

the Indians, which alone have upheld and sustained them during these many years, during which period substantially the same propositions have been embodied in the various bills introduced into Congress, tending to disrupt us as a Nation and to finally destroy us as a people. If these solemn pledges are to be broken at last, with or without the Indians' consent, for no apparent reason given except that the supreme Court of the United States has decided that this can be done with an Indian Tribe, and because it is inconvenient to observe them any longer -- it is idle for us to refer to them, thought they are the bulwarks of our faith. If we have worshiped an idol, then, indeed, are we lost.

Left without treaty protection we are without hope; yet there remains too much that can and must be said, but only in part by us in a cause so just.

An equal division of all our lands would result in giving to each individual not more than 130 acres, all told; perhaps one-third of which only would be fit for agricultural purposes, one-third for pasture and the remainder entirely worthless. A readjustment of all present holdings would necessarily have to follow, and an equitable redistribution made, at no inconsiderable cost to the Nation to reimburse those who have improved their homes upon lands in excess of the amount