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made in the Indian service, upwards of fifty out of the fifty-eight Indian agents were removed, and there was general change in the minor positions. Under the present administration a similar course has been pursued, with the notable exception of that part of the service which is under the control of the present Indian Commissioner who, we believe, has done all in his power to secure the adoption of the merit system in the school and other branches of the Indian service.

But the appointment of Indian agents has, during the administration, under the operation of what is termed the "Home Rule" system, been handled over the perquisite of Senators and Representatives of the States and Territories in which the reservations are located.

Under the administration of both parties this Society has steadily pursued the same arduous and thankless task of urging upon the Executive the relinquishment of the spoils system in the management of the Indians. It has illustrated the necessity for a change by the many instances coming to its knowledge of the removal of valuable officers, and the appointment of inexperienced or unworthy ones.

Our publications and our letter-files attest at once the frequency and futility of our remonstrances. The spoils system has continued on its remorseless way. Perhaps it is one of those evils from which without shedding of blood there is no remission.

Through the spoils system the Pine Ridge Agency became the ^{p.4}weakest point in the Sioux country. Under the last Democratic administration a Republican agent of unusual ability, courage, and success was removed to make way for an inferior appointee of the opposite party, under whom the discipline of the Indian police force and of the agency generally declined. The Democratic Secretary of the Interior was warned of the danger attending this change, owing to the power and turbulence of the non-progressive Indians at Pine Ridge.

Mr. Smith?