woh she hoh	6.00	Hun wah Ka	5.00
E grau Koh shu Koh	51.80	Hoh hoh	4.65
Joos band:		Pum Koh woh hiankot ..	6.50
Shou Koh mo loh	7.50	Paw mi wah with tah ..	26.80
Wah she pe she	75.40	Ne koh munpot	121.85
Wah ses toh shinkoh	427.55	Geurney Miles	9.80
Koh woh C	224.40	Ne oh tsa pe	11.50
Wah shoh she wah shautse ..	1.00	Bro ki he koh	113.95
O poh shu oh	47.00	He se moie	11.00
Tsa pa in Koh	89.85	Woh tsa oh hoh	19.85
Woh tsa a tah	4.00	Shau koh tse oh	15.35
Moh e Koh moie band:		Goo toh moie .....	.90
Kunkah	29.00	Hlu oh shu tsa	5.00
Wah to ke oh	214.80	Embrsy Gibson	854.90
To wan koh she	6.15	He shot oh he	48.20
Moh soh oh noh she	5.00	Mo hot oh grot	10.75

Accounts of Johnson & McLaughlin against Osage Indians—Continued.

Ne Koh woh she tum Koh band—Continued.

Tam poh pe	\$5. 15
Gro lot su oh	12. 60
Che sho hum Koh	194. 65
Ne Kot a e blat	15. 00
Me grat to me	36. 95
Hum Koh hoppy	252. 15
Wah tso Koh he Koh	180. 55
Robt. Dunlap	1. 00
Wah shah she	3. 90

Big Hill band:

Mah shoh Ke lot	142. 95
Daniel McDougan	5. 75
Ne koh e say	201. 40
Ke we Koh .....	. 80
Sin tsa wah Koutch	3. 80
To wah e he	140. 05
Wah bsoh tuina poh	147. 20
To wah goh hah	38. 75

White Hair band:

Che sho huu Koh	117. 85
Kah to moie	2. 00
Woh she ho tsa	77. 45
Ho loh go ny	1. 25
Hun nah pus sy	9. 75
Wah ko sah moie	7. 30
Poh se to poh	222. 25

Tall Chief band:

Tall Chief	65. 30
Alex. Tall Chief	1. 65
Thos. Tall Chief	216. 00
Mah shau tsa e tah	5. 00
He oh sta me	30. 00
Me ti au koh	128. 25
Hlu ah wah Kan tah	57. 80
Wah tsa moie	1. 40
He lo koh he	183. 48
Boh koh oh hoh	1. 50
Woh shah hoh me	4. 50
E ito koh wah ti au koh	11. 45
Koh wah ho tso	150. 25
Hou tso ah grah	22. 00
Nah shah wal la	28. 15
Wah shah she wah ti aukah	17. 90
Ne wal la	21. 55
San se gra	11. 25

Black Dog band:

Black Dog	22. 95
Edgar McCarthy	6. 00
To wah e li	25. 45
Wah tsa a itah	1. 15
Wah tsa a loh	5. 00
Hah moie	66. 85

Saucy Chief band:

Saucy Chief	22. 30
Alex Eaglefeather	17. 35
Mary Akin	277. 45
Laurence	1, 247. 40
Epoh oh hre	33. 95
Sopha Chouteau	9. 35
Hoh mo soh	68. 40
Robert Panther	86. 95
Noh hoh in Koh	41. 55
Chas Meshet sea	5. 60
Pun q tah	701. 54
Chas Lo Force (Hun koh keah)	40. 20

Saucy Chief band—Continued.

Mah se che he	\$1, 678. 45
Paul Albert	521. 10
Anon to appe	13. 00
Wy e gla in koh	9. 40
Soh poh ke oh	1, 924. 15
Me keh Koh	335. 90
Chas Mischelle	34. 80
Woh hu sot	2. 00
Poh pe sou tsa	34. 75

Beaver band:

James Bigheart	683. 66
Che sho shunkah	2, 762. 25
Paul Red Eagle	353. 00
Hlu oh shu tso	7. 85
Beg goh hoh she .....	. 50
Na pah se (Andrew Big-horse)	260. 65
Wah shah she me tsa he	1, 140. 35
Wah no poh she	691. 30
Fred Lookout	501. 93
Louis Bighourse	615. 40
To wan gah hah	6. 45
Ke nun toh	15. 00
Wy en se gra	141. 90
Hu loh tun koh	1. 00
Wah kun loh he nun poh	5. 00
Moh se che he	263. 95
Che sho wal la	1, 170. 90
Nin koh she	217. 15
Me hoc	12. 05

Strike Axe band:

Wy e noh she	6. 25
Tsa shin koh woh ti auka	442. 75
To op pa	3. 00
Woh tah kan loh	3, 011. 55
Me tsa he	66. 25
Che me kunkah	4. 25
Min kah she	345. 75
Poh se to pah	1, 087. 75
Wah tsa koh wah	573. 20
Hun koh me	2. 25
Me hun koh	51. 75
Wah we se oh	185. 25
Frank Corddropper	570. 24
E wah kau toh	617. 60
Poh tsa moie	10. 40
Loh blah woh ohls	15. 95

Huning band:

A she gah hre	62. 85
Tsa poh shu Koh	26. 00
Me to oppe	12. 65
Shah ke poh hre	6. 30
Lo he poh	16. 10
Moh se che he	4. 25
O to hah wal la	839. 00
Che sho shun Koh	827. 85
Wah Kan ta tun kot	9. 50
Ta oppe	30. 75

Claremore band:

Claremore	101. 75
No poh ana	15. 30
O poh tuu kah	37. 30
Shah poh tse a	2. 00
Kah woh ho tsa ah ga ny	28. 20
Ah hu me sah	11. 60
Wah me a lah	60. 00
Hlu ah me kah	101. 55
Hum koh oh grah	305. 20

Accounts of Johnson & McLaughlin against Osage Indians—Continued.

Wah ti au Kah band:		Kennedy, Mrs. Adaline	\$40. 18
Gra she lu soh	\$37. 85	Kohpay, Harry	224. 47
Ta wah e he	328. 30	Leahy, Mrs. Bertha	1, 249. 06
Che she	9. 25	Lynn, Mrs. Mamie	25. 98
Poh she a loh hah	2. 25	La Sarge, Joseph	12. 80
Sau se gra	1. 00	Mancrave, John B.	40. 00
Ke mah hoh	5. 25	Mancrave, Henry	22. 95
Ko ke oh se	21. 95	Mancrave, Fred	5. 00
Wm. Penn band:		Mancrave, Chas	70. 18
Peter Bigheart	5. 50	Mosier, Thos	60. 63
Wah she wah hah	2. 00	Mosier, John	860. 66
O to hoh wal la	82. 55	Mosier, W. T	311. 24
Wah tso moie	3. 00	Mosier, Jake	47. 37
Toh hoh gah hoh	197. 10	Mosier, Eugene	10. 45
Mah shah ke lah	18. 55	Murray, Mrs. May	100. 14
Ne kah tsa wah .....	. 25	Mathews, Mrs. Sarah J.	572. 29
Fred Penn	16. 25	Martin, A. L.	129. 66
O ke sah	19. 30	Martin, R. L.	36. 05
Me tsa he	21. 05	Martin, Jack	25. 50
Num pah se .....	. 50	Milon, Mrs. Sarah	778. 60
Oto hah moie	96. 40	McLaughlin, Mrs. Nancy	1, 555. 77
Sycamore band:		McGure, Mrs. Mary E.	240. 80
Ke he koh moh she	85. 15	McCamb, Mrs. T. B. (Ellen)	24. 25
Me tsa he	15. 00	McDaniels, Mrs. Fred	40. 16
He oh ta me	15. 00	No Leg, Terry	90. 32
Hlu oh ta me	12. 00	Prew, Henry	118. 65
Man no poh she	6. 75	Pendam, Chas N	250. 04
Hlu oh wah toh	38. 49	Pendam, Frank	206. 10
Anderson, Mrs. Emma	4. 70	Poppen, John	262. 20
Avant, Mrs. Rosa	1, 117. 48	Poppen, Alex	147. 59
Alberty, Mrs. Cynthia	29. 70	Palmer, Mr. and Mrs. John F.	879. 51
Bruce, Mrs. Elsie	247. 97	Plamandan, Mrs. Clenny	192. 38
Bradshaw, Mrs. Rosa	51. 92	Plamandan, Bernard	662. 33
Bryant, Joseph	28. 90	Pettit, S. W	803. 70
Bennett, William	250. 25	Pettit, George	40. 61
Breeding, Mrs. Mary L.	570. 74	Pettit, Charles	4. 75
Brunt, Ed	13. 36	Pettit, Andrew	10. 00
Bellien, Steve	28. 40	Pervier, S. H	56. 56
Boulanger, Wm. J	15. 95	Perkins, Mrs. Elizabeth	14. 60
Baker, J. T	1, 102. 51	Quinton, Mrs. Julia	866. 64
Blackburn, Mrs. Rachel	84. 30	Revard, Joseph, jr	797. 62
Canville, Louis C	78. 11	Revard, Maggie	300. 83
Carleton, Anthony C	418. 38	Revard, Louis E	1, 719. 72
Chambers, Mrs. Belle	519. 09	Revard, Franklin N	820. 37
Carter, Mrs. Minnie	66. 72	Revard, Francis J	376. 89
Ceouse, Mrs. Isabella	105. 35	Revard, John	37. 26
Cedar, Moses	36. 95	Revard, Leonard	31. 86
De Noga, Clement	725. 86	Revard, Chas. E	126. 00
De Noga, Louis L	1. 00	Rogers, Arthur	838. 69
Del Ovier, Mrs Victoria	386. 27	Rogers, Louis, sr	1, 078. 01
Del Ovier, Mrs. Julia	240. 00	Rogers, Jasper	66. 80
Dunn, Mrs. Dora	406. 10	Rogers, Mrs. Ella	142. 72
Diah, Mrs. Eliza	1, 021. 32	Rogers, Louis, jr	12. 50
Donaldson, Mrs. Fannie	2. 15	Rogers, Thos. L	359. 41
Easley, Mrs. Maggie	394. 23	Rogers, Antonie	239. 15
Frankier, James	31. 80	Rogers, Mrs. J. M	6. 75
Frankier, Wm	32. 40	Ross, John	735. 61
Frankier, Mrs. Mary E	97. 46	Ravlett, Frank	129. 47
Gaylor, Mrs. Victoria	50. 28	Ravlett, Chas	3. 00
Gisard, Mrs. Amelia	233. 59	Simpkins, Mrs. Mary	100. 00
Gorman, Mrs. Kate	1, 014. 38	Shaw, Mrs. Monica	86. 37
Hunt, Mrs. Mary	195. 30	Tinker, Geo. Ed	180. 89
Herridge, Mrs. Julia	45. 98	Tinker, Chas	27. 30
Holloway, Jos. C	616. 13	Tinker, Frank	299. 71
Helderfraud, Mrs. Ellen	126. 85	Trumble, Jules	6. 25
Hardy, Mrs. Wm	13. 35	Trumble, J. B	254. 20
Harrod, Paul	31. 75	Thompson, N. A	32. 13
Johnson, Mrs. Julia M	1, 027. 03	Terrian, Syp	56. 59

Accounts of Johnson & McLaughlin against Osage Indians—Continued.

Vessar, Mrs. Eliza.....	\$201. 65	Ware, Mrs. Agnes.....	\$214. 54
Whalen, Mrs. Emily	310. 27	Woodring, Mrs. Tennie	42. 01
Wheeler, Mrs. M. P	303. 94		
Wheeler, Paul	119. 00	Total	65, 664. 51
Wheeler, Elmer.....	90. 05		

TERRITORY OF OKLAHOMA, *County of Pawnee:*

J. P. Johnson, a member of the firm of Johnson & McLaughlin, on his oath says: The above statement of accounts is the amount due Johnson & McLaughlin from Osage annuitants December 31, 1898, and are true, just, and unpaid, and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, there are no offsets to the same which have not been allowed.

J. P. JOHNSON,
Member of firm of Johnson & McLaughlin.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this 14th day of January, 1899, at Pawhuska, Okla.

[SEAL.]
(My commission expires November 26, 1901.)

W. C. TUCKER, *Notary Public.*