

President in selecting Indian superintendents and agents with a view to their moral as well as business qualifications, and aside from any political considerations. There should be some judicial tribunal constituted within the Indian territory competent to the prompt punishment of crime, whether committed by white man, Indian, or negro. The agent upon the reservation in which the offense is committed, the agent of the next nearest reservation, and the nearest post commander might constitute a court, all the agents being clothed with the necessary powers. The Indian treaties we have examined provide, in effect, that proof of any offense committed by a white man against an Indian shall be made before the agent, who shall transmit the same to the Commissioner of Indian Affairs, who shall proceed to cause the offender to be arrested and tried by the laws of the United States. If the Indian commits an offense, he shall be given up to be tried by the laws of the United States. It is a long process to get a white man tried; a shorter one for the Indian, in proportion to the difference in distance between the agency and the nearest white settlement and that to Washington City; and in the trials the Indian never escapes punishment; the white man rarely fails to be acquitted,