

SIXTY YEARS OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

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OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS

Political, Economic, and Diplomatic
1789-1850

By

GEORGE DEWEY HARMON

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TO
MY WIFE
GERTRUDE MCKAY HARMON

PREFACE

The purpose of this study is to examine the many phases of the federal Indian policy in their financial, political, and diplomatic significance. A factor of chief importance, involving the outlay of millions of dollars, was the legal title of the Indians to the soil and the transfer of this ownership to the white people and their government. In the course of time the tribes were removed and placed on reservations. To effect this change, numerous treaties were negotiated and vast land cessions obtained, presents and annuities were given, trust funds were established, and various attempts were made to regulate the Indian trade.

These activities of the national government involved huge expenditures and required skill and alertness to detect and prevent fraud. Despite the fact that most of the federal officials were honest and actuated by the best of motives, public opinion and prevailing conditions were conducive to the perpetration of wholesale fraud on the Indian tribes through the machinations of designing, avaricious, and land-hungry speculators of the frontier.

I have not attempted to write on all phases of Indian history. The individual looking for a romantic and adventurous history of wars and massacres will find little satisfaction in this treatise. Instead, I have confined myself in the main to the economic, financial, political, and diplomatic aspects of the entangling problems.

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