

*JUDGES AND EXTRA-JUDICIAL DUTIES.*

Divergence in view among members of the judiciary as to the scope and limitations of the judicial office are always of interest, especially when the views that differ are the views of Judges who themselves belong to different generations and also find themselves in different environments. A greater difference of opinion could not well be found than in the views expressed by the late Lord Esher, as Master of the Rolls, on the 9th Nov. 1892, and those expressed by Lord Reading, the Lord Chief Justice of England, on the 9th Nov. 1916, in speeches at the Lord Mayor's inauguration dinner at the Guildhall on the question of Judges taking part in the work of commissions outside the sphere of strictly judicial duties. The late Lord Esher, in response to the toast of the judges and the Bar of England, said: "When the judges of England acted within the scope of their ordinary duties nobody ever attempted to suggest that they were not impartial. At the present time, however, they knew that one of the judges (the late Mr. Justice, afterwards Lord, Justice Mathew) had been asked to go beyond the scope of his ordinary duty (as chairman of the Irish Evicted Tenants Commission), and he for one was sorry and surprised that the judge in question had consented to do so. The result was inevitable. That judge had already been fiercely accused of partiality or of a want of desire to do justice. But he could safely say that throughout his close experience of twenty-four years there had not been a judge on the English Bench who had shown at any time or in any position any other feeling or desire than to be absolutely impartial and to do right." Lord Reading, four-and-twenty years afterwards to the very day, replying to the selfsame toast at the Guildhall, gloried in the assumption of extra-judicial work by judges which Lord Esher has so strongly deprecated. "During the last year of their work," said the Lord Chief Justice, "the judges have discharged a more important task in the affairs of the State than is usually allocated to them. They have been called upon to take part in the work of Royal Commissions, advisory committees of great responsibility, to sit upon local tribunals, to hold inquiries, and in other ways to serve the State. They are ready to do all