

option on the Columbia or Missouri or Colorado. Climate does not more inevitably and irresistibly modify the human constitution, when one removes from the land of his nativity, than does the popular will the working efficiency of a United States law perfectly constitutional, which has started off from the halls of Congress.

Our failures in the Indian policies for a century have not come so much from the lack of fair legislation. We have had good laws enough for ends sought. Nor have the failures come so much from the quality of this unfortunate race as if it were effete, worthless, and impossible of elevation. The ends sought by the law have not been desired in those sections of the country where the law must be administered, and by the people who must administer it. This has heretofore been the point of fatal weakness in our government policy for the aborigines. Our first chapter in this book is painfully abundant with evidence on this point.

The Dawes Bill opens a new era in this branch of our national work, and it is beyond doubt the best thing possible in the line of the government, so far as it goes. It embodies a discovery, which has cost the expensive and sad experiments of two centuries, that the Indian must be made and treated as an Amer-