

dollars annually, for twenty-three years, or in the aggregate they lost twenty-three hundred thousand dollars.

If it is the desire of these would-be guardians, who are charging conspiracy and fraud to honestly serve the Creek Nation, why do they not have something to say about this interest matter? And why did they not take steps to collect pay from the Government for said lands without waiting twenty-three years, and until somebody else had accomplished the work?

Again, if the Government of the United States adjusts and settles on its own motion all such matters with the Creek Nation, without said Nation being represented by counsel, why did it not settle and pay for these lands without waiting so many years?

Why did it not pay the Creek Orphan Fund and every other claim of importance which the Creek Nation has had against the United States since it became a Nation, without waiting until said Nation employed counsel to aid in prosecuting such claims?

I know of no claim of the Creek Nation, large or small, against the United States, that was ever secured or paid without the aid of attorneys; nor do I believe that the said negotiation of January 19th last, and the payment for said lands, would ever have been secured but for the aid and assistance of counsel employed by the Nation.

The assertion that the Creek Nation had no right to employ and pay such counsel, in matters of such vast importance as those herein mentioned, or any other, it seems to me is absurd, if not monstrous.

No other civilized government of which I have ever read denies, even to the poorest of its subjects, the privilege of being represented by counsel of their own choosing. And to say that the Creek Nation can not exercise this right, is to say that the Creek Nation does not exist.

I trust, therefore, that you will take no step calculated