

THE INDIAN JOURNAL

Eufaula, Ind. Ter.,
Friday, Feb. 22, 1907
Thirty-first year, No. 18
Geo. A. Raker, Editor

STORY BY AN INDIAN RACONTEUR

Alex Posey, interpreter for the Dawes commission, found an Indian who asked many questions about the doings of the Guthrie convention. Mr. Posey told of the convocation of statesmen, whereupon the Indian related a legend. He compared the people of the Indian Territory with rabbits. In all Creek Indian lore the rabbit is a dunce or simpleton. It is recorded that once upon a time all the animals gathered together in the forest and decided what each should choose for its food. The coon took crawfish, the opossum persimmons, the fox chicken, the wolf young pigs, and finally, when all the animals had signified their choice, the rabbit, which had been sitting wide-eyed and crouching, was asked to name the food he wanted. The rabbit looked up into a sycamore tree, and, seeing the buttons growing on the limbs, decided that he would choose them. So he sat still and waited for the buttons to drop. As a matter

of fact they never did drop, for they hung there until
blown away by the wind in a sort of floating floss.
Sheer hunger drove the rabbit to become a prowler and
he has been feeding ever since on stolen things from the
gardens and what he picks up in browsing. The Indian
story-teller closed his narrative by likening the
people of Indian Territory to rabbits sitting under a
sycamore tree waiting for the buttons to fall.