

which the parties to the improper proceedings to which we have referred have altogether failed to realize.

We have only referred to the scheme which resulted in these actions being said to be contempts of court. Possibly it may have been more, viz., a conspiracy; but we do not pursue any enquiry as to that, as we understand the judge of the County Court (not the junior judge who presided at these trials) has ordered an indictment for conspiracy to be preferred against some of the parties concerned.

OUR COURT OF FINAL APPEAL.

After the news came to this country of the result of the case of *Winnipeg Electric Light Co. v. City of Winnipeg*, in which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council gave judgment in favour of the company, there was the usual clamour of certain newspapers passionately declaiming against appeals to England, where cases seemed nearly always to go against municipalities and in favour of companies.

This, of course, is an old story, and not a very creditable one to Canadian journalism. We only refer to it now to quote some observations in a leading article in the *Mail and Empire*, where the subject is dealt with in a manner which shews that one at least of our newspapers is competent to discuss the situation on its merits, and is not afraid to express views which appeal to the sane and thoughtful rather than to pander, as so many of our journals do, to the growing socialistic and anarchistic tendency of the age. The article is, in part, as follows:—

"The thing alleged or implied is that the law lords of the Privy Council are not respecters of persons. It is imputed to them as a fault that they do not know enough about the circumstances of the Canadian cases appealed to them. That is no more than to say that they are insulated from the prejudices, passions, party feelings and other influences tending to deflect the mind from the strict line of legal justice. If partiality or incapacity was the fault attributed to the Judicial Committee, the position of the critics would not be more tenable, but it would be more