

LETTER

FROM

THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR,

TRANSMITTING,

In response to the resolution of the Senate of December 17, 1889, copies of certain reports on the settlement of Oklahoma, etc.

JANUARY 15, 1890.—Referred to the Committee on Public Lands and ordered to be printed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR,
Washington, January 10, 1890.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of the resolution of the Senate, dated December 17, 1889, as follows:

Resolved, That the Secretary of the Interior be directed to transmit to the Senate copies of the various reports of Inspectors Pickler and McBride on the settlement of Oklahoma and the conduct of officers of the United States in permitting persons to enter the Territory prior to the time specified in the proclamation of the President of the United States.

In response to the resolution I inclose herewith copies of the reports named therein.

Very respectfully,

The PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE.

JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
Guthrie, Ind. T., May 7, 1889

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find report in regard to action of officers in Oklahoma Territory.

Very respectfully,

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary Interior, Washington, D. C.

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

GUTHRIE, *April 27, 1889.*

General JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of Interior:

We have the honor to respectfully report as follows:

About three hundred people were in and about Guthrie before 12 p. m. on the 22d instant. Two car loads arrived upon Sunday evening and many were here upon Saturday; a few deputy marshals were in and about the town limits for a week or two previous to the legal opening of the Territory. This body of men was composed of deputy marshals, land officials, railroad employes, railroad stowaways brought here in freight trains, deputy internal-revenue collectors, and a host which can not be classified.

The first homestead entry was made by Mark S. Cohn, a personal friend of the receiver. He got in the land office under these circumstances: Three deputy marshals surrounded the doors. Col. D. B. Dyer, of the Wells-Fargo Express Company stood in the middle of the door-way at 12 m. One of these deputy marshals sprang in front

of Colonel Dyer; the door opened, and this deputy permitted two men to pass him; one was Cohn and the other J. E. Dille, half-brother of the register. Cohn entered a homestead for himself and filed three declaratory statements for others; he also presented a town plat, based upon a survey made before 12 m., and gotten up under the direction of Col. W. H. Clayton, of Fort Smith, Ark., another friend of the receiver. J. E. Dille, half-brother as aforesaid, was also one of the signers of this town plat.

The second entry made was a homestead by said Jehu E. Dille; he also made a declaratory statement for his brother Jonathan Dille and for one James B. Kenner. The three deputies who officiated at the land office were appointed at the special request of the register and receiver (see Marshal Needles's list of deputies), and of these three deputies two made declaratory statements through Cohn, the man whom they wrongfully admitted. The lands entered by Cohn and Dille surround the town of Guthrie, as will be seen by a plat herewith sent and marked Exhibit A.

In this connection we call your attention to Marshal Needles's report, showing that Colonel Clayton, who got up the town-site plat which was filed by the aforesaid Cohn, was appointed deputy marshal at the request of Receiver Barnes. We make no comment; the record, plat, and facts speak for themselves. Witnesses to above facts: (1) The record; (2) Major Nelson, clerk of the United States court at Muskogee; (3) D. B. Dyer, mayor of Guthrie, attorney as aforesaid and a personal friend of Major Warner, of Kansas City, Mo.

We send you herewith two lists of deputy marshals and entries so far made by them; we do not know that these are complete lists. The deputies shamefully misused their positions. In behalf of Marshal Needles I desire to state that he gave us every aid in his power to discover fraud or unfairness.

Collector of the Kansas district appointed a large number of deputies, to be called upon if necessary by Special Agent Clark. These appointments were used to defraud the bona fide settlers and in violation of law.

We will send a supplemental report early next week about these deputies, and give, so far as we can ascertain them, a list of names. G. W. Jones, one of these deputies, was distributing points freely to friends in Newton and Arkansas City. Witness, F. W. Calais, general agent Champion Washing Machine Company, Joliet, Ill.

As one of the marshals expressed it to Captain McArthur, commandant of the post, "Everybody here is interested except you military men." The undersigned have held aloof from all factions, but found in Captain McArthur a gentleman of integrity, foresight, and high-minded purpose to discharge all his duties to the Government without self-seeking.

Your telegrams have been promptly answered; the delays were not ours, but caused by inefficient telegraph facilities. We have carried out your instructions in letter and spirit.

The hundred and one duties performed to make matters a success here can not be detailed in any report. We were consulted upon all sorts of questions by the citizens, and gave our aid, in connection with the commandant of the post, wherever it would benefit the general public or tend to promote public peace and security.

Our telegrams touching the quiet, orderly, and law-abiding spirit of this people were accurately true and we repeat those reports. The people know that whatever fraud or unfairness may have been practiced, the Government is not a party to it, and they have full confidence that complete justice will be done them in due time. The list of entries made by officials and their friends does not include town lots, of which no record is kept.

As a matter of fact we know that deputies of all kinds hold town sites which they are not fairly entitled to, and which were obtained by violating the President's proclamation. This report should have been gotten up in better form, but we write under difficulties, and will supplement it if necessary. We had to go slow in our investigations and win the confidence of the people who did not "stand in" with official grabbing.

Respectfully submitted.

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
J. A. PICKLER,
Inspectors.

APRIL 27, 1889.

The SECRETARY INTERIOR:

I desire to add, in addition to the report herewith of Inspector MacBride and myself, that I returned from Kingfisher Monday 22d; that when in about a mile of the station I saw many men on the east half of section 8; that as I neared the station I found they had been surveying and staking lots, but before I reached the place they had dispersed, but were claiming lots as their own. The land office opened promptly at 12 o'clock, and Mark S. Colin and Jehu E. Dille entered at once and made the filings referred to in our report. I think these filings were all made before the arrival of the train with settlers.

Very respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER.

EXHIBIT A.

[Township 16; Range, 2 N. I. M.]

Selections.

<p>Soldiers' D, by Jehu E. Dille for James B. Kenner.</p>	<p>Soldiers' D, by Jehu E. Dille for Jonathan Dille.</p>		
	<p>Soldiers' D, by Mark S. Cohn for Barry Twitchell.</p>		
<p>Mark S. Cohn, homestead. First homestead en- try of the day.</p>	<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);"> Filed on by Mark S. Cohn as town site at 12 p. m., as shown by record. E. 1/4 Sec. 8. </p>	<p>Soldiers' D, by Mark S. Cohn for James H. Huckle- berry.</p>	
		<p>Soldiers' Declaratory, by Mark S. Cohn for Benton Turner.</p>	
	<p>Jehu E. Dille homestead. Second homestead entry of day.</p>		
			<p>School Section.</p>

It will be observed that Cohn, who it is understood comes from Fort Smith, the receiver's town, enters the town site, and he and Jehu E. Dille, half-brother of the register, cover seven quarter sections about the town.

SETTLEMENT OF OKLAHOMA.

EXHIBIT B.

List furnished by Marshal Jones.

Names.	Place.	Date of appointment.
Capt. O. S. Rauck	Guthrie	1886
Charles Collins	do	1886
Ransom Payne (homestead entry 7, April 23)	do	1888
J. O. Severns	do	1886
Capt. W. J. Weaver (rej. 5, conflict T. S. Guthrie)	do	1889
M. J. Keyes	do	1888
John Patterson	do	1889
A. G. Jones (homestead entry 5, April 23)	do	1889
James White	Oklahoma	1886
J. B. Koontz (homestead entry No. 260, April 27)	do	1886
Aca Jones (homestead entry 8, April 23, agent for Henry S. Cowen, doc. 6, appl. Cohn rejt. con. T. S.; agent for David A. Harvey, No. 22, April 23, 10.45 a. m.)	do	1889
J. H. Walters	Kingfisher	1886
Captain Wyatt	do	1887
W. L. Jarrett	do	1886
B. L. Cox	Alfred	1889
J. P. Jennings	do	1889
Jack Stillwell	Darlington	1886
Lundy	Near Purcell (?)	

EXHIBIT C.

List of deputies appointed by T. B. Needles, marshal Indian Territory.

[Matter in brackets written in pencil in original.]

Muscogee.	Remarks.
W. W. Ansley	On duty at Kingfisher.
William Forman	On duty at Muskogee.
David Adams	Do.
John G. Varnum [rej. 27, April 27 conflict with homestead entry, James Adams, April 24]	On duty at Guthrie.
Thomas Wright	On duty at Oklahoma City.
Jesse Ankrune	Do.
W. J. Wilkins	On duty at Norman.
T. J. Mitts	On duty at Guthrie.
Temp. Elliott [conflict prior homestead entry, A. G. Jones, April 23, and S. D. S. 17, April 22]	Do.
Thomas J. Taylor [Doc. 31, homestead entry rejected, conflict homestead entry 1, April 22, Mark S. Cohn]	Do.
Daniel Hay	Do.
*Jasper N. Reece [conflict with homestead entry 3, H. W. Wolcott, con. T. S. Guthrie, agent for James T. Bell, rejected No. 1, John C. Bell, rejected 2, agent for H. N. Baker, No. 21 (S. D. S.)]	Do.
*John C. Bell [rejected 2, conflict T. S. Guthrie, not square]	Do.
Jacob Wheeler	On duty at Edmonds.
Benton J. Turner [S. D. S. 1, by agent Mark S. Cohn]	Appointed at special request of register and receiver and on duty at land office.
J. H. Huckleberry [S. D. S. No. 2, Mark S. Cohn, agent]	
O. E. Mohler	
Smith Winters	Appointed at special request of town authorities of East Guthrie.
Ed. Collins	On duty at Kingfisher.
George L. McDonough	On duty at Edmonds.
C. B. Smith	Do.
W. H. H. Clayton [12 m., April 22, T. S.]	At request of receiver.

* Reece and Bell to open boarding-house for United States officers.

I certify that the foregoing is correct.

T. B. NEEDLES,
Marshal Indian Territory

Perry Twitchell, No. 3, by Mark S. Cohn, agent, filed April 22, 1.05 p. m.; No. 4, Jonathan Dille, by John E. Dille, agent, filed April 22, 1.05 p. m.; No. 5, James B. Kenner, by John E. Dille, agent, filed April 22, 1.30 p. m.; T. S. 12 m., Mark S. Cohn, April 22, John E. Dille.

In the written list of marshals' names you will find notes made by the land office clerks showing the attempted or successful actions of said marshals touching homesteads and S. declarations, most of the marshals, however, are interested only in town lots.—C. M.

Also append list showing deputy marshals making entries.

In the foregoing list of deputy marshals the following of their number made or attempted to make entries of land, and a number of them are claiming town lots, but as there is as yet no record of town lots claimed, we are unable to give the names of such as are holding such lots, and they can very readily change the apparent ownership, rendering it difficult to fix it.

Those making or attempting to make entries are as follows:

[Needles.]

David Adams, on duty at Muscogee, homestead rejected April 24; in conflict with homestead entry, James Adams, April 24.

T. J. Mitts, on duty at Guthrie; conflict prior homestead entry A. G. Jones, April 23, and soldier's declaratory 17, April 22.

Temp Elliott, on duty at Guthrie; docket 37; homestead entry rejected; conflict homestead entry 1, April 22, Mark S. Cohn.

Thomas Hay, on duty at Guthrie; conflict with homestead entry of H. W. Wolcott and town site of Guthrie.

Jasper N. Reece, agent James F. Bell, rejected; agent John C. Bell, rejected; agent for H. N. Baker, No. 21 S. D. S., rejected; conflict with town site Guthrie.

Benton J. Turner, S. D. S., by agent, Mark S. Cohn.

J. H. Huckleberry S. D. S. No. 2, Mark S. Cohn.

O. E. Mohler signed application for town site.

W. H. H. Clayton signed town site application.

[Jones.]

Ransome Payne, at Guthrie, homestead entry, April 23.

Capt. W. G. Weaver, rejected; conflict town site Guthrie.

James B. Koonte, homestead entry, April 27.

Asa Jones, brother of marshal, came to Guthrie April 15 and remained, homestead entry 8, April 23. Agent for Henry S. Conner, rejected; conflict town site. Agent David N. Harvey, April 23.

NO FAVORITES—SECRETARY NOBLES' PROMISE—COMPLAINTS OF UNJUST CLAIM TAKING TO BE LOOKED INTO—FAIR DEALING TOWARD SETTLERS IN GOOD FAITH SURE—SPECIAL EFFORTS TO BE MADE TO SETTLE OKLAHOMA CASES—INDIANS REPORTED TO BE PREPARING FOR THE INEVITABLE—THE SENTIMENT IN FAVOR OF A GENERAL OPENING GROWING—GUTHRIE AND KINGFISHER BOTH THE SCENES OF LIVELY BUT PEACEABLE BUSTLE—EVERYTHING BEING DONE WITH DUE REGARD TO LAW AND ORDER—SETTLERS PLOWING THEIR LANDS—INCIDENTS AND QUARRELS OVER CLAIMS.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 25.

Immediately upon the receipt here of press reports that Government officials and others temporarily in Government employ in Oklahoma had used their authority as such officials to secure prior rights in lands in the Territory in disregard of the rights of others, the President and Secretary Noble telegraphed to special agents of the Department now in the Territory to make a thorough and prompt investigation of the facts in the case and upon its completion to immediately notify the Secretary of their findings. A report is expected during the week.

In speaking of the matter Secretary Noble said that not the least shadow of an injustice to settlers in Oklahoma would be tolerated for a moment, and that as soon as the facts in the case could be ascertained if officials were found to have been implicated in any attempted injustice or wrongdoing the action of the Government in the matter would be very prompt and decisive.

ATTENDING TO OKLAHOMA CONTESTS.

Commissioner Stockslager, of the General Land Office, to-day said that from present indications the contests over land claims in Oklahoma would ultimately involve nearly every quarter section in that Territory. This being the case, he thought it probable that the Department would make the Oklahoma contest cases a separate class and dispose of them at once. Otherwise, in the ordinary course of business it would likely be eighteen months or two years before they could be reached. Contests in which abandonment is charged could not be passed upon until the expiration of six months, as the law did not recognize a separation of the claim for a shorter period than six months as abandonment. But cases in which fraud or violation of law or the President's proclamation in going into the Territory prior to April 22 could be tried and disposed of at once.

Internal revenue collectors at Guthrie: Dan Basure, I. M. Jones, E. M. Yeter, ——— Ragsdale (banker), ——— McLane, ——— Vaoefe, Dave Hammol.

GUTHRIE, May 3, 1889.

General JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of Interior Department:

We have the honor to submit the following report:

Collector Acres, of Kansas, is responsible for more deputies who have acquired lands and town lots in this Territory than both of the marshals put together. He was instructed by the Internal Revenue Commissioner to designate certain men from whom Special Agent Clark could select, when occasion required, internal revenue deputies. He designated an unknown number. Not one of these men reported to Clark; and they were only deputies to the extent of having authority to enter the Territory before 12 m., on the 22d ultimo; and they thereby acquired town lots and other advantages.

Major Clark informs us that no list of these men were promised him and from what he has seen and heard would not employ one of them if a list were furnished. Inspector MacBride called upon Agent Clark last week and requested a list of the men designated by Collector Acres for internal revenue purposes. Clark said he had never seen one of the men, did not know their names, and that Deputy Zates, who was in Kingfisher, had the list. Zates is Acres's representative here. Upon Zate's return from Kingfisher, MacBride called upon him and requested the list. He denied having one and replied to all questions in parrot fashion "I have no list."

MacBride said, "Do you understand the fact to be that I charge that your office has flooded this town with alleged deputies who came here before 12 m. on the 22d of April, and that they thereby acquired property in violation of the President's proclamation." He coolly replied, "I understand you, but I have no list." MacBride then said, "Can you procure me the list?" He answered, "I don't know." His manner, voice, and conversation indicated, "Find out if you can." We sent you a partial list, furnished by Marshal Needles, of these deputies, but know there are many more. Many who came here as deputy collectors now deny they ever were deputies, but the fact remains that the men who came here with Rogers (mentioned in a previous report), and Zates, occupy some of the most valuable property in the town. And the further fact is that the Democratic officials who believe they are going out of office, do not care, seemingly, a fig what the Department thinks or charges in the premises. Acres may be made to give a list through the proper department; but it will doubtless be only a partial list, and there is now no way to ascertain its correctness. We are satisfied that Marshal Jones's list of deputies does not contain the names of all his appointees; for instance, we discover that C. S. Rogers, a town-lot speculator, is a deputy of his, and his name was not furnished us. We know there are more; but they now deny they ever were deputies, and there is no record method of proving the contrary.

However, your prompt action scared the deputies of all classes and they are seeking their holes and in a few days they will utterly disappear as factors in the situation here.

Public confidence has been restored by your action; the deputy marshal question has subsided and will not hereafter be an issue except in a few contest cases. Guthrie is a city of at least 6,000 males, representing an unknown population; the city authorities are being backed in a square manner by the Federal authorities here and have the confidence of the people. They have surveyed the town and are clearing the streets and policing the entire city.

Houses and streets appear as if by enchantment. City prices now prevail in hotels

and restaurants, and the buying and selling of real estate proceeds as if the city had been settled years ago.

Bath-houses, barber-shops, street sprinklers, auctioneers, and even an opera house have appeared upon the scene and actually seem indigenous to the soil.

Captain McArthur and Marshal Needles have acted with great discretion, and too much praise can not be given them for maintaining good order. The sound of the hammer and saw are heard on every side, and large buildings are going up on Harrison avenue, and Noble street, and Capitol Hill street, etc. Kingfisher is quiet, orderly, and law abiding. There are no complaints from this point. The same is true of Oklahoma. A more successful opening of a new Territory could not be conjured up by the imagination of man; and it will not be long ere the United States forces will find themselves without occupation in Oklahoma.

Our first impressions and reports of the people are confirmed by each day's developments, and we again repeat that this scene is the greatest triumph of American civilization.

Very respectfully, your obedient servants,

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
J. A. PICKLER,
Inspectors Public Land Service.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
Guthrie, Ind. T., May 3, 1889.

DEAR SIR: We would respectfully submit the following report: That we visited the land office at Kingfisher on the first and second days of this month; that we find the business of the office proceeding in an orderly and commendable manner, and satisfactorily to the parties interested; that we find no complaints of deputy marshals or other officials making entries of land contrary to law or to the detriment of settlers; that the question of the town site is being quietly, and as appears satisfactorily, adjusted.

The best of order prevails, and the citizens declare they have never lived in a more orderly or quiet community, nor where they felt a greater security of person and property.

Very respectfully,

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
J. A. PICKLER,
Inspectors of the Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., *May 8, 1889.*

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary Interior, Washington, D. C. :

In regard to charges against W. C. Jones, United States marshal, many settlers in Oklahoma Territory complain as follows:

(1) That the said Marshal Jones, with a large number of deputy marshals, entered Oklahoma Territory before noon April 22, 1889, as such officers, and being so in said Territory at noon of said day, immediately after hour of noon on said day, settled upon and claimed ownership in valuable town lots in towns of said Territory, and settled upon valuable lands, to the great prejudice and detriment of settlers who obeyed the President's proclamation as to the time of entering said Territory.

(2) That said Marshal Jones, with his deputy marshals, have illegally used their authority as such officers to protect their own holding of lots and land, and to prevent settlers from occupying lots and lands which they were legally entitled to do.

Tending to establish the foregoing charges, we find the following state of facts at Oklahoma City, Ind. T. :

The Seminole Town and Improvement Company, a corporation of the State of Kansas, as is claimed, of which J. E. Frost, of Topeka, who is land commissioner, or connected with the land department of the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway Company, was the leader, and who claims to be the general manager of the corporation in Oklahoma Territory, and who did manage for the company at Oklahoma City, and L. H. Crandell, secretary of said company, together with United States Marshal W. C. Jones and a syndicate from Newton, Kans., who it is believed is a part of or interested in the Seminole Town and Improvement Company, entered the present town site of Oklahoma City at or before noon of April 22 and secured for themselves and friends a large number of the best and choicest lots in said town.

To sustain this we refer to D. D. Britton, present sheriff of Allen County, Kans., who states that at the request of his friend, Samuel Baker, of Marshal City, Kans., a deputy marshal of Mr. Jones's, who had expected to act with Jones as deputy in Oklahoma but could not, he (Britton) concluded, in order to see the settlement of the country, to request the appointment of Jones as one of his deputies, and to this end joined Marshal Jones on the train from Arkansas City south on Sunday, April 21, 1889.

That while passing through the Cherokee strip he (Britton) requested the appointment of Marshal Jones, but Jones replied he had enough deputies and could not appoint him.

Upon nearing Oklahoma City, however, Jones told Britton to get off the train and report to his (Jones) deputy, J. B. Kuhns, who with other deputies were then camped at Oklahoma City, saying that he (Jones, would appoint him for four or five days and give him a commission during the time.

Britton says that on same train was Frost, manager of Seminole Town Company, and Sid Clarke, of Topeka; that these two with Marshal Jones were much in consultation during the trip, and all stopped at Oklahoma City and there remained until after the 22d.

That he (Britton) reported to Deputy Marshal Kuhns, and that at that time Ewers White, George E. Thornton, and Asa Jones were with Kuhns acting as deputy marshal for Jones at Oklahoma City.

That he understood that George E. Thornton had been for several months past acting in this capacity in that locality. That, on the forenoon of the 22d, Marshal Jones ordered Britton, with the other deputies, to watch for parties who might be attempting to settle on tracts of land near the town before 12 o'clock.

At 11 o'clock a. m. of said 22d he saw Marshal Jones on railroad right of way near town, and from half past 12 to 1 o'clock he saw him in the town.

Marshal Jones took, and claimed as his own, one of the most valuable lots in the town of Oklahoma City, corner of Main and Broadway, and the three deputies, Thornton, White, and Kuhns, above referred to each settled upon quarter sections of land adjoining or immediate to the town site.

Jones afterward refused to give Britton a commission.

Corroborated by records of land office; also by Deputy Marshal George E. Thornton, Oklahoma City. By D. R. Beatty, Oklahoma City, whom Jones told he was at Oklahoma City at 12 o'clock, April 22. Also C. P. Walker, who traveled across the country on the 22d from the southwest, and was one of the first to arrive, reaching Oklahoma City about 1.30 p. m., some time before the first train arrived, and Marshal Jones was the first man he saw; and Jones was staking off his corner lot above referred to.

Walker also talked with Frost, of the Seminole Town Company, with whom he was acquainted. Frost said he was the manager of the Seminole Town Company in Oklahoma Territory, and that their company was interested with parties who worked it through Congress; that his company had the town sites of Norman and Edmond, and Frost offered Walker the agency of the Seminole Company at Oklahoma City if he (Walker) would abandon the "boys" who came in with him (Walker), and who were also surveying the town site. Saw Frost and Marshal Jones together. Frost said the company expected to get their money by issuing certificates to settlers. (See certificate of said company to Arnold Brandley, marked A, herewith transmitted.)

Also J. L. Brown, who found about the 23d or 24th of April a man occupying the lot selected by Marshal Jones, and he (Brown) knowing nothing of Jones's claim purchased the right of the occupant of the lot for \$110. Afterward Jones came with his deputies, and after a quarrel and removal by Jones of Brown's improvement from the lot and a continuance of the controversy for several days, Brown sold out to Jones to avoid further altercation for what he had expended in procuring the lot, amounting to about \$300. The lot is estimated to be worth \$1,000.

Also J. H. McCartney, Oklahoma City, who heard a controversy between Marshal Jones and Brown concerning the lot in which Jones said he ought to have the lot, that he helped pay for the survey (presumably the Seminole survey, as this was a lot of that survey) and was entitled to something.

Also W. F. Higgin and J. M. McCormack, of Oklahoma City, who saw at about 3 o'clock p. m. the 22d, blue prints, large plats of Oklahoma City prepared by the Seminole Town and Improvement Company, upon which among others were certain streets named as follows: Frost, Couch, Sommers, Peck, and Noel.

This print, of course, was prepared before coming to Oklahoma by this company.

Also R. B. Ward, who, between 1 and 2 o'clock p. m. of 22d, found one Quinton, one of Jones's deputies, of Topeka, alone, watching and claiming four or five good lots for himself and, as he said, his friends who were not there. Ward proposed to take one of the lots for himself, but Quinton would not allow it and threatened violence if Ward attempted to settle on the lot and stating that he was a deputy marshal, and thus holding the lots. Quinton has since disposed of some of the lots.

Also Lieutenant Adair, Fifth United States Cavalry, and Corporal Thomas O'Brien, Fifth United States Cavalry, L Troop, Captain Furbush's Company, both now camped at Oklahoma City, who state there were, previous to the 22d, thirty-two United States deputy marshals who came to and stopped at Oklahoma City, by rail, twelve of whom held commissions or what purported to be commissions signed by Thomas B. Needles, marshal, and the remainder or nearly all having commissions or what purported to be commissions signed by Marshal Jones.

As to the speculative nature of these town-site transactions as bearing upon these charges:

D. R. Beatty, of Oklahoma City, late of Kansas City, who states that before leaving Kansas City, his friend, W. H. Whiteside, banker, 13 West Ninth street, told him (Beatty) to see Marshal Jones and Dr. Rodgers, when he got to the Territory, and that they would put him in the way of making some money. That upon arriving at Guthrie he saw Marshal Jones with a Captain Dawson, who was with him (Beatty). That he (Beatty) talked with Jones about procuring land and entering or establishing a town site at Alfred. Jones said he would with the parties with whom he was acting go into it. Jones advised that homesteaders should be found who could make early proofs, and that a contract should be entered into with these parties for the purchase of their lands by one member of the town company, and that if any difficulty should arise concerning the matter, that the member of the company having knowledge of the affair could be sent out of the country, so that no evidence of the transaction could be had. Jones said he and Rodgers were looking after the interests of their company in Oklahoma, and doing all they could to advance its interests.

Beatty seems to be a reliable man, intelligent and gentlemanly, and claims that he has been badly treated by Jones at Oklahoma City, and that he believes Jones is seeking to beat settlers, and that he therefore has made the above statement.

Would also under this head refer to certificate of Seminole Town and Improvement Company, hereto attached, marked A, made to Arnold Brandley. This company first sought to charge settlers \$25 for issuing this certificate, but now charge \$10, which Brandley paid for this. They are requiring all settlers on this survey of the town to pay this amount. It will be observed that no amount is recited in this certificate although \$10 was paid. (See oath D required.) In this connection O. H. Violet, police judge of Oklahoma City, states that Manager Frost told him (Violet) that the company expected to derive their revenue from issuing these certificates, and Judge Violet states that his estimate of the number of lots in the Seminole survey was upwards of 3,000.

Also, B. E. Studley, Newton, Kans., the contractor who put up forty houses for the Newton syndicate, all framed at Newton and shipped at a day early enough, so that the houses were unloaded fifteen at Guthrie and remainder at Oklahoma City on Monday afternoon of the 22d, and many of them placed on the best lots that afternoon at the latter place. Also, Amos Graybill, one of the carpenters working under Studley, to same effect.

Of this Newton syndicate were Gilbert and Son (Gilbert now in bank at Oklahoma City), Samuel Lehman, Fox Winnie, James Geary (in bank at Oklahoma City), David Hamil, C. R. McLean, Walkenstein, and Ragsdale. Also, to statement hereto attached of Frank Foster, J. P. Ellis, and G. H. Hoop, as to the building of these houses, as to the time survey was made by this Seminole Town Site Company, it being the only company whose surveyors were in town on forenoon of Monday, 22d, (marked Exhibit C).

Also, refer to statement of the situation and the facts that can be established as set forth in letter of James P. Harrison, esq., to Secretary of the Interior, a copy of which was shown Inspector Pickler.

Also to report of Inspector MacBride this day upon this subject and facts therein set forth.

Summarizing.—The people feel that Marshal Jones, a resident of Kansas and not a bona fide settler, with his deputies and with influential parties in the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, and other speculators, unfairly gained entrance to the forbidden Territory and fraudulently gained great advantages over the honest settler, and thus secured the most valuable property, while those who obeyed the law are beaten by the law-breakers in the race. And to this conclusion all fair-minded, honest men are forced. The people have faith that the Government will right this wrong. To this end all its officers who have participated in these frauds against the rights of the people should be promptly dealt with. So the General Land Office should officially declare what violations of the law admitting Oklahoma Territory to settlement and violations of the President's proclamation will, when proven, be additional grounds to those heretofore existing of contest.

To await until these matters are presented in actual cases and these grounds determined in such a manner by the Commissioner of the General Land Office and the Secretary of the Interior is to involve this people in a multitude of expensive contests which they are generally illy able to enter.

Further, some rules or directions should be provided by the General Land Office as to how parties desiring to contest settlements upon town lots, in these town sites, shall initiate a contest, where file it, and what proceedings shall be taken to preserve the rights of both claimant and contestant to such town lots, until the Government shall in some way determine in what manner the title to these town sites shall be perfected.

These suggestions are hourly forced upon one upon the ground and the necessity of some such rules or regulations becomes more imperative every day.

In these suggestions Inspector MacBride concurs.

Referring to the twelve parties holding commissions from Marshal Needles, at Oklahoma City, referred to above by Lieutenant Adair, Inspector Pickler this day called upon said Marshal Needles for an explanation of the same, and Mr. Needles positively denies the issuance of such commissions and pronounces them fraudulent, and there is herewith submitted Marshal Needles's statement and denial, marked Exhibit B, and this statement Inspector MacBride and the undersigned accept as true.

Marshal Needles has ever been ready to furnish evidence in our examination of matters, and no case has been found where he has claimed an interest in any property.

Mention is made in acknowledgment of valuable assistance afforded the undersigned in investigations at Oklahoma City by Colonel Wade, commanding the troops at that place, to John Voss, esq., of Girard, Kans., now at Oklahoma City (refers to First Assistant Secretary Chandler), and O. H. Violet, police judge of that place.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector of the Public Lands Service.

EXHIBIT A.

[No. 116.]

THE SEMINOLE TOWN AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY OF KANSAS.

For value received the Seminole Town and Improvement Company hereby sells and relinquishes to Arnold Brandley all right, title, and interests that it now has or may hereafter acquire in and to lot No. 4 of block No. 19 in Oklahoma City, Ind. T., in accordance with said town company's plat and survey thereof, and this certifies the said Arnold Brandley is this day in possession and the occupant of that said lot.

THE SEMINOLE TOWN AND IMPROVEMENT COMPANY.

By L. H. CRANDELL, *Secretary.*

[SEAL.]
APRIL 27, 1889.

EXHIBIT C.

OKLAHOMA, *May 5, 1889.*

My name is Frank Foster. I have worked at this place since the 8th of last August. I was in the employ of J. H. McGranahan, who was the postmaster, and kept a boarding-house prior to the 22d of April, the day of the opening of Oklahoma. I was here on the 22d day of April, before 12 o'clock noon, and saw men surveying or staking ground in the present town site of Oklahoma before the hour of noon. There were as many as five or six in the party, but I did not go out where they were, and do not know their names.

FRANK FOSTER.

Attest:

BEN CRAYCREFT.
R. H. MANSUR.

My name is J. P. Ellis. I have been in the employ of H. L. Bickford, a Government contractor in the Oklahoma country, for the past fifteen months, and have been at the present site of Oklahoma City for the past three months. I was here on the morning of the opening, and remained here until after 12 o'clock on that day. There were men surveying on the present site of Oklahoma City as early as 10 o'clock a. m. on the 22d day of April. There were a number of people here at that time, and as many as five or six seemed to be interested in and making the survey. They carried a chain and compass. Many lots were staked along what is now Main street, with stakes having papers fastened to them, before noon of that day. I do not know the names of the parties who were here, but I know the faces of several

of them, who are still here, and whom I see frequently. I know the faces, and could point out two men, who now claim lots on Main street, who were here before noon on the 22d of April, A. D. 1889.

Attest:

BEN CRAYCROFT.
R. H. MANSUR.

J. P. ELLIS.

My name is G. A. Hoop. I reside at Newton, Kans. I am a carpenter by trade and was employed at Newton, Kans., by B. F. Studley, who I then understood was the foreman for a company who were coming from Newton to Oklahoma. There were ten carpenters employed there and we cut out the lumber for forty small buildings ready to put together before we left Newton, and this material so prepared was shipped here. Upon arriving we were instructed by the foreman to at once commence the erection of these buildings, which we did, and the first day worked until 7 o'clock, in the evening. Some complaint was made about working over hours or after 6 o'clock, when Mr. Studley, the foreman, informed us that we would get extra pay for extra time. After we quit work some of the carpenters commenced talking about going out to locate lots for themselves. Mr. Studley then told us they (whom I understood to be the company we were working for) were going to take lots in our names and would give us one-third of whatever sum the lots might sell for. We kicked a little against this, thinking we ought to have lots of our own. Then Studley informed us that "they" said we were doing good work for them and they had a lot staked out for each of us and to just go ahead with our work. Near the last of the first week I spoke to Fox Winnie about the lots and he then told me they were going to try to get us all a lot apiece, but he did not know whether they could succeed as they seemed to be nearly all taken. We again asked the foreman last week about our lots and he told us there were no lots for us; that he did not even get one for himself. We quit Friday evening, May 3, at least the most of us did. We quit at 6 o'clock. They had been boarding us, but did not even give us our supper when we quit. They never paid us anything for extra work. We put up about forty buildings for them in this place. I do not know who compose the company, but Mr. James Geary seemed to be in charge of the business and to be taking most authority. I also talked to Fox Winnie, and he talked as if he was one of the party, and in talking of lots for us used the expression "we" in speaking of what they could and could not do. I have heard Geary claim a lot in the name of a man whom I know had not been here at that time.

G. A. HOOP.

EXHIBIT D.

OKLAHOMA CITY, *Indian Territory*, ss :

I, ———, being duly sworn according to law, upon oath state that I am an actual settler upon lot No. ———, block No. ———, in said Oklahoma City, as shown by the plat of the Seminole survey, or that I have taken said lot for the purpose of making substantial improvements thereon; that no other person holds any adverse claim to said lot, or has adverse possession thereof, but that I am in undisputed possession of said lot.

Subscribed and sworn to before me this ——— day of ———, 1889.

EXHIBIT E.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., *May 8, 1889.*

SIR: In reply to your inquiry as to the number of deputy marshals I had stationed at Oklahoma City on or before the 22d of April, I desire to say that, as before reported to Mr. McBride, I had only two, viz, Messrs. Wright and Ankrum. I state this most positively.

If any other person or persons represented themselves as having been appointed by me or were there acting or pretending to be deputy United States marshals by my authority they were impostors and frauds. If in your investigation you can furnish me with the names of any such parties I will spare no effort or expense in prosecuting them to the utmost limit of the law.

Respectfully,

T. B. NEEDLES,
Marshal, Ind. T.

J. PICKLER, Esq.,
United States Inspector.

Charges against Marshal Jones, etc., May 8, 1889.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., *May 8, 1889.*

SIR: I respectfully submit the following report:

Many things are true against United States officials here which can not be proven in the absence of compulsory process to compel the attendance of witnesses and a competent tribunal authorized to take testimony. The frauds perpetrated against the bona fide settlers of Oklahoma should be investigated by a Congressional committee, with full powers to send for persons and papers.

It is difficult to obtain actual proof of frauds about the perpetration of which I am morally certain, because there are so many jobbing rings here held together by the "cohesive power of public plunder;" and for every proof obtained which we now present we have had to prick a thousand bubbles.

The atmospheric condition of things here on and before the 22d day of April seemed to impel men, heretofore honest and honorable, to grab, catch, and hold everything in sight. Much allowance is to be made in judging men who acted under great excitement and in the presence of new conditions and a general scramble never before witnessed upon this earth.

More or less injustice was inevitable, but it is a melancholy truth that United States deputy marshals and deputy collectors caused more trouble, more friction, and perpetrated more wrongs calculated to disturb the public peace than all the other citizens of Oklahoma put together.

I now proceed to specific reports, premising that I present only a fair sample of the general conduct of said officials.

Respectfully,

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
Inspector.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior.

GUTHRIE, *May 8, 1889.*

CHARGES AND SPECIFICATIONS AGAINST MARSHAL JONES, OF KANSAS.

(1) He is the avowed owner of one of the best lots in Guthrie, which he located before 12 m. on the 22d of April. Witnesses: Inspectors Pickler and MacBride, Marshal Needles, Deputy Marshal John Patterson.

(2) His deputy marshals are all the holders of lots located in violation of the President's proclamation. Particulars: Deputy Keys has three houses on two lots on the main street of the town; Deputy Collins has several lots. Witnesses: S. Devoe, G. W. Pulse, Dr. W. M. Davis.

(3) His deputies were, with his knowledge, locating lots in Guthrie and Oklahoma before 12 m. on April 22. Particulars: Deputy Marshal Patterson located four lots for Marshal Jones's brother, "Al." Jones, on the morning of the 27th ultimo. Witness: Jones's own deputy, John Patterson. M. J. Keys, deputy of Marshal Jones, was locating lots from sun up on Monday morning, the 22d of April. Same witness. Deputy Marshal Ranson Payne entered a valuable section of land near Guthrie, and has been in rows all over town about lots; in one case destroying a man's lumber and threatening him with his pistol; in another case "jumping" a man's lot and putting up a house. Witnesses: Mr. W. Colton and wife, Guthrie, D. S. Mitchell, Guthrie. Mrs. Lotta Simmons desired to procure a lot. She was advised to call upon Marshal Jones. She did so. He called upon Deputy Payne and sent him with her. Payne located her on the back part of a lot belonging to Mr. D. Blubaugh. He charged her \$15 a month and demanded also a room in the house she proposed to build. Witnesses: Mrs. Simmons, D. Blubaugh, A. A. Ritter, Guthrie. On Thursday preceding the 22d of April, Marshal Jones had four deputies in Oklahoma Territory, to wit: His brother, Al. Jones, Keys, Payne, and Havrick. Witness: W. D. Chamberlin, Guthrie. Deputy Weaver was arrested for destroying property of Hon. C. W. Constantine and claiming his lot. Witnesses: Hon. C. W. Constantine and City Register Ford, Guthrie. Weaver has also entered a quarter section near Guthrie. Witness: The land office record.

(4) Marshal Jones has been active in dealings with all the real estate brokers of Guthrie. He and his deputy, C. S. Rogers, had about 3 dozen tents consigned to them; these were all located upon lots. Witness: Deputy Patterson.

(5) Deputy John Patterson is the ex-sheriff of Cowley County, Kans. He was in the Territory engaged in building the Guthrie depot. He knew the lay of the land. He was approached by one of Marshal Jones's deputies and offered a commission on

account of his local knowledge. He was locating lots all Monday morning of the 22d of April upon the understanding that when "the storm blew over" there would be a general division of the spoils. This witness claims to know the inside details of the whole scheme and states that he can prove before a competent tribunal that there existed a conspiracy between Jones and his deputies to grab everything in sight. Address: Deputy Marshal John Patterson, Guthrie.

(6) Jones did not furnish us with a correct list of his deputies.

(7) Marshal Jones expects to be removed. Witness: Marshal Needles.

In concluding Marshal Jones's case desire to state that there are a hundred circumstances which would come out upon an examination under oath to corroborate the foregoing statements. Major Pickler will furnish additional report.

Respectfully submitted.

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
Inspector.

IN THE MATTER OF MARSHAL NEEDLES.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 8, 1889.

Marshal Needles's deputies are all either claiming quarter sections or town lots. Dan Way claims a lot for himself and one for Needles. Way is Needles's chief deputy. Witnesses: Mather & Geary, attorneys, Guthrie; I. A. Sampson, grocer, Guthrie. Touching his deputies owning or claiming lots and lands located in violation of law: Pickler and MacBride and L. G. Goff, contractor and builder, Guthrie. Deputy Metts received with a partner \$100 for his interest in a lot from D. Blubaugh, restaurant keeper, Guthrie. Deputy Varnum holds a lot and had trouble with a citizen about it. Witness: William M. Crooks, Guthrie. In justice to Marshal Needles state that he denies owning an interest in a foot of ground in the Territory of Oklahoma, and admits that his deputies procured lands and lots against his express instructions. I also state that he has given me more information about frauds and unfair dealings upon the part of officers than any other United States official upon the ground. Suspicion is in the air here touching every official, but I state as my own conclusion that there is up to this date no proof of dishonorable conduct upon the part of Marshal Needles.

Major Pickler will state his own conclusions.

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
Inspector.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 8, 1889.

General JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of Interior:

The United States attorney and his assistant, of Kansas, were at Guthrie upon the 21st of April and remained for several days. I find no trace of their having entered or claimed town lots or public lands.

Respectfully,

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
Inspector.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 8, 1889.

General JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of Interior:

The position of Collector Acers, of Kansas, remains unexplained, and the wrongs complained of touching the conduct of his alleged deputies are of the gravest character.

Respectfully,

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
Inspector.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 8, 1889.

General JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of Interior:

SIR: There are a good many complaints about jobbing on the part of the city government in the matter of surveying the streets. But public order and local government have been fully established.

I wish to be understood as indorsing the city government only so far as the maintenance of public order is concerned, as I know nothing about the legality or fairness of the city survey or the impartiality of its officers touching these matters.

Respectfully,

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
Inspector.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 8, 1889.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of Interior :

The matter of Messrs. Dille and Barnes, register and receiver, has been fully presented by us, and we have nothing further to add at this time.

Respectfully,

CORNELIUS MACBRIDE,
J. A. PICKLER,
Inspectors.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
Guthrie, Ind. T., May 8, 1889.

DEAR SIR: C. F. Sommers and D. A. Harvey, the two United States commissioners at Oklahoma City, Ind. T., are charged by citizens of that place with—

(1) Having been in the town at noon April 22, 1889, and to have claimed as their own certain town lots, and that they occupied the same illegally to the detriment of other citizens.

(2) That they have as such United States commissioners assumed to adjudge between parties claiming ownership to lots and have illegally ordered parties off their lots and have illegally ordered deputy United States marshals to remove parties from lots, and that deputy United States marshals acting under their orders have forcibly ejected people from their lots.

In support of these charges I would refer to statement of Herbert S. Butler *et al.* in form of affidavit as to action of C. F. Sommers. Said statement is hereto attached, marked A.

Also, as to charges as to both commissioners, refer to John T. Voss, W. F. Higge, J. M. McCormack, and N. H. Linthican, all of Oklahoma City.

I think that a suggestion from the judge appointing these commissioners, Judge Foster, as I understand of Kansas, as to their duties would regulate this matter.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector, Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

OKLAHOMA, IND. T., May 6, 1889.

Herbert S. Butler, Joseph B. Harrell, C. W. Arnold, and Frank E. Thacker, each being first severally sworn according to law, doth depose and say, that we are all personally acquainted with George E. Thornton, who claims to be a United States deputy marshal, and that on the 26th day of April, 1889, he came to where Herbert S. Butler and Joseph B. Harrell were then located on lots numbered 20 and 21, in block No. 1, according to citizens' survey of the city of Oklahoma, Ind. T., and that on the said day the said George L. Thornton, then claiming to be deputy United States marshal, came to where said Butler and Harrell were upon said lots, and who were claiming the possession thereon; and the said Thornton then and there ordered said Butler and Harrell to remove their tent from said lots, which was then located thereon, which they the said Butler and Harrell refused to do. The said Butler and Harrell inquired of said Thornton by what authority he gave such orders and was attempting to remove them from said lots; he, Thornton, then stated that he was deputy United States marshal and was acting under orders from C. F. Sommers, United States commissioner; said Butler and Harrell then requested said Thornton to desist from further acts of removal till they could ascertain why C. F. Sommers gave said orders and why he did so; then the said Butler and Harrell went to see one Judge Harvey, United States commissioner here, and they did see said Harvey, who said to said Butler and Harrell that he had no jurisdiction, power, or authority to act in such cases; they then reported the result of their interview with said Harvey to said George E. Thornton, who then proceeded to remove said parties and their tent from said lots, which he

then and there did; then the said Butler, Harrell, W. C. Arnold, and Frank E. Thacker went to see said C. F. Sommers, and did see him within a few minutes after the said removal of said tent and parties from said lots, and the said parties inquired of Mr. C. F. Sommers if he gave any orders to the said George E. Thornton to remove the said Harrell and Butler and their tent from said lots, and also inquired of him if he was a United States commissioner, and he, C. F. Sommers, answered to the said parties, and in the presence and hearing of each of them, that he was a United States commissioner, and then and there exhibited to them his commission as United States commissioner, which the said parties then looked at and read it; it was dated 1887. And that he further then and there stated to said parties in their presence and hearing that he had ordered George E. Thornton, marshal as aforesaid, to remove said Butler and Harrell and their tent from said lots. The said Butler and Harrell being the owner of the said tent which was then located upon said lots, and they were claiming said lots by virtue of settlement thereon; which settlement they made a very short time after 2 o'clock of Monday, the 22d day of April, 1889, and that they arrived at Oklahoma City on the first train on the Santa Fé Railroad from the south, which was near 2 o'clock of said day, and that they went aboard of said train on said day at Purcell in the Chicasaw Nation, Indian Territory, and left Purcell on said train a few moments after 12 o'clock noon of said day and came directly to Oklahoma on said train; said lots were not then surveyed, but the land composing said lots was afterwards and before the 26th day of April, 1889, surveyed by a committee and surveyors appointed by the inhabitants of Oklahoma City to make a survey of said city, which they did and numbered said lots 20 and 21, block No. 1, which said lots as now surveyed is the land upon which said Butler and Harrell settled.

And affiants further state that said interview with C. F. Sommers he stated to said Butler, Harrell, Arnold, and Thacker, that he (Sommers) was the owner of the property in question.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
Guthrie, Ind. T., May 7, 1889.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find report as to action of United States Commissioners C. F. Sommers and D. H. Harvey, of Oklahoma City, Ind. T.

Very respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary Interior, Washington, D. C.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 9, 1889.

DEAR SIR: Inclosed please find report of the building of land offices at Guthrie and Kingfisher stage station, Ind. T.

Very respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

ARKANSAS CITY, KANS., April 25, 1889.

DEAR SIR: I will make a formal report of the building of the land offices as soon as I can accurately locate the one at Guthrie.

I made a regular campaign of the building, and staid out with the contractor and his teamsters or I never could have finished them on time.

I arrived at this place, Arkansas City, on Saturday the 13th, and after awaiting the receipt of your telegram, contracted for the building of the two offices. Contractor was to frame and get buildings ready as nearly as possible to put up, and ship by car on Tuesday to Guthrie for both offices. He had to send teams from here to Guthrie about 100 miles by-wagon road to haul the lumber from Guthrie to Kingfisher.

I went with him on Sunday and saw Captain Hays, commanding company on Cherokee Strip and secured passes for his men and teams.

I took train from here for Guthrie on Monday morning, but the contractor, owing to delay on the railroad, did not get to Guthrie until Wednesday noon. I boarded with the section hands and slept with agent.

We immediately commenced the Guthrie building, expecting his teams to arrive that evening and be ready to start at once for Kingfisher.

The teams, however, had to wait for swollen streams to run down, and had to swim their horses over one, and take their wagons over by hand, and did not get to Guthrie until Thursday, 3 o'clock.

We got loaded about sundown and the teamsters wanted to camp at the station over night. I was opposed to this as I knew we would have a late start if we remained at station until morning.

I firmly but quickly insisted that we must make a start, which we did after dark and traveled 5 miles. It rained hard on us. We slept on the ground, and the teamsters were more out of humor than ever.

No one of us knew the road, and although I tried for three days to get a guide. I could not find a man who had traveled from Guthrie to Kingfisher. We started early Friday morning, followed a road a portion of the way and took our direction across the prairie and creeks, crossing them as best we could, and managed to get over them without delay, and fortunately, at 9 o'clock Friday night reached Kingfisher, driving about 40 miles. Saturday and Sunday the buildings were put up, and by Sunday night both offices were ready for occupancy, the register at Kingfisher wishing to make some changes on the inside, had the carpenters wait a day or two before finishing.

So the buildings were ready Monday morning for occupancy, and at Guthrie the register and receiver came into the buildings on Saturday. I staid with them and slept with them and did not have my clothes off for five nights. It was like soldiering.

At 2 o'clock Sunday I started with a team to return to Guthrie, camped on the way Sunday night, and arrived in Guthrie at between 10 and 11 on Monday.

As I came in some surveyors were finishing a survey of the town. I am glad of your telegram to-day instructing us to ferret it out. It is a fraud and an outrage on the law-abiding people who obeyed the President's proclamation. We will try and get to the bottom of it, and have already been collecting evidence on the matter. There are some strange facts connected with the town, and some of the land entries, as we view it. We will report. I was besieged on all sides to take men in with me to allow them to go and help me, but I refused all, went in alone and have steered clear of lots and lands, as I believed it my duty.

Yours, truly

J. A. PICKLER.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Washington, D. C.

Register Dille's defense to charges preferred by Inspectors MacBride and Major Pickler.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
Guthrie, Ind. T., May 9, 1889.

SIR: I have the honor to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 3d instant relative to information received at your office in reference to certain matters alleged to have occurred at the opening of the land office at this place April 22, 1889.

In answer thereto permit to me to say: It is true that a man by the name of Mark S. Cohn appeared at this office at the opening thereof, at noon, April 22, 1889, and filed an application for a town site for the town of Guthrie (an application for a homestead entry for himself, and soldier's declaratory statements for Berry Twitchell, James H. Hacklebury, and Benton Turner on the lands described in your letter). But it is not true that he was a friend of or an acquaintance of mine, or that the men for whom he filed soldiers' declaratory statements were friends or acquaintances of mine. On the contrary, he and they were total strangers to me, about whom I knew nothing. I do not know when, how, or by what authority Mr. Cohn came into the Territory, except I knew that he could not have come into the Territory after 12 o'clock noon and be at this office a few minutes after that hour. I had no knowledge of Mr. Cohn nor of the existence of his town site or homestead applications or his soldiers' declaratory statements until they were presented at the land office to be filed. I did not know at that time who prepared such town-site application, and do not know now, except from hearsay, that Colonel Clayton prepared it. It is not true that Colonel Clayton is a personal friend of mine; but, on the contrary, it is true that prior to the 19th or 20th day of April he was a stranger to me, on which day I was introduced to him. I have seen him but three or four times since and then merely to pass the time of day. As to what he did or did not do on or before the 22d day of April, 1889, or since said date, in locating homesteads, town sites, or town lots I do not know; upon which subject I have no information whatever.

It is true that Jehu E. Dille is a half brother of mine, that at about 12:30 p. m. April

2, 1889, he filed a homestead application for himself (and soldiers' declaratory statements for a brother of his and for James B. Kenner on the lands described in your letter, and that he signed, with others, the town-site application referred to). He was in this Territory prior to noon April 22, 1889, but he was here without any aid or assistance from me, and against my advice and wishes. When he presented his homestead-entry papers to me as register of this office I turned to Hon. Frank D. Hobbs, an inspector of your Department, sent here to aid and instruct us in our work, and to Major Pickler, a special agent of your Department, and informed them of my relationship with the applicant and of the other facts above stated as to his entering the Territory, and declined to examine or pass upon his papers. Said inspector and special agent examined all papers presented by him, and the receiver administered the oaths required by law. As to how he came to or why he signed the town-site application I do not know. Such action was taken by him without my knowledge or consent. The first information I had on the subject was the appearance of his name, with others, when the application was presented. I do know, however, that he has not taken nor attempted to take a town lot in this Territory, or in any way attempt to profit by having signed said application, and that his desire is and has been to get a tract of land for farming purposes and not for town sites.

Some stress seems to be placed upon our allowing entries to be made by persons who were in the Territory prior to noon April 22. I have supposed that the register and receiver have no authority to look beyond the face of the papers in receiving applications, and that all questions of that character would be raised and determined by appeals, contests, Department orders, etc., and have acted under that belief. Mr. Hobbs, a man of great experience, has been here to aid us and must have entertained the same views, as no other course was suggested by him.

It is further stated, in substance, that three deputy marshals, who officiated at the land-office doors, were appointed at my especial request, and that they prevented others than those above named from making entries. This charge is an unmitigated falsehood. But one deputy marshal was appointed on my recommendation. Mr. Needles offered me the commissions for three deputies, believing that we should have some officials present at this office with whom we were acquainted. I accepted one and refused to take the other two because I did not know of but one person who desired to go into the Territory as a looker-on with whom I was personally acquainted. I gave the one commission to Mr. O. E. Mohler, city editor of the Fort Wayne Gazette, who had a sixty days' leave of absence from the proprietors of his paper, and who desired to see the opening scene, and who stated to me at the time that he did not desire to acquire property. At 12 o'clock, noon, Mr. Mohler was directed to open the doors of the land office, which are double and swing inwardly. He did as requested, and to our surprise, having expected and prepared for a great rush, the men walked quietly into the room in single file, or very nearly so, without any rush or pushing or interference from any one. I did not place, or cause to be placed, any marshals outside of the door, and did not know the name or face of any of them, but saw no move by any of them to prevent persons from entering the room, and I do not believe any such moves were made. I do know that Mr. Mohler, the only deputy marshal in the room, did not interfere with any one and did not prevent or attempt to prevent any one from entering the room or approaching the place at which I was stationed to receive applications, which was in front and in 6 feet of the door. Major Hobbs, an inspector of your Department, stood by my side, as also did Receiver Barnes and the two clerks of the office, and I am sure they all will verify what I here state. Not a man was prevented from making an entry by the misconduct of any one. Major Hobbs, at the time, expressed himself as highly pleased with the unexpected good conduct of all present the first day.

It is stated that Government officials are illegally holding town lots with the connivance of both register and receiver. As this charge is not specific I can only say in general terms that the accusation is false. I have no interest, directly or indirectly, in one foot of land in Oklahoma. Neither has any other person through my aid or connivance. What I have here stated as to myself I am sure is also true as to Mr. Barnes, the receiver.

You ask for information which I may possess as to whether the law has been broken in letter or spirit by any officials of the United States, or by those connected with them. I believe that persons have come into the Territory as officials who have violated the law, and yet I am unable to be sufficiently specific to be of much service to you for the following reasons:

Our office furniture was purchased at St. Louis and was to be delivered at Guthrie by the 17th or 18th of April. Our books, blanks, and supplies were sent to Arkansas City by mail. We were detained at Arkansas City with our supplies until Saturday afternoon, April 20, by the failure of our furniture to arrive, and by the failure of the carpenters to have the office building completed. It was nearly dark Saturday evening before we arrived at Guthrie. We began work at once to get the books, plats, blanks, and office in shape. We have been so crowded that we have been compelled

to work from early morning until late at night, and confined almost constantly to the office. For these reasons we have been unable to mingle with the people and learn the facts. When we arrived at Guthrie hundreds of people were here and from that time on the number increased. Who were or were not officials we did not know and had no means by which we could find out. The people as a rule brought their tents with them to sleep in. They were pitched without any reference to lots, streets, or alleys. The first few days Guthrie was a city of several thousand without a street or alley, and with tents covering almost every available space of ground. It was impossible for us under the circumstances to learn who the persons were and whether they claimed the ground upon which their tents were located, except for temporary occupancy. Soon after the 22d the city authorities made a survey of the city, located lots, streets, alleys, etc. Several different persons were frequently on the same lot, many were in the streets and alleys. The city authorities compelled those in streets and alleys to vacate the premises, and they all had to seek new locations. The claimants for each lot have lessened in number by mutual concessions, abandonment, etc. The pressure of our work, great rush, constant confinement and sickness of myself for two or three days have made it impossible for me to keep informed as to the changes, and have not made an attempt to do so. I have been told that a number of deputy marshals have taken homesteads, but as I have no list of such officials I can not verify such statement.

I have tried to answer each point mentioned in your letter, and think I have done so. Should you find my answers in any particular not sufficiently explicit I shall be glad to answer more in detail and furnish you any information in my possession.

While I was astonished to receive your letter, I am glad of the opportunity to tell the facts just as they are.

Your obedient servant,

JOHN I. DILLE,
Register.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR,
Guthrie, Ind. T., May 9, 1889.

DEAR SIR: The inclosed is an engrossed copy of resolution, adopted by the mayor and councilmen of the city of Guthrie, Ind. T.

C. F. HOUGH,
City Clerk.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

Whereas in the settlement of the many difficult questions arising from the opening of Oklahoma to entry, and especially of those connected with the town site of Guthrie, invaluable assistance has been rendered by Hon. Cornelius McBride, special agent of the Interior Department; and

Whereas in the effort to maintain law and order and to establish a properly authorized municipality, representing the people, he has aided the people with his counsel; and

Whereas he has faithfully represented the actual condition of affairs in his reports from Oklahoma, and thus presented the law-abiding spirit of the people to the public as well as the authorities at Washington:

Be it resolved by the mayor and council of the city of Guthrie, Indian Territory, That the hearty thanks of the city council, speaking in behalf of the people, are hereby extended to Hon. Cornelius McBride; and

Resolved, That a copy of these resolutions, attested by the mayor and city clerk, be presented to him, while a second copy be forwarded to the Secretary of the Interior, Hon. John W. Noble.

UNITED STATES LAND OFFICE,
Guthrie, Ind. T., May 13, 1889.

DEAR SIR: I desire to say informally to you that two of Marshal Thomas Needles's deputies have claimed and held lots in Guthrie from and since the 22d of April. Also Nelson Clark and Wallround, district attorney of the United States court at Muskogee, each held a lot here on the 22d, but have not been here any great length of time since, and I do not know positively whether or not the two latter now claim lots.

If you desire full reports and facts in these cases you can so indicate. I consider it my duty under your instructions to keep you advised of the situation.

Your prompt and decided action against all jobs, speculations, and frauds against the people is appreciated and the great regret is that you do not feel yourself authorized under the law to direct matters here. An indication from you on any matter here is as good as a statute, so far as being obeyed is concerned. I trust the criticism of officers of the Government is about ended here and many of them regret that they have subjected themselves to the criticisms made.

Very respectfully,

HON. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

J. A. PICKLER.

MR. NIEDRINGHAUS MEASURES GENERAL NOBLE.

[Special dispatch to the Globe-Democrat.]

WASHINGTON, D. C., May 10.

A certain candidate confided to Congressman Niedringhaus, who arrived from New York this morning, his desire to be an Indian agent. He explained confidentially that he understood that there were opportunities for making money in the Indian service. The Congressman listened quietly, and then balancing his eye-glasses between his thumb and finger in a judicial and kindly manner, said to the candidate:

"My friend, if you are expecting to make money out of an Indian agency you had better give up the idea right now. I can tell you, from what I know of the man, it will not be possible under Secretary Noble."

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 14, 1889.

DEAR SIR: I would respectfully submit concerning the town site of Edmonds, an addition to telegram of 13th. That I proceeded to the town of Edmonds, 15 miles south of this point, on the afternoon of Saturday, the 11th. I called a meeting of the citizens in the afternoon, representing the different interests, from which I learned that before noon of Monday, April 22, a party of surveyors were at this point, did some surveying in forenoon of a town site, and continued Monday afternoon and for some two or three days afterward.

This survey was in charge of a Mr. Shoop, from somewhere in Kansas, and was made for the Seminole Town Company, being the same company referred to in my report concerning Marshal Jones as operating at Oklahoma City.

This company had a "blue print" Monday afternoon, 22d, of the town of Edmonds, as they laid off and surveyed the same, had certificates similar to the ones used at Oklahoma City and of the one forwarded you, and asked settlers \$25 per lot.

Another survey was made on the same land as that surveyed by Shoop on Monday afternoon, 22d, by parties who came in afternoon, and chiefly from Chicago. This company invited settlers, but put the lots up at auction, one lot being bid up and purchased by one of the company for \$126.

It was asserted by parties present, however, that these bids were made by parties belonging to the last-mentioned company and that they invariably secured the best lots by bidding higher than other settlers, but that they paid no money; in other words, by this plan this company secured and held the best lots many of them, which lots they might afterward dispose of privately at whatsoever price they could obtain. The surveyors for the Seminole Company, who were managing it, and with their plat were offering the lots of their survey for sale about the time of the promulgation of the telegram from Commissioner Stockslager to the undersigned, ceased to offer to sell lots, and abandoned the site, at least no one thereafter claimed for that company. Settlers, however, arriving, and, being displeased with the action of the parties who auctioned the lots under the second survey, began settlement on lots as surveyed and staked by the Seminole Company, where they could secure the lots free, as the second survey proposed to charge from \$10 to \$25 for lots not disposed of at auction under their survey.

These surveys were in conflict, the streets and alleys of one being blocks and lots of another, and houses were built accordingly in the street as claimed by one party under their survey, and this state of affairs having continued for several days had engendered much ill-feeling, and the people were all at a loss to know what to do.

I insisted on a compromise, and that they must agree and proceed under one sur-

vey. The company making the second survey had captured the organization on Monday night, 22d, and elected a mayor and council, and had filed a declaration as to their site in the land office.

The settlers claimed, many of them, that the election of this mayor and council was quietly done by a few, and that many of them, although present in the town, knew nothing of the election.

The settlers had a meeting called for 8 o'clock p. m. of the 11th, to elect another mayor and council, which would of course bring on a conflict between the two governments.

Upon my suggestion, the meeting to elect a new mayor and council was converted into a meeting to appoint committees to harmonize the differences, and they would not permit me to leave until I remained and presided at this meeting and assisted in arranging a compromise.

A committee was appointed, and, as I since learn, agreed that the mayor and council elected should hold forty days from the time of their election, when there shall be an election by ballot for the city officers; that a new survey will be made, and all buildings will be adjusted to this survey, and that all parties will accept the compromise, and that there will be no further trouble in regard to the Edmond town site.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary Interior, Washington, D. C.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 15, 1889. *

DEAR SIR: I would respectfully submit in addition to telegram of 14th instant, concerning the town site of Harrison, Oklahoma, as follows:

Upon information coming to me that certain parties had laid out a town site and were offering lots for sale 6 miles south of this place, on section 36, township 16, range 3, west of the Indian Meridian, I proceeded to that point on the 13th.

I found a portion of the section staked off into lots, a tent on the site, and a large sign-board bearing the name Harrison fronting the railway, where it passes through the tract.

I talked with J. M. Minick, president of the Harrison Town Company, which company has charge of it.

He contended that school sections were the places to locate towns in order to secure title, said they had consulted the highest authority in the Government and had been so informed; said they would sell lots from \$5 to \$10 each; called it expenses; that about ninety lots had been disposed of.

I saw parties to whom they had been seeking to sell lots.

The president said they were not yet circulating their printed matter, until they got the railway company to put in a switch. Offered to give the undersigned a lot, if he would put in a small store at once.

I submit a plat that came into my hands in the vicinity of the town, marked A, as part of this report.

The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway passes through the section about as indicated, but the other road has not yet a survey.

I learned that there were about sixteen parties came in from about Wichita, Kans., and have settled on lands around and in the vicinity of this section 36, and that these parties are the projectors of this town site. They have cut some of the timber on the tract. There is a station on the Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fé Railway, about 2 miles south of this site, called Seward.

I desire to say in this connection that there are numerous parties settling upon and in some instances improving school lands, and many under the impression that they have the right to do so.

In other cases the settlers about the school section are cutting and appropriating the timber found thereon.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., May 18, 1889.

DEAR SIR: I desire to submit that for about ten days past there has been a steadily increasing feeling here among the people against the city council of Guthrie.

This council was very irregularly chosen to begin with, and as the people understood for the purpose merely of putting the machinery of the city in motion, and of recommending and devising a more permanent form of government for the city. The mayor was selected by a committee of seven chosen by a mass meeting, and a committee of one from each State and Territory first chosen to recommend what action the people should take to govern themselves by common consent afterward, because the council, something in excess of thirty, I think, at the time chosen, but now numbering about fifteen.

Grave responsibilities were forced upon them, and generally, I think, they have assumed and settled them in a creditable manner. They have preserved order, surveyed the town, cleared the streets practically, and in these matters they are commended by all. They have, however, assumed other powers and undertaken to act in various matters that is very generally and very emphatically condemned.

They appointed an attorney at \$1,500 per year, and an adviser of the council in addition, at a salary in excess of this, a board of five arbitrators on settling the right of possession to lots, some being members of the council, at \$10 per day each, compelling every contestant to deposit each \$10 before his case could be heard, and returning only the \$10 to the party succeeding, and keeping the remainder, sometimes being five or six contestants to the same lot.

Have granted or pretended to grant a franchise for ten years to a company to supply the city with water, built a bridge across the stream, grading streets, and in like manner taking many such steps that the citizens loudly protest they were not chosen to do, and, further, collecting large taxes, occupation tax for a business of \$5 per month, a survey tax, a recorder's tax on lots, etc.

Enacting harsh ordinances with heavy and severe penalties for violation of these ordinances, and recklessly using money in paying officials and surveying the town, in violation of the resolutions of the people, meeting in order to save their own lots.

Further, it is claimed against this council that they are of those who came in on Sunday before the 22d and seized all of the best lots, and that the city government has in all matters protected the interests of these men. The mayor, Mr. Dyer, of Kansas City, came on Sunday.

The more emphatic this charge has been made from the fact that the city council instructs their boards of arbitration that in considering who is entitled to a lot the board can not take into consideration the time of settling as before or after 12 o'clock, but that priority of settlement on Monday the 22d, regardless of the hour, entitled the party to the lot. This the people consider in direct conflict with the President's proclamation.

In the last few days the council, in addition to the first board of arbitration of five, selected two other boards of five each, with a compensation of \$5 per day each, as claimed by some, and \$10 as claimed by others.

The council has likewise transacted much of its business with closed doors. The lawyers during the week have formed a bar association, and are the first to take action looking to an election of city officers and to the drafting of a charter to govern them.

A petition was circulated yesterday asking the council to call an election, to divide the city into wards, and to have the registry of the voters, and asking that the election be held Monday the 27th of May. Everybody practically signs the petition.

Independent of this petition the citizens held a large mass-meeting last evening on the Government acre. They were very much in earnest and very determined. Before I arrived at their place of meeting, and after speeches by different parties, they had passed a resolution ousting the mayor and city council, appointed a committee to so notify them, and also had passed a resolution appointing a committee of seven to call a city election, ignoring the present mayor and council. At this time there had grown to be considerable excitement. The friends of the old council were on the outskirts, deriding this action, which only tended to incense the great majority of the crowd.

I now desire, at the risk of seeming egotistic, to inform you, Mr. Secretary, of my action in the matter, as I was doubtful then, and am still so, as to whether I should have so done.

I have heretofore, although frequently called on at these mass-meetings, refrained from appearing or saying anything, as I have at all times refrained from entering into the questions of who should be selected for officers or what these officers should do, other than to advise a peaceable and quiet administration and that city officers, United States marshals, and military should act harmoniously in preserving order. And previous to this mass-meeting (except at the bar meeting one evening, when some members advised the calling of an election, ignoring the present government, I said a few words in favor of the petition to the council asking them to call the election) I have never said anything.

At the juncture above described, in this large meeting of last evening, however, when a few men were pushing an adjournment, leaving the resolution in effect to oust the present council, there were loud calls for me, from, I think, both sides or sentiments. I finally took the stand. I told them that as humble representative of the Interior Department I desired to say that the desire of the Department and the Government was that they should have a good and economic as well as honest administration of their city affairs, and that the Government was determined to stand by the men who obeyed the President's proclamation, so far as it was in its power to do.

I then told them that in my judgment it was a mistake to not petition the mayor and council to call the election, that it would most likely result in two conflicting city governments and great disorder and confusion as well as great danger to the public good; that they must admit that the council had done much to be commended, and that I was confident an election would not be refused them. Agreed with them that they were entitled to a speedy election by ballot; that they were entitled to a sworn statement from the present council as to all moneys collected and paid out; that their incoming administration should define the fees of all officers and boards; should be economic, and should be very careful in regard to granting to individuals valuable franchises of the city without due consideration.

All parties of the large crowd gave me their undivided attention, and from all sides came the cries of "That is right." A Mr. Dale, an attorney of Wichita, followed advising the same, and at the close of his remarks a motion was made to reconsider the vote declaring the offices vacant, but the chairman of the meeting and about half a dozen others who were in favor of the action already taken by the meeting, declared the motion out of order, and amid great confusion, and no little excitement, the meeting was about to be adjourned, against the almost unanimous desire of those present to carry out my suggestion.

They again called for me, and quickly mounting the stand, I very earnestly appealed to them to act coolly, and asked them if the resolution they had passed prevailed what would become of the city without officers and without a government until they elected others. To this rather alarming condition, the few ultra ones seemed to take heed, and the motion again made to reconsider carried, and a committee appointed to present petitions to the mayor to call an election, and then adjourned in good humor, and all, I think, deeming the action taken for the best.

Now as to whether I should have as an officer of the Government taken part in this meeting or undertaken to advise or whether the question should have been left with them without any interference or suggestion on my part is a point upon which I am not thoroughly satisfied. It seemed the thing to do, and many of the most conservative men came to me and thanked me for the action taken, and said that it had undoubtedly saved serious trouble.

I do not think such an emergency will arise again. The council will grant the election; in fact just before the close of the meeting sent word that the election would be called for June 10. This, however, is too late a date to suit the people, and I think when we confer with the council on this point, they will fix an earlier date. The meeting was unanimous, however, that if the council refused to call the election, that then the citizens would call it.

It is a very interesting study to watch this, a pure democracy, evolve a government and set their machinery in motion, but it will be done peaceably and orderly and without trouble if liquor does not enter, and the United States marshals and deputies are to be commended for their vigilance in this direction.

The necessity and wisdom of a constitution or charter, restricting the powers of public bodies, had been impressed upon my mind here as never before.

New people are still arriving, and the town, as does also Oklahoma City, continues to grow as rapidly as at the beginning. It is simply wonderful.

The city governments of all the other towns in the territory of Oklahoma are running smoothly, and the officers of the land office are handling the business in a very commendable manner.

My opinion is that I would better at least remain in this section until after the election of city officers here in Guthrie.

All of which is respectfully submitted with the further suggestion that there is an urgent necessity for some directions to the local land officers as to how contests against town lot occupants may be initiated and the rights of the parties preserved.

I am, very respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector of the Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., *May 19, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: I would respectfully submit: That John M. Gallaway, a United States commissioner who came to Guthrie, Ind. T., Saturday, April 20, is settled upon a lot upon which he placed his tent upon his arrival here, and that his son, aged seventeen years, also claims one, his father insisting on the son's claim also; that they have both been involved in a contest concerning the lots, and that the board of arbitration of the city council has awarded a lot to the commissioner, John M. Gallaway, and also one to the son, against other contestants. Mr. Gallaway is lately from Kansas. All of which is submitted.

I am, very respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., *May 28, 1889.*

DEAR SIR: I desire to state that matters here are quiet and peaceable. There is some feeling by individuals concerning their ejection from lots, and occasionally there is a controversy concerning the building upon a disputed lot, or when one party in the absence of another claimant commences a building, but in these the citizens do not take any special interest.

There have been two instances in which a squad of soldiers have come up town. The one of which I telegraphed you, at which the crowd had dispersed before they arrived, and in the other there was a fist fight occurring when they came to where there had been some interference with the workmen pulling a foundation off that had been quietly placed on early Sunday morning.

In my opinion there has not yet been any necessity for calling a soldier from the camp.

I do not doubt, Mr. Secretary, that were you here as a United States marshal that you could yourself preserve order without assistance.

The city authorities have not for several days undertaken to evict anyone, nor do I think they will until after election, and this has been the immediate cause (evictions) of the disturbances above referred to. I can not refrain repeating, as heretofore often asserted, that the people are a remarkably orderly and quiet people.

After the election, June 4, the rules and regulations, which the new council may establish concerning claimants to lots, will, I think, be respected by all parties, and the Government will be respected and more satisfactory.

I inclose slip from Daily (Guthrie) Capital, commenting upon my report, with items concerning council.

I submit, Mr. Secretary, that after the election here June 4, that I do not believe there is much necessity of my remaining here longer, unless a new emergency arises.

And I desire to further suggest if you have need of anyone about the Sioux reservation, or in the Dakota land matters or land office, I would be pleased to get up to where I could see my family, or if any other locality you desire me to go, I might go by my home.

Should be pleased to hear from you concerning the matter.

Yours truly,

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

MAJOR PICKLER.

[Daily Capital May 28.]

On the first page of to-day's paper will be found a report sent by Inspector Pickler to Secretary Noble, under date of May 18. Of course there are many statements which will grate harshly on the sensitive feelings of some of our councilmen. But Major Pickler is regarded by all who have made his acquaintance as an honorable gentleman, who can have no interest in making a misstatement in regard to Guthrie's affairs. He undoubtedly weighed carefully every statement he made to his superior officer, and having mingled freely with the residents of the city undoubtedly knew the feeling existing here regarding the management of city affairs. Major Pickler

says in the first part of his report "the council was readily chosen, to begin with and as the people understood, for the purpose merely of putting the machinery of the city in motion." This statement we all know to be true. Look at some of the men who claim to "represent States" in the council thus "readily chosen," and the exclamation will be made, "God help the State you claim to represent if you are a fair sample." Why, the fact is, if the States some of these men claim to hail from ever hear about attempts you have made at legislation in Guthrie they will saw out the county you hail from, slide it out into the ocean, and mark the place with an indelible blot of infamy.

There are many good and honorable men in the city council—men who have worked for the best interests of the people, men who have done their whole duty without fear or expectation of reward except the indorsement of their official acts. To those few men the citizens have the kindest feelings. But for these men, who in the hour of a little brief authority, held by the most slender thread, that have spent their time scheming to pass ordinances in conflict with the President's proclamation, in conflict with all ideas of right and justice, they will certainly be dispensed with on the 4th of June. You men who have done your whole duty for Guthrie have no reason to fear any of the statements made in Major Pickler's letter, nor are you expected to condone the sins of men you had no hand in choosing, nor apologize for the shameful city legislation in which you did not range yourselves alongside with those who have disgraced the name of Guthrie.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., June 8, 1889.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,

Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C. :

I would respectfully submit that, learning there was some friction in the city government at Oklahoma City and desiring to confer with the people concerning the adoption of a charter, I visited that place on the 5th instant.

I found that a petition had been signed quite extensively asking the mayor and a portion of the city council to resign for reasons therein set forth, which I do not think it necessary to state, and that there was quite a strong feeling existing between those signing and others opposing the petition.

The suggestion of the adoption by the people of a charter was generally favorably received, but some difference of opinion as to time it should be submitted to a vote.

I learned that a mass meeting was advertised for the evening on one of the principal streets, which I attended. There was, I should judge, about 1,000 voters, very quiet and orderly.

The committee appointed to ask the resignation of the officers reported that they refused to resign. A motion was then made to appoint a committee to call an election to select delegates to frame a charter independent of the mayor and council. It seemed about to carry without discussion when I asked to be heard, when I suggested that the motion be amended so as to appoint a committee to ask the city council to call an election for delegates instead of calling it independent of that body. There were cries from a few that "we have no government;" but this was not countenanced by the crowd, especially after the mention of a number of facts showing they had a pretty strong government.

The motion amended prevailed, and the committee was appointed to ask the council to call the election.

I append hereto an account of the meeting from the Oklahoma City Daily Journal of the 6th as part hereof.

"AN IMPORTANT MOVE—MAJOR PICKLER ADVISES A CHARTER CONVENTION—THE BOARD OF TRADE APPOINTS AN IMPORTANT COMMITTEE—THE CLAIMANTS TO THE COUCH QUARTER TO BE TREATED WITH.

"There have been several points of very critical interest in the history of Oklahoma City, and last night was one of them. Two meetings were held which in their results may be as important to the future interests of Oklahoma City as any events that have as yet transpired in our history. The first was the decision to petition the mayor and council to call an election of delegates to a charter convention for the purpose of formulating an organic instrument to define, designate, and limit the legislative powers of the council. At the citizens' meeting, held on Grand avenue, the committee appointed to request the resignation of certain members of the city government reported that these gentlemen demand the charges preferred against them and decline to resign. Thereupon Judge Adams moved that the meeting appoint a committee to call a charter convention. Major Pickler, special inspector of the General Land Department, made a vigorous and thoroughly sensible and convincing

speech, showing the utter folly of having two distinct city governments, advising peace and harmony. He suggested that the motion be so amended as to provide instead for a committee to ask the mayor and council to call an election for a delegate convention to prepare a charter defining the powers of the city government. After some further discussion this amendment was made and carried, and the committee appointed, consisting of Messrs. Woods, Adams, Finley, Woodson, and Bayless.

"This is a matter of vital importance—of altogether too much importance, indeed, to be decided without careful deliberation. There are weighty considerations both ways, and we advise a thorough investigation of the matter in all its bearings with a view to the best interests of the city. We know the matter is now under earnest consideration by a large number of business men, and we earnestly desire to do nothing to embarrass in any way the wisest action.

"The other meeting to which reference was made in the beginning of this article was the meeting of the board of trade. There was a large attendance, but the meeting for the election of the board of directors was postponed until Monday night. The West Oklahoma question was taken up, and a motion was made to appoint a committee to negotiate with the various claimants of the tract through their attorneys for their relinquishments. Major Pickler being present, made some very forcible remarks heartily approving the idea of getting this tract peaceably, and strongly deprecating any idea of forcible entry. The motion was carried unanimously, and Messrs. J. L. Brown, C. P. Walker, C. W. Price, G. W. Adams, and B. N. Woodson were appointed. We need not say that we heartily approve of this plan, as it is in line with the proposition heretofore made in this paper. For some reason, whether just or not we do not pretend to say, some of the contestants to this property refused to treat with the committee previously appointed, but it is believed they will all listen to overtures now. We emphatically favor exhausting every means to open this town site peaceably. The method of acquiring lots in case the tract was secured was not extensively discussed, but we think it is the universal feeling that those who failed to get lots in Oklahoma City should have the first chance in West Oklahoma.

"In connection with these matters we may say that we had a pleasant interview with Major Pickler this morning, in which he spoke in glowing terms of the possibilities in store for Oklahoma City in case she continues to steer clear of internal discord.

"Colonel Pickler's remarks to the mass meeting last night about the necessity of avoiding internal dissensions, and of pulling together for the good of the town, were eminently sensible and to the point, and they fell upon attentive ears. The people of Oklahoma City realize the golden opportunity that is within their grasp, and the Journal has implicit faith that their wisdom and prudence and moderation will be equal to the solution of every difficulty that lies in their way."

The Daily Gazette likewise indorsed the action in effect the same.

On the next day, the 6th, I had a conference with the different committees of business men representing the different opinions, and the military, the mayor and council members.

Had the mayor meet at my room the committee representing those who had demanded his resignation, and a general discussion of the situation was had, the charges and complaints considered, for a period of two hours, when a much better feeling prevailed, and promises of efforts to harmonize.

Further conference was had on the 7th, when I returned to Guthrie, and as both parties urged me to return again and assist in further negotiations for the adjustment of their differences I promised to do so within a few days.

A better feeling prevailed, and I think the differences will be harmonized, although there is determined sentiment and antagonistic yet prevailing.

I am, very respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector Public Land Service.

GUTHRIE, IND. T., June 10, 1889.

DEAR SIR: I would respectfully submit that, being about to leave the Oklahoma field of work, I desire to say in behalf of the land office at Guthrie that its management and discharge of business is being satisfactorily performed.

The affairs of the office proceed in a quiet, orderly, and commendable manner. There is no complaint concerning the same, to my knowledge, and I believe its officers are faithfully performing their duties.

I have not had the opportunity to recently visit the land office at Kingfisher, but understand its business is proceeding satisfactorily.

I am, respectfully,

J. A. PICKLER,
Inspector of the Public Land Service.

HON. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Secretary of the Interior, Washington, D. C.

FAULKTON, S. DAK., *June 21, 1889.*

DEAR GENERAL: The copy of the letter of D. B. Dyer, esq., mayor of Guthrie, under date of May 28, has just reached me forwarded from Guthrie. I am surprised at its contents as they are so utterly false.

I had not intended to trouble you with the detail of the city government of Guthrie, further than that submitted under date of May 17, and forwarded that only by way of explanation of the causes of the deep-seated dissatisfaction at that time prevailing against the city government of Guthrie.

I did not suppose then, nor do I now think, that you care to consider the detail or action of the officers of that place, further than the bearing they may have had upon the public peace.

I must, however, ask to trespass upon your time to deny most emphatically the assertions of Mr. Dyer and to suggest a few further facts concerning that now defunct city government.

And first, although Dyer may have signed this letter, or written it, I do not believe he is the real author of it, but I am of the opinion that its real origin is from some members of that old city council, and that it was prepared in the heat of feeling which the publication of my report aroused among that body, and Dyer was required to sign it.

Your publication of my report at that time was the very best thing that could have happened to the people of Guthrie. It aroused the indignation of the "jobbers" and "corruptionists" of that body, but it was heartily indorsed by the people, and the facts being thus summarized and published called attention to these abuses and solidified all parties against the re-election of the members of that council.

Now, before referring to Dyer's letter, I desire to call attention to a few facts concerning my position taken and held at all times as connected with Mr. Dyer and the old council.

I at all times contended when asked in regard to the matter, and I did not introduce this subject myself, that the President's proclamation meant what it said, and that the parties who violated the same, entering the Territory before noon of the 22d of April, would not be regarded as occupying the same position as the men who obeyed the law honestly. I did not raise these questions, but quietly attended to my own business; but, being frequently interrogated as to this question, the foregoing was my position.

Now, several of this old council, and Mr. Dyer, the mayor, were law-breakers; were in the Territory before noon of 22d, Mr. Dyer coming on Sunday, the day before. Now, at all times the men who came before noon, 22d, stood together, and of course these did not appreciate the doctrine of obeying the law and the President's proclamation.

Moreover, Mr. Dyer was made mayor first by a committee of seven, and Mr. Marshal Jones, of whom we have heretofore reported, gave the casting vote that elected Dyer, and then this old council passed an ordinance governing their board of arbitration first appointed, which Mayor Dyer approved, declaring it irrelevant as to the time of entering the Territory, in controversy for lots before the board, in terms declaring that the parties first upon the lot after 12 o'clock to be entitled to it without regard to the time of entering the Territory. Now, it is equally and more emphatically true that all persons who came in accordance to law denounced the rule governing this board of arbitration, and were in favor of maintaining the law of Congress rather than this rule. Now, when questioned concerning the matter, I was, in my opinion, in accord with the people, and the law of Congress and the President's proclamation, and on that point not in accord with this board of arbitration.

Mr. Dyer begins his letter by stating that P. has "continuously since coming here been, and still is guilty of practices that are endangering the peace and good order of our whole community."

This is a willful and deliberate falsehood. I came to Guthrie April 15, to commence the building of the land office; was there the 22d, made it my headquarters until my leaving. Now, is it not a little singular that not until May 28, after the publication and the reading by this mayor and city council of Guthrie my report on the complaints of the people concerning them, that my seditious doctrines were thought of sufficient moment to report to you.

And on the contrary of this assertion I was continuously consulted, in connection with Mr. MacBride, by the marshals and deputies as well as the military, as to the best means of preserving peace, and there never was from the first to last, and until my leaving, any deviation from an earnest, honest support of the city government in preserving order, police regulations, and in all things necessary to maintain peace. Captain McArthur, of the regular Army, now at Leavenworth; Marshal Needles, and his deputies, and every man of Guthrie, except perhaps some of this old city council, and to my face they will say the same, will fully sustain the above assertion.

Pickler is "guilty of practices that are endangering the peace and good order of our entire community."

I say, without any fear of successful contradiction, which I can sustain by either

community, that both at Guthrie and Oklahoma City, that it was only through my efforts, exerted at the right time and keeping quiet at other times, that rival governments, confusion, and the most serious trouble was averted, and I only wish, general, that you could yourself be among these people for a short time, and hear their verdict. I really thought they gave me much more credit than I deserved.

Again the letter proceeds: He "[Pickler] has on several occasions addressed large and excited gatherings of people, whom he has assured in most positive terms that their grievances were real and not imaginary," etc.

Now, such declarations as this led me to believe that this was prepared by some one else than Dyer, and he was assured that I had addressed meetings, otherwise he would not have made such absolutely false statements, which I can so easily contradict. I never addressed a public meeting at or about Guthrie, except the one which I reported to you, the night when 1,500 men at least, as good and law-abiding men, too, as were in the Territories (with the exception of a few "hot-headed and unreasonable fellows") declared the city officers deposed, appointed a committee to wait upon them when they were in session only a block away, and so inform them, and amid a wild and noisy enthusiasm, and a determination that was alarming, appoint a committee to call an election for new city officers, when upon the loud call of a few of the more conservative I tried to show them the folly of such a course, and although they had refused to hear others and cried them down, because I came an humble representative, as I told them, of the great Interior Department of this great Government; because I came as your representative whom they all believe honestly has their best interests at heart; because they know I had not been seeking as other officers had to hold lots; because I was claiming nothing in the Territory for myself or friends; because they knew I could have no other object in view than to advise as to what I honestly and candidly thought was best; they heard me, and they heeded me, reconsidered the whole action, and asked this council to call the election. I tell you, General, I have observed and studied men under different phases of experience, and I know you have to a much greater extent and longer experience done the same.

You have led men in battle; you have addressed bodies of men, and juries, where the feeling was against your sentiments and against what you were at the time advocating, and you know there comes in such experiences moments when you yourself feel the very determination of the crowd or jury—it may be against you, it may be for you—but it is a determination which, led, changed, or guided, must be carefully, coolly, and deliberately done.

Such was the crowd above referred to. They were opposed to the measures I suggested; they were very much in earnest; they believed and boldly asserted that this old council had disobeyed the instruction of the people in the survey of the town; changed it to accommodate the property of themselves and friends, that whereas the people had ordered, on the evening of April 22, before any one knew whether he was on a street, alley, or lot, the people had ordered the blocks surveyed 300 feet square, streets 80 feet, alleys 20; that in total disregard of this instruction they had made blocks of irregular size, streets of irregular widths, alleys with elbows crooked and irregular, lots of various sizes, and all for the accommodation of favored individuals, and that they appealed to the plat filed to corroborate these charges; that large amounts of money were being collected and recklessly expended; that the boards of arbitration were corrupt, and that decisions were according to the payment made members of the board, and that this council was now seeking to delay an election so that new officers could not succeed them before the 1st or about the 1st of July.

They thus felt that this council should be deposed, and at once, and such a feeling I had to encounter when I undertook to address that meeting. It was a crisis, as I believed; the current was changed, and they decided to tolerate the old government until a new one was elected.

It seemed the thing to do; they did it. I had them in a good humor before adjourning, and I was universally commended by all parties, even including members of the city council, for averting trouble. And I tell you, General, that old council, whatever they might say, were glad of my action; it meant more to them than any one else in the town.

In a few days after this, when a large crowd, not at all the same crowd which had held the meeting, but composed of those who felt an interest in the matter, were at the jail to release a man who had been put in by the city authorities, on a lot eviction, following Marshal Needles I again with him advised them to disperse, and that the city government must be upheld, the crowd did disperse. I did not speak more than two minutes, and nothing was said whatever in regard to the city government except that it should and must be upheld. That I counseled lot and claim jumping is absolutely untrue. I had no motive imaginable to have so done. My object at all times was to preserve peace, and why or what object I could have had in advising lot-jumping, which would be more likely than anything else to arouse disturbance, does not occur to me. I positively never advised in a single instance

any such course, and no man in the Territory can be found that will meet me and say so.

Again, his letter states, "He has several times presented himself, uninvited, before the city council and boards of arbitration, and offered unsolicited advice as to what action should be taken in contest cases."

This assertion is a lie from beginning to end, and without a shadow of foundation. I never was present at the meeting of the council, except one single evening after the meeting of the mass meeting above referred to, and went for the purpose of asking the council to concede to the request for an election. I only spoke a few minutes, and in the most conciliatory way, and about no contest, nor about no other subject except asking the council to meet the people in spirit of compromise in calling the election, which they did, giving the committee from the people such assurance, and the committee assuring the council, in line of my remarks, that they would advise the people to accept the compromise, which they did, and which resulted in the satisfactory calling of the election, and good feeling prevailed at the council, and different members thanked me for being present and assisting in the adjustment of the difficulties. This was the sole and only time I was ever before this council, and Mr. Dyer must have known it.

I never was at any time before any board of arbitration of Guthrie to say a word upon any subject, nor did I ever say a word to any such board, and the assertion that I was is basely untrue.

That I made public any information from your Department which produced excited rumors is the farthest from the truth, if the distance can be measured, of any allegation of the letter.

I never made any public, except as to your letter in June, concerning which I telegraphed you, which was after this letter was written. The cloven foot is finally displayed by his reference to my letter of May 17, the one you published, characterizing it false and malicious, and this letter of mine is the explanation of the writing of the Dyer letter. He never discovered that I was stirring up strife, nor did I ever hear it intimated from any one that I was, until I received the copy of this letter.

He says not exceeding \$175 has been paid attorneys. I only stated in my letter the salaries fixed; that the amount I so stated as fixed by the council is not the true amount he does not deny, but seeks to dodge the matter by stating that there has not been paid to exceed \$175 as yet. He says there has been no extravagance. I think there was nowhere any economy.

The statement after made by Mr. Dyer as to financial condition shows \$1,700 for improvements and \$3,500 for salaries.

This letter states that he has four boards of arbitration—two at \$10 per day each, per member, and two at \$5 per day each, per member. Now, there were five each on these \$10 per day boards, which was 100 per day, and I think five each of the \$5 per day boards, which was \$50 per day or \$150 per day for arbitration boards, and a number of these members of these boards were members of the city council which created these boards and fixed their salaries.

The new council, lately elected, have only one board of three members, and will pay the members, as I understand, \$5 per day each.

Dyer's letter states that they now receive \$1 per day each (these boards). The indignation became so intense and the election so near that they did pass some such resolution, but a member of the board told me they did not sit since the reduction, and were waiting until after election.

Dyer says I advised persons not to go before the board of arbitration. I neither advised the one way or the other. These boards, in order to keep up business as I believe, maintained that their certificate would entitle the holder to a patent to the lot, or that the Government would recognize this certificate. When consulted in regard to the matter by persons interested in purchasing the same, I gave it as my opinion that this certificate was recognized by the city authorities as entitling the holder to possession, but that it was not recognized by the Government as any title. And as for the possession I advised them that it would be a help to have this certificate, as the city police force put the possessors in possession of such property.

He says the petition called only for an election of counsel, but he preferred to have all elected. I spoke to him myself in regard to the matter, but he did not say he preferred an election for mayor. The reason was that the council passed the ordinance to elect mayor as well as council, and Mr. Dyer could not help himself.

He concludes his letter upon the platform he was re-elected; that is, that he does not approve all the actions of his council.

Now, general, you may know Mr. Dyer better than I do, but I consider him a weak man. He says he did not approve the acts of the council, but he never vetoed any of them, as far as the people could learn. He was, as you may know, the Indian agent at Fort Reno in 1885 who resigned so suddenly when General Sheridan visited that post.

A citizen of Guthrie, who was a soldier at the post at the time, informed me that

the claim then was that the rations were being issued to 4,000 more Indians than could be found. Full accounts, I understand, were published in the Globe-Democrat and Kansas City Times.

Strange to say, also it was positively asserted at Guthrie that the man Hill, who was chairman of the arbitration board at Guthrie, and who, when a man did not have the money, made him put up his watch as security for fees on arbitration, was Dyer's beef contractor when he was agent. Hill claims to have been in the Indian country, and has a squaw for a wife now living at Caldwell, Kans., as is asserted and believed at Guthrie, and which I believe to be true from what I could learn.

Dyer was very hotly opposed by a large number of the voters of Guthrie, but individually I had nothing whatever to do with it. I was convinced that whoever was elected mayor, with a new council, would be practically recognized and give a stable government.

There was no organized effort against him until two days before the election, then only partial, while his forces with his officials were well organized. There was very strong objection to him because he came in before the 22d. He was supported by many good men, who had been awarded lots by the Dyer administration, and who were alarmed by the cry of Dyer's friends that to elect a new mayor would unsettle business, and possibly change the survey of the town, and so his city attorney, who was appointed such by Dyer because he had had the support of the gamblers at the first selection of mayor for that office himself, was at the last election his firm supporter, and active, and by some way Dyer carried all that vote, and he spared no effort to carry the election. His friend constantly denounced the acts of the council, but claimed he was not responsible for same. Yet, notwithstanding this re-election, I consider any man a weak man who keeps such a man as Hoggatt his city attorney, a man who was drunk whenever occasion offered, and who was a notorious visitor of dance-houses, and guilty of disgraceful conduct.

So his police force were in many instances guilty of the most disreputable and dishonest practices, which was generally and notoriously known. He received votes of all who came before 12, the 22d. Moreover, I consider a man weak who openly entered the Territory of Oklahoma contrary to law.

Yet I had no controversy with any of these parties; my relations were pleasant with all. None of them ever intimated to me at any time that I was not satisfactory in all my acts. I never had an unpleasant word with Mr. Dyer. But I think that letter was prepared when the council was nettled and chagrined by the publication of my letter. Nor do I believe that Dyer or any of them would now write such a letter. The new election was had, the old council was left out, a new administration is in, and when Mr. Dyer nominated one of his old police for new chief of police the new council refused to confirm his appointment, when he nominated an old soldier, who on Decoration I selected to command the veterans, and who was promptly confirmed.

So on Decoration day I was chosen president of the day, and invited all the mayors to the stand, and one member of the old council who had been in Confederate army was called out, as I had intimated to him before would probably be the case, and made a very patriotic speech for the flag. Thanks were returned me for my contribution to the success of the occasion, and a good feeling prevailed generally.

I congratulated Mr. Dyer on his re-election, talked with him concerning his new term, and he denounced the action of some of his former officers. I told him if he would shake off the old crowd he would have the indorsement of the people, which he seemed to consider necessary to do.

Now, general, I tell you there is no truth in the assertions of that letter, and that my efforts were warmly appreciated by the people, especially at Guthrie, Oklahoma City, and Edmund, where they had difficulties with their town matters; that the mayors of each of the Guthries, except Dyer's Guthrie, expressed regrets at my leaving, as did the mayors of the other towns with whom I advised, and I know the people are with me, and this I can establish I know, because I know they feel warmly toward me and appreciate my work, which was the general expression of all, and which you can find to be the case at any time you may inquire. And the feeling was expressed by an old gentleman who was special agent under the last administration. He said, "I am sorry you are leaving. You have been of much service to us here. You have the confidence of the people and you have gained it by your conservative quiet course and not interfering in matters, and only seeking to have an honest, peaceable, and exemplary government." These are nearly his exact words, and they express the general sentiment, and the wish was almost unanimously expressed that I would be returned.

Now I care nothing personally about the Dyer letter. It is untrue, and would exhibit me as such a complete simpleton to have acted as it asserts I did, that I have prolonged this very much too long, for which I ask your indulgence. I do hope, however, that it may prove necessary or desirable that the same will be brought about to investigate the action of the old Guthrie city council, and if ever done it

will show the worst and most disreputable practices in many respects ever perpetrated upon a people, as well as the most unreasonable and arbitrary power exercised. In its enforcing law and order preserving peace, and its police powers, I always and at all times heartily supported it, but in its reckless, unscrupulous, and dishonest action with the people, its jobbery, and tyrannical powers, exercised, all of which I can show beyond a doubt, I never at any time indorsed, and always when consulted upon the questions (not otherwise) condemned. I know the people were with me, and the election fully sustained the people and condemned the old council.

I inclose herewith a copy of the Guthrie Times, opposed to Mr. Dyer's election. I also submit the following part of an editorial of Daily Capital, the leading paper, which supported Dyer for mayor, of June 5, next morning after election, showing the feeling of a Dyer paper against the old council:

"It is not the province of this journal to offer gratuitous advice to a man of Colonel Dyer's ability and judgment, but as a champion of the mayor-elect, and one who has the welfare of Guthrie at heart, he owes it to himself and the people to institute certain reforms in the city government. To do this he must read out certain men who always expect official recognition after election.

"He must shake off the barnacles who have clung to him and the city government and who have attempted to drag the good name of Mayor Dyer and the fair fame of the city in the gutter. The people have not indorsed any of the unscrupulous men who came here and 'represented States' without the shadow of law; have not 'vindicated' the men who have attempted to fasten on the people vicious legislation, nor men whose capacity for evil scheming has far exceeded their ambition to serve the people honestly. Not a vote was cast in favor of any such men yesterday. It was simply a vote cast for Mayor Dyer by men who honestly believed that, with a legally elected council by the people, that the mayor could drive back the hungry pack of wolves who always stand ready to fatten on the flesh of the municipal body; every vote given was in the hope that, surrounded by a wise council, the mayor would use his official position to direct the council, if error were committed, and to guide with a strong hand the destinies of our young city.

"Colonel Dyer, you have been vindicated and indorsed. Give us that strong, conservative government that we have a right to expect and demand. The people believe you honest and capable. To those men who have attempted to drag you down to their level and cast odium on the city, say: 'Stand back, gentlemen; this is a new deal. I am backed by the people, and I am going to do their will.'"

I also submit an item from same paper of June —, the day I left:

"Major Pickler leaves to-day for Faulkston, Dak., on the Sioux Reservation. No Federal officer in Oklahoma is better known than Major Pickler, and certainly no man ranks higher in popularity with the citizens of Guthrie. In his new field of usefulness we hope the major may meet with the same kind and congenial friends he has been surrounded with here; and he carries with him to his new field of labor the best wishes of The Capital and the citizens of Guthrie, regardless of party politics."

Now, general, I would not, as I know I should not, have inflicted this long production upon you, except for the outrageous and false attack made upon me in the letter.

I sincerely thank you for your letter to Dyer. I shall ever strive to merit it.

Yours, truly,

J. W. PICKLER.

Hon. JOHN W. NOBLE,
Washington, D. C.