less, ugly-tempered man who was bound to avenge his grievance, real or fancied, on some one, and who attacked the Mayor because of the sensational publicity that must result. Of course his lawyer offers insanity as a defense; the plea will be fairly considered, but so far the facts as known indicate brutal viciousness rather than delusion. The would-be assassin's trial should be quick, sharp, and just, with due respect to his rights but without room for technical delays. We earnestly hope that before these words are read the Mayor's quick recovery will be assured beyond shadow of doubt, and that, after a period of rest and strength-gaining which, apart from his illness, he has surely earned if any city official ever did, he may continue to carry on an administration which stands for protection to the individual, punishment for the lawless, and civic gain in every direction.

THE INDIAN LANDS INVESTIGATION

A Committee of Congress has been investigating in Oklahoma the question of attorneys' fees to white lawyers for the sale of Indian lands. The Indians are the wards of the Government. Their property is under the control of the Government as a self-constituted, but none the less morally bound, trustee. It has become the settled policy of the Government to raise the Indians from the status of dependent wards to that of independent citizens. In the meantime, however, it is the duty of the Government to see that in this process the Indians are not despoiled, but that they begin their life as citizens with the property that the Government has held for them as wards. It is not an altogether easy task to insure this protection to the Indians. Their lack of experience in business affairs renders them ignorant of the value of their own possessions, and consequently renders them open to the designs of men who have a keener sense of values. The methods which have been adopted by white men to secure Indian property without giving a fair equivalent in return have been ingenious and very numerous. They have included forgery, perjury, frauds of almost every kind, and violence; but they have not all been lawless. The most ingenious, if not always the most profitable, have been in accord with, or at least not in violation of, law. Frequently Congress has felt the pressure, exerted on behalf of individuals or communities, to act or refuse to act in such a way as to enable white men to get property at the expense of the Indians. At the same time pressure is brought upon Congress to take action with regard to Indian affairs in such a way as to be of advantage both to whites and Indians. It is not always a simple matter to distinguish between the two kinds of measures. Congress at its last session did not escape this sort of pressure. Such pressure was brought to bear with regard to the segregated coal and asphalt lands belonging to the Chickasaw and Choctaw tribes in Oklahoma. The Government had authorized the sale of these lands. The money from the sale was to go, of course, to the Indians, the owners of the land. It is asserted that the Government itself, through, we suppose, the Indian Office, would represent the interests of the Indians and manage the sale of these lands; but it appears that it was possible for the Indians to employ attorneys to attend to this matter on their behalf. According to the law, however, contracts made with tribes of Indians for such legal representation would not be valid unless they should be approved by the President. A certain law firm had secured contracts with some ten thousand Indians to act as their representative in the sale of these lands for a fee of ten per cent. At this rate the sale of thirty million dollars' worth of the land would yield to the law firm a fee of three million dollars. For these contracts (known as the McMurray contracts) this firm had failed to receive the approval of either President Roosevelt or President Taft. But it did not cease its activities to secure such approval. In January Senator Gore, of Oklahoma, introduced a resolution providing for an investigation into the affairs generally of the Five Civilized Tribes of Indians, and requesting the Attorney-General and the Secretary of the Interior not to confirm any contracts pending investigation. In May Senator Gore introduced a bill to require that such contracts relating to money and property

of the Five Civilized Tribes be subject to the approval of Congress. This bill was reported favorably, but with an amendment. Thereupon, according to Senator Gore's testimony before the Investigating Committee, a man by the name of Jake Hamon requested Senator Gore to withdraw his bill or at least have it reported unfavorably, and, purporting to be interested in the McMurray contracts, offered Senator Gore fifty thousand dollars as his share of the proceeds. Senator Gore also testified that this man who had offered him money had mentioned the names of several men high in Government office who were interested in these contracts. Of course such third-hand hearsay evidence is worthless, and the mere mention of names without further confirmation cannot serve the interests of truth. Mr. Hamon has issued a statement denying Senator Gore's allegations. There has been testimony, however, to the effect that Indians have been led to expect that a part of their property must disappear in attorneys' fees. We hope that this investigation will be thorough and will not be checked under the influence of any interested parties. If men are receiving money, whether in the form of fees or in the form of salary, as attorneys or counsel for Indians without rendering any real service or any service that could not be rendered adequately by the regular employees of the Government under the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, the fact should be known.

THE GRANDFATHER CLAUSE IN OKLAHOMA

On August 2 Oklahoma voted by approximately 40,000 majority to disfranchise practically all of its negroes. This franchise amendment is almost an exact copy of the North Carolina "grandfather clause," which the Federal Supreme Court has given the sanction of legality. It reads as follows:

> No person shall be registered as an elector of this State, or be allowed to vote in any election held herein, unless he be able to read and write any section of the Constitution of the State of Oklahoma; but no person who was, on January 1, 1866, or at any time prior thereto, entitled to vote under any form of government, or who at that time resided in some foreign nation, and no lineal descendant of such person, shall be denied the right to register and vote because of his inability to so read and write sections of such Constitution.

The provision is so worded that it applies solely to the negroes, exempting the illiterate whites, whether native or foreign born, and the illiterate Indians as well. The vital difference between this clause and that which has been adopted in North Carolina is that it creates a permanent condition, whereas in North Carolina it was adopted as a temporary expedient. In other words, while North Carolina, in order to secure the passage of a provision restricting the suffrage to those who met a certain test of fitness, waived this restriction temporarily in favor of white voters so that they would not be called upon to disfranchise themselves, Oklahoma has seen fit to set a permanent standard of fitness for negroes which it does not set for whites. This is, of course, most obviously a discrimination against negroes; but it is really a discrimination against the whites. It allows white people to remain illiterate without suffering any political penalty, while it offers to literate negroes a political reward. We believe that in time this clause will prove to be an encouragement to negro education and an obstacle to the education of whites. This amendment is the more unnecessary in Oklahoma because the negro population of that State is comparatively small. It is true that in certain localities the election in a school district, a township, a city ward, or a county where negroes have been in a majority has been carried for negro candidates simply because they were negroes; but this does not justify the passage of a permanent "grandfather clause" such as that which Oklahoma has adopted. The worst aspect, however, of this election by which the "grandfather clause" was adopted was the piece of trickery by which it was smuggled through the polls. The ballot was so arranged that the illiterate or careless voter was sure to be recorded in favor of the adoption of the clause, while only those who took particular pains in their voting could be registered against it. At the bottom of the ballot were printed the words "For the Amendment." If the voter overlooked the referendum, his vote was counted in the affirmative. To vote in the negative the elector had to cross