

FAILURE OF INDIANS AS SOLDIERS.

THE last of the companies of Indians enlisted in the regular army of the United States has been mustered out after six years' trial, at Omaha, Nebr. The Omaha *World-Herald* intimates that the failure of the experiment may not be entirely due to the Indian:

"The mustering out of the few remaining Indians that were enlisted in the regular army brings to the front again the old question, 'Can a good soldier be made of an Indian?' It will not do to say that the failure of the plan to enlist Indians in the regular army is an answer to the question. There may be a great many reasons why the experiment just ended was a failure, and it is possible that the failure is not at all the fault of the Indian. The Indian is not naturally a lover of routine, but neither were the Sepoys of India, and they made splendid soldiers. The Egyptian fellahen resembles the American Indians in the respect that they too are nomadic, averse to routine, and not in-ism is far more absolute and destructive than that of the corporation. It has been far more fatal in its ravages. The corporation is at least rational. Its motives are motives that may be appreciated by a human being, and may be expressed in a form that appeals to the understanding, if not to the heart. If the corporation is inhuman, it is at least intellectual and reasonable. Party despotism, on the other hand, is devoid of both reason and humanity. It is the literal truth that no tyranny ever known among men, from the mere animal rule of an Apache chief to the abominable despotism of the Czar, is comparable with the senseless, absurd, and depraved tyranny of a party organization."

Dr. Ridpath dwells in some detail on the development of party operations in the House which have resulted in concentrated power in the Speaker and his committees; the party that may happen to be dominant stifling individual initiative by members and conceding to the opposition only the nominal right of serving as a punching-bag to practise on. In spite of the encroachment of wealth and corporate influence in the Senate, Dr. Ridpath claims that "the direct attitude of the Senate against some of the malevolent influences that are at work in our body politic is an inspiration to patriotism." To quote again:

"It is said that the Representatives are 'fresh from the people'; that they know the people's voice, and do the people's bidding. There never was a greater sophism, never a greater falsehood. The House of Representatives, in the last ten or fifteen years of our history, has not represented the people at all. On the contrary, it has misrepresented the people, and has stood for the very measures which were most hurtful and withal most hateful to the public sense. It has represented nothing but the party machine and the caucus. The 'principles' promoted in the House and enacted into policy have been the principles of party expediency, not the principles of the people.

"In the Senate we have had sundry prodigious scandals resulting from the exertion of corporate power within that arena and from the individual subserviency of members; but we have not had the establishment of party absolutism. No party is, as yet, the autocrat of the Senate of the United States. No party has been able to set up its empire in that arena; and it is the *only* arena from shore to shore of this great Republic in which the party is not supreme. It is *because* the party has not succeeded in mastering the Senate, in compelling it to do the behests of party, in forcing it against conscience and reason to join the procession of absolutism—it is *because* of this that the Senate has been of late denounced by all the interested organs of public opinion as a body corrupt, fallen, lost to public esteem, un-American, and unfit for the further performance of its august functions in our American system.

"The cry is false. The Senate has not yet fallen. It is because it has *not* fallen that the cry against it has been raised. It is because the Senate still struggles and protests, still utters a manly cry on behalf of the people as against organic power, that it has suffered at the hands of party commanders. The unthoughtful among the people have been led to believe that the Senate of the United States is in decadence, that it is a fog-bank of ignorance and obstinacy, a quagmire of corrupt and croaking monsters. It is no such thing."