

they have not taken any open part in the proceedings, I know they have been watching very carefully to see full justice has been done. They have also assisted me at different times when I conferred with them privately and I would like to acknowledge sincerely the assistance they have rendered.

I would like also to express my appreciation to you, Mr. McEvoy, for the able manner in which you conducted the case on behalf of the several clients. Your careful preparation of these and accounts have resulted in a material saving of time to the Commission. But for the exhaustive and detailed manner in which you analysed the several accounts in advance, instead of taking ten days, we would have been here perhaps for another week or two. And you have also during the course of enquiry been the means of getting several claimants here and having their cases presented; all of which has meant a great saving and a material assistance, and one which I am very grateful for.

Unfortunately in an enquiry of this kind a person has to ask a good many questions that may seem impertinent because they deal with private business, but I am sure the Chinese will feel that it was not with any spirit of curiosity or any motive other than the best and kindest, that they have been put. I have to satisfy myself in a general way as to the economic and social conditions prevailing, so that I might with accuracy and fairness adjust the losses. I think it is the highest compliment to pay the people to say on examining their business methods and on examination of their economic and social conditions, it increases ones appreciation of their character. That has certainly been the effect on my mind; and while discharging a public duty, it