

## PONCAS SAVED BY GIRL

PLEA CAUSES SENATE TO CHANGE POLICY



RECENTLY a dispatch of unusual interest appeared in the press of the country from Ada, Oklahoma. As a bit of history it is worthy of more than passing thought, while a vein of romance permeates the episode and adds to its heart interest. The article follows:

One of saddest chapters in the Government's dealing with the Indians, one which created a tremendous feeling at the time, was the removal of the Poncas from their reservation in Nebraska, where for many years they had lived, and from lands the Government had conveyed to them in fee simple. The removal, as far as it affected the Poncas, was equally as sad and heartrending as the famous "trek" from North Carolina to Oklahoma by the Cherokees nearly a half century before.

The career of Standing Bear, the chief of the Poncas, together with Bright Eyes, the daughter of Joseph La Flesche, former chief of the tribe, changed the policy of the Government relative to the Indians; especially the forcible taking from them of lands that were dear to them, sending the Indians to sections with which they were unfamiliar and where climatic conditions were different from those to which they had been accustomed.

For several years prior to the removal in 1878 the Sioux had waged a relentless warfare on the Poncas. The tribe had been decimated in numbers and all efforts of the Government had failed to bring about peace. At last the Government forcibly required the tribe to go on a reservation chosen for them in Oklahoma. The migration south cost many lives and during the first year a third of them had perished, among them a son of Standing Bear.

Conditions reached such a point however, that Standing Bear, taking the bones of his son and accompanied by a few followers, made the journey back to Nebraska. He went to the authorities and asked for seed and to be permitted to cultivate a crop. At first his request was granted, but later the Government changed its plans, and Standing Bear was arrested, to be returned to Oklahoma. On reaching Omaha several prominent citizens became interested in the story of the Indian and a writ of habeas corpus was sued out in the United States Court, the decision of the judge being favorable to Standing Bear. The matter had reached the newspapers and had created a tremendous sensation.

Bright Eyes, who had received a splendid education and was at the