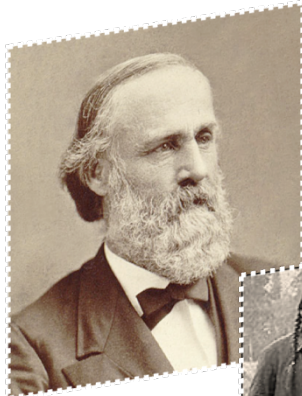


Reading Between the Lines: The Allotment Act of 1887

Did hope for a better future for Indians or greed for their land push The Allotment Act through Congress?



Henry Laurens Dawes, who sponsored the Allotment Act



Chief Joseph and Alice Fletcher at the Nez Perce Reservation where Fletcher came to implement the Allotment Act.

- Henry L. Dawes was part of "Friends of the Indians", a group of Eastern reformers who advocated that Indians be Christianized, "civilized" and assimilated into mainstream American life.
- Use the internet to find quotes about the Allotment/Dawes Act. Classify the quotes as "Allotment to help Indians" or "Allotment as a land grab".
- Read "What were the results of allotment?" by Professor E.A. Schwartz,

"The General Allotment Act is a mighty pulverizing engine to break up the tribal mass. It acts directly upon the family and the individual."

- President Theodore Roosevelt (1901)

"As long as Indians live in villages they will retain many of their old and injurious habits.... I trust that before another year is ended they will generally be located upon individual lands of farms. From that date will begin their real and permanent progress."

-BIA Agent for the Yankton Sioux Tribe (1877)

"As the white settlements have crowded the borders of the reservations, the Indians, sometimes contentedly and sometimes against their will, have been transferred to other hunting grounds, from which they have again been dislodged whenever their new-found homes have been desired by the adventurous settlers...."

We have to deal with the appalling fact that though thousands of lives have been sacrificed and hundreds of millions of dollars expended in the attempt to solve the Indian problem, it has until within the past few years seemed scarcely nearer a solution than it was half a century ago. But the Government has of late been cautiously but steadily feeling its way to the adoption of a policy which has already produced gratifying results, and which, in my judgment, is likely, if Congress and the Executive accord in its support, to relieve us ere long from the difficulties which have hitherto beset us."

-President Chester Arthur (1881)

For full extract visit "PBS New Perspectives on the West"

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/seven/indpol.htm>

Helpful URL's

WHO WERE "FRIENDS OF THE INDIANS"

Summarize the role "Friends of the Indians" had in passing the Dawes Act

http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/program/episodes/seven/friends_of_indian.htm

WHY DID PEOPLE SUPPORT ALLOTMENT?

Find quotes about allotment

PBS In the West

<http://www.pbs.org/weta/thewest/resources/archives/eight/fletcher.htm>

Native Documents Project

<http://www2.csusm.edu/nadp/>

➤ <http://www2.csusm.edu/nadp/rindex.htm>

➤ <http://www2.csusm.edu/nadp/at6alph.htm>

"WHAT WERE THE RESULTS OF

ALLOTMENT?"

BY E.A. SCHWARTZ

<http://www.csusm.edu/nadp/asubject.htm>

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The Allotment Act of 1887

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DIRECTIONS

Use the internet to find quotes about the Allotment/Dawes Act. Classify the quotes as “Allotment to help Indians” or “Allotment as a land grab”.

Citations

Where did you find these quotes?

Allotment to help Indians

Allotment as a land grab

Large empty area for notes or citations under the 'Allotment to help Indians' column.

Large empty area for notes or citations under the 'Allotment as a land grab' column.