

# Press Sensationalized Creek Rebellion

The Crazy Snake Uprising of 1901 struck the imagination of the nation, although it was apparently exaggerated by writers as an Indian rebellion.

Many conservative members of the Creek and Muskogee tribes did not understand English and they were dissatisfied with laws for allocating land to the Indians. They refused to appear before the Dawes Commission for choosing allotments and they resented departures from their old institutions and customs.

A number of these dissatisfied Creeks pro-

claimed Chitty Harjo (Crazy Snake) their hereditary chief, because he was of the old Muskogee line. He called for a national council to meet and proclaim re-establishment of ancient laws, courts and customs.

Although the whole proceeding was quiet and orderly, sensational newspaper correspondents spread far and wide the story of "an impending uprising." They so wrought the popular imagination that the government was prevailed upon to send troops to the scene.

Chitty Harjo and a



number of his followers were arrested and confined. The troops sent consisted of only one company of soldiers from Fort Reno.

The Creek poet, Alexander Posey, differed from Harjo in philosophy but admired his courage in a poem, which read in part:

"Down with him!  
Chain him! Bind him  
fast! Slam the iron door  
and turn the key! The  
one true Creek, perhaps  
the last to dare de-  
clare, 'You have  
wronged me!'"