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"CRAZY SNAKE"

Pathetic figure of the days that are gone forever, a type of the oldtime Creek Indian as he existed in the years when he was free to roam at will through Indian Territory, is Chitto Harjo, "Crazy Snake" rather than the figure that has been conjured up by the lurid accounts of recent years which have lead many people to picture him as a second Ceromino or Santa Ana decked in war paint and feathers.

Harjo's only offense is that he insisted on carrying out the treaties of the early days as he understood them-- treaties that guaranteed the Indians possession of the land "as long as grass grows and water flows." He insisted that the possession should still be of the same sort that it was then, when all the land was held in common, each member of the tribe using as much or as little as he wished of the tribal domain, with none to let or hinder.

He had made many appeals to the Federal officials, both in Washington and at Muskogee, and while they recognized the futility of the fight which he made. Many of them are proud of the old man's friendship. He always felt that his people were not treated fairly by the

white man's government and felt that he had an additional grievance in the removal of restrictions which made the lands taxable.

Indian Side of the Case:

Probably the best statement ever made of the Indian side of the tragedy of a dying race, now being enacted in Oklahoma was made by the late Alex Posey, the famous Creek Indian bard, he said, "When the commission of the Five Civilized Tribes opened the Creek land office at Muskogee in April 1899, there was a rush to fill by those citizens of the nation possessing the least Indian blood. These people secured the cream of the Indian lands. Later the fullbloods began slowly to file upon their allotments, but in almost every case, they found second or third grade land.

The best land lying along the streams and adjacent to the thriving towns had all been taken up. It is only a question of time until these people will be evicted from their homes and compelled to make new ones on their allotments to which they are strangers. This will work a great hardship upon these people. There are several hundred families of them thus situated, and they are the real Indians which the United States has made so much talk and bother about protecting.

"These people are totally unfitted to face the conditions which now surround them in Oklahoma. Some of their friends among the more intelligent and well-informed Indians, think that their affairs should be taken in hand by a commission under the auspices of United States Government.

The Snakes have been naturally suspicious of the officers of the law, which was in considerable measure responsible for recent trouble, and have complained that white men claiming to be officers have come among them, arrested members of their clan and then told them that in order to secure their release they must sign certain papers, which proved to be deeds to their allotments.

The "Uprising" This Spring:

The one which has just closed is scarcely more serious ~~except that the militia were actually called into the field~~ this time and the Indians took to the woods. General Canton opposed calling out the troops this time and would rather have handled the situation himself, believing that he could again have prevented trouble by a personal visit to the Snake Chief. The recent difficulty grew out of a battle between the officers and a bunch of negroes, renegades and horse thieves, who sought protection among the Snake clan, a War-

charge of inciting resistance to the officers, Harjo and his immediate friends resisted arrest and two officers were killed, although there is no evidence that the old Chief, himself, fired a shot. White lawyers making their headquarters much of the time at Washington, D. C., are considered to be largely responsible for the continuance of the Snake resistance toward the Government. These lawyers would tell the unsophisticated fullbloods that they stood close to the Federal government and for a certain consideration they would see that the old tribal relations were restored and have a bill passed through congress ordering the whites to leave the Snakes' country, so that the Indians might hunt and fish undisturbed. A collection would be taken up among the Snakes assembled at Hickory ground to furnish the money which they demanded.