

NG, JANUARY 29, 1918.

INDIANS SEEKING FUNDS OF TRIBE

Reds Want Money Disbursed at Once; Petition Is Circulated.

WILL HELP FLATHEAD

Backers of Movement Point Need of Reservation for Cash.

Members of the Flathead Indian tribes who have already received their patents to the allotments of land, are anxious to have the government estimate the value of the tribal lands and all of the other property rights that may belong to the tribe, and make an early distribution of whatever money may be coming to each individual. A petition is already being circulated on the reservation for the signatures of the Indians who favor this plan. This petition is meeting with general favor.

There is an influence on the reservation working to keep the government from making any distribution of money, say supporters of the petition. This influence will, it is charged, tend to keep back the progress of the reservation. Influence is being brought to bear in Washington to this effect, but the secretary of the interior will have the other side of the story when he receives the petition of those that want an early valuation and distribution.

The majority of the Indians are said to be anxious to get their money as soon as possible. The petition that is being circulated is as follows:

Want Money Apportioned.

We, the undersigned, members of the Flathead Indian reservation, Montana, who have received patents in fee to the allotments made us on said reservation and are therefore citizens of the United States, respectfully petition that estimates be made of values of all tribal lands, timber, power sites, Camas Hot Springs, all reserves, including lands held by the reclamation service for power and reservoir sites or other purposes, and of any other tribal property, and these estimates be added to the sum of all moneys now held by the United States for the Indians of Flathead reservation; that the sum so determined be used in determining the pro rata share each member of the reservation is entitled to, based on the total population of the Flathead reservation; and that the full amount each individual is found entitled to, be paid to each and all of us who have received patents in fee to our allotments, thus releasing us from all claims upon the government or further interest in any tribal property or tribal benefits.