

The Indian Territory and Its People

THE Indian Territory was reserved for the red men more than seventy years ago. Reservations were nothing new in those days; the "man of nature" was still numerous, and the administration sought to keep them in colonies on reservations, to be able to better control them. Again and again the original hunting grounds of the Indian were reduced in size, and the tribes forced to abandon their homes and settle anew. And why? Because thousands of immigrants wanted room for homesteads, the strides of industry and civilization were great and fast, and—the redskins, opposed to all this, favored disturbances and absolute freedom.

So the government was confronted with the vexed question of making some final and amicable settlement, or treaty, with some of the larger tribes of Indians which lived in the southern part of the Union. Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, Mississippi—all sought to open the Indian's land to the plow of the farmer, the ax of the timber cutter, or the spade of the miner.

Congress began legislation on the matter of removing the Indian from these States to the West, and presented articles of treaty to the different tribes, which in time and turn were ratified by the chiefs and councils of the tribes.

The topography of the Indian Terri-

Indian have hitherto been but slight. The "whites" from the adjoining States, however, have aspired to own some of these fertile fields; but seeing that their aspirations were futile, they leased land at a ridiculously low figure. This practice had been a regular custom for more than twenty years, when the government finally took charge of this matter and made up a schedule of stipulated rental-fees per acre. The government now draws up the lease contracts and sees to it that the Indian receives due remuneration for the use of his lands.

All this may lead the reader to ask: "Who are the inhabitants of the Indian Territory?" The owners in common are a heterogeneous mass of humanity—Indians, negroes and "whites," aggregating about 85,000 souls. An additional 400,000 make their homes within the limits of the Territory, without a title to the land upon which they live and without a voice in the government by which they are controlled. For the administration of public affairs no uniform system of government and no code of laws now exists. The owners, as has been said, are Indians, "whites" and negroes. The latter were slaves of the different bands prior to the war, and after being liberated through acts of the Indian councils, they were adopted by the respective tribes as members of the

being the smallest domain of the five. The Cherokees are the largest nation, and prior to the removal to their present abode dwelt in North Carolina and adjacent States. The government had long been negotiating with these Indians, and in the year 1835 succeeded in having a treaty ratified by the tribe according to which they were to cede all claims to land east of the Mississippi and accept 7,000,000 acres of land west of this river.

There are now about 30,000 Cherokee Indians and 4,000 Cherokee "freedmen" living in that nation who are all members of the tribe.

The Cherokees do more farming than



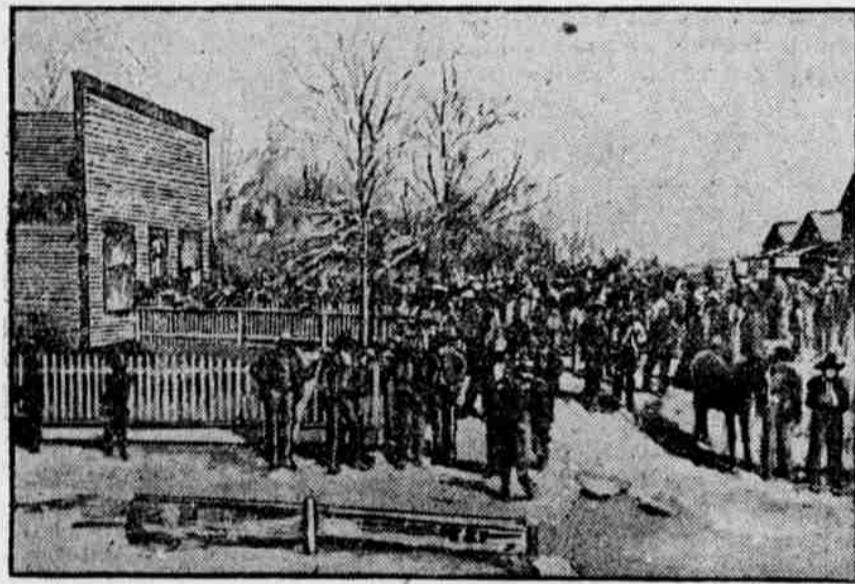
A CREEK INDIAN'S HOME.

any of the other five civilized tribes. Even before the first treaty was made with them, in 1785, they invariably had their patch of Indian corn near their hut, the squaw doing the labor in those days. Now they also raise cotton. Most of the work, however, is done by the African descendants, their labor in many sections of the nation being as cheap as the wind.

When Congress created the Dawes Commission, it instructed the same to make rolls of the members of the Five Tribes. In order to accomplish this, it was necessary to take a census of each of said tribes. When the rolls are completed they will contain names of full-blood Indians, negroes, and white men, with every intervening degree of blood. Some Indians entitled to enrollment have but one sixty-fourth degree of Indian blood and show no resemblance whatever to the red man. In compiling these rolls, the commission was guided to an extent by the old tribal rolls. Great difficulties confronted it, however, in the change of names among the members of all tribes.

The commission has its headquarters in the town of Muskogee in the Creek nation. When the making of the rolls began, the great majority of the Indians, opposed to enrollment, would not come to the commission. So it decided to go to them. The hotel accommodations in the interior being inadequate the commission purchased the necessary equipment for its maintenance in the field. Then it advertised a schedule of its appointments in the various towns and villages. By coming to the Indians in this way, it could invariably secure the enrollment of the majority of the citizens of each tribe.

To proceed just and fairly in the allotment of land in severalty, the government ordered an appraisal of all lands in the Indian Territory, so that each citizen would receive an equal amount of dollars worth of land. In view of appraising the land, the commission organized and equipped many field parties. Each party is composed of six appraisers, one clerk, two



OPENING OF OFFICE FOR SELECTION OF ALLOTMENTS AT MUSKOGEE.

tory is of such a nature that it accommodates all the desires and customs of the different tribes. Those who favor tilling of the soil find an abundant amount of land suited to this purpose, and the hunter need not wander far in order to replenish his gamebag. Though the buffalo has been exterminated, there is no want of other large or small game. The black bear still prowls about the dense forests, while the catamount—a kind of mountain lion—lies in readiness upon the limbs of trees to leap upon his prey. Deer are so plentiful that even the "wood-be hunter" can readily procure a doe, if not the male with its majestic antlers. Turkeys, prairie chickens, and quails are so numerous that they are easily caught in coop-traps. They are generally sold alive to the white population "for a song." All classes of the finny family abound everywhere.

Portions of the Territory are very mountainous and afford no opportunity for farming. The eastern portion contains part of the Boston Mountains, while the southeastern and southern sections also have very extensive mountain ranges. The mountains are rich in different ores, such as iron, zinc, copper, platinum, etc. The only asphalt mines to be found in the United States are in the Indian Territory. A number of syndicates have persistently endeavored to gain control of them, but the government has "set its foot down" on all propositions and shows no favor to capital. These mines are operated by private companies under the control of the government. Coal, a semi-anthracite variety, is mined in great abundance.

The timber is semi-tropical and of many varieties. The wooded regions, primarily the flint districts, are inhabited by many poisonous insects and amphibious animals. Rattlesnakes are so numerous that the Indians pay little or no attention to them. About fifty species of lizards are represented in the Territory, ranging in size from one to ten inches, some having venomous teeth. Scorpions cause very serious wounds, although their sting is seldom fatal. Tarantulas and centipedes attain an enormous size; specimens of the centipede have been found which were ten inches long, each vertebral division being as large as a human finger nail.

The crops comprise mainly wheat and cotton. Although nearly all kinds of grain and vegetable products are cultivated, cotton is king in the Territory. Wherever orchards have been planted, they have exhibited a wonderful endurance and have yielded enormous crops. Apples, pears, peaches, apricots and all varieties of berries are stupendously productive.

The agricultural inclinations of the

bands, and now share in their lands and annuities, being called "freedmen."

The 400,000 non-citizens also embrace Indians by blood, who through some cause have forfeited their rights. They may have defaulted in their citizenship by not moving to the Indian Territory when the treaty was ratified by the tribe, or by removing after once having established a home therein, or by removing too late to the abode of their fellow red men. The remainder of the 400,000 people are "whites" and negroes, who are squatting on lands without a title. All houses and places of business were erected on lands and lots, the owner thereof having no title whatever to the estate save his good faith that he might at some future time be able to secure the land from the



A BUNCH OF CATTLE IN THE CREEK NATION.

tribe and obtain a clear title. Thus towns of 5,000 inhabitants have sprung up. But these towns have no municipal government, no municipal water supply, police or fire protection. Order is maintained by United States marshals and courts only.

The entire landed estate embraces over 19,000,000 acres, a territory nearly equal in extent to the State of Indiana. Five tribes are the sole owners and heirs. For three score years they have been termed "The Five Civilized Tribes," because they have long since given up their wild and savage ways and have adopted the white man's customs and habits.

The northeastern part of the Territory is occupied by the Cherokee tribe of Indians; the northwestern portion by the Creeks or Muskogee Indians. The Choctaws will inherit the southeastern division, while the Chickasaws claim the land directly west of the Choctaw's claim. The central western portion is the Seminole Indians' claim,

teamsters, and one cook. Two of these appraisers are surveyors, and act in a double capacity. Each party, while living in one camp, operates in two divisions, with three appraisers in each, one of them a surveyor.

The Choctaws and Chickasaws will receive approximately 500 acres per capita, the Cherokees 120, and the Creeks and Seminoles 160.

The United States laws prohibit the sale of firearms and intoxicating liquors within the limits of the Territory. This law is enforced very rigidly.

It may be of interest to add that the government has already allotted lands to seven small tribes in the northeastern part of the Cherokee nation. They are the Quapaws, Peorias, Ottawas, Modocs, Shawnees, Wyandottes and Senecas. When the Dawes Commission will have finished its labors the tribal government of five large tribes of Indians will only be a memory of past history.—R. A. J. Mangelsdorf, in the Illustrated Home Journal.



Common elder vinegar is said to be an antidote to carbolic acid poisoning. A flannel cloth wrung out of salt water is an excellent remedy for simple sore throat.

Salt and water is one of the best of remedies for sore eyes, and if applied in time will scatter the inflammation.

An effective remedy for a bone felon is an ounce of asafetida steeped in a pint of hot vinegar, the finger to be dipped in it frequently.

For vitriol burns cover the parts burned with a soft, thick paste of calcined magnesia and water. This relieves the pain very quickly, and there is seldom a scar left after this treatment.

In an emergency to make a compress for a wound, if nothing better is at hand, clean tissue paper makes an excellent application. It is much to be preferred to a strip torn from clothing or a soiled handkerchief, which may be the only other choice.

To assuage thirst and cure feverishness apple tea is a notable sick drink. It is made by slicing up raw apples into a jug, filling up the jug with boiling water, as in teamaking, then sweetening to taste. When cold, this apple tea will be found pleasantly tart and refreshing.

HIS CLEVER NEPHEW.

Young Man Who Was Set Up in Business Three Times.

A certain member of the Stock Exchange has set his nephew up in business three times, but the young man lacks something essential to success in the line selected for him, and has failed with each effort. Recently, when he came with the fourth request for financial assistance, the uncle demurred:

"You must learn to lean on yourself," he said. "I can't carry you all your life. It would be an unkindness in me to keep supplying you with money to carry on enterprises that invariably end in assignments. I'll tell you what I'll do. You owe a great deal as the result of that last failure. Pitch in on your own hook and go it alone till you can pay off those debts. When you've done that I'll give you a check for all they amount to. Such an experience will do you more good than all the money I could give you now."

Two months later the nephew walked in with every claim receipted in full, and the uncle was so delighted that he gave the promised check.

"Now, that's something like it," he said, "and I'll wager you feel the better for the hard training. How did you manage it, Dick?"

"Borrowed the money." Now the old gentleman is telling them that there is the making of a great financier in that nephew.—New York Times.

NATURAL HISTORY.



"Now, tell me, why is that hyphen placed in chicken-coop?" "Please, sir, fer the chicken to roost on."

Hawk as a Surgeon.

A strange tale is told of a hawk at the menagerie in Central Park, New York. Two birds live in the same cage, and some time back one of them developed a tumor in the leg. The other bird thereupon attacked the tumor with its claws and succeeded in lancing it.

World's Supply of Gold.

It is anticipated that the world's supply of gold will be doubled in the next ten years.

It's easy to believe one who speaks derogatorily of others or in praise of ourselves.

March, April, May

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On Riverside Drive.

She—My! Look at the carriage going down the bridge path!

He—Why shouldn't they—it's a wedding party.—Columbia Jester.

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