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IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES.

DECEMBER 20, 1923.

Mr. GARBER introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs and ordered to be printed.

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**A BILL**

Authorizing the Ponca Tribe of Indians residing in the States of Oklahoma and Nebraska to submit claims to the Court of Claims.

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*  
3 That all claims of whatsoever nature, both legal and equi-  
4 table, which the Ponca Tribe of Indians residing in the  
5 States of Oklahoma and Nebraska may have against the  
6 United States, including, among other things, claims for  
7 moneys due the Ponca Tribe but allowed or paid to some  
8 other tribe or tribes of Indians, shall be submitted to the  
9 Court of Claims, with the right of appeal by either party  
10 to the Supreme Court of the United States for determina-  
11 tion; and jurisdiction is hereby conferred upon the Court of  
12 Claims to hear and determine any and all such claims and  
13 render final judgment thereon.

1           The Court of Claims shall advance the cause upon its  
2 docket for hearing, and shall have authority to determine  
3 and adjudge the rights, both legal and equitable, of the said  
4 Ponca Tribe in the premises: *Provided*, That the court shall  
5 hear and determine any legal or equitable defenses, set-offs,  
6 or counterclaims which the United States may offer against  
7 the said Ponca Tribe notwithstanding lapse of time or  
8 statutes of limitation. The suit or suits instituted hereunder  
9 shall be begun within five years from the passage of this  
10 Act by the Ponca Tribe of Indians as parties plaintiff against  
11 the United States as the party defendant. The petition or  
12 petitions may be verified upon information and belief as to  
13 the facts therein alleged by the attorney or attorneys em-  
14 ployed by the Ponca Tribe under contract approved by the  
15 Secretary of the Interior and the Commissioner of Indian  
16 Affairs, as provided by existing law; and no other verifica-  
17 tion shall be necessary: *Provided*, That upon the final de-  
18 termination of such suit or suits the Court of Claims shall  
19 have jurisdiction to decree the fees to be paid to the attorney  
20 or attorneys not to exceed 10 per centum of the amount of  
21 the judgment rendered in favor of said Indians; and the same  
22 shall be paid out of any sum or sums found due said tribe.

CONGRESS, }  
1ST SESSION. } H. R. 4275

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