

But the indictment goes further. For the Justice observes that in China the system of government is that of party dictatorship. So long as the party exercises dictatorial powers no administration of justice or government by law is possible, for its interfering influence will know no bounds. Following this argument to its conclusion the Justice seems to say that under the present form of government in China a government of law is not possible, and the International Settlement is justified in remaining forever.

The third contention rests on the question of freedom of speech. The Justice mentions that no freedom of speech is possible in China except in the International Settlement and for this reason the International Settlement will be a blessing to the country because without it no freedom of any kind is possible. We are not surprised at all that the Justice follows this line of thinking, because it is exactly the kind of thing that die-hards in Shanghai have been saying all these years; but it is regrettable that after he has come on an invitation to make an impartial study the result should be merely a reiteration of what has been said so many times already. He has failed to appreciate the struggling spirit of the Chinese and has overlooked the many injustices which the Chinese people living in the International Settlement have suffered.

So much for the report itself. One also cannot but raise questions with the procedure he has followed in making public the report which he has prepared. We understand that the whole report, including the two volumes which are not yet on sale, was finished long ago and was submitted to the British Government for approval before it was made public. One

wonders why it was necessary to secure the approval before it was made public. One wonders why it was necessary to secure the approval of the British Government first. It will be remembered that he comes on the invitation, or in plain business language, in the employ of the Municipal Council of the International Settlement. The highest organ of this government here is the annual meeting of the Ratepayers. But we understand that no attempt whatsoever was made even to inform the ratepayers assembled at the annual meeting as to how the task committed to the Justice was progressing. For the sake of argument, let us grant that it was thought necessary to submit the report to the British Government first because of the predominant interest which Great Britain has in Shanghai. But certainly it would be admitted that the Chinese Government has an even more predominant interest in Shanghai. Has the Chinese Government been extended the same courtesy? If the approval of the British Government is necessary, how much more important is it to get the approval of the Chinese Government?

From all this one is driven to the inevitable conclusion that whatever else he may have, the Justice has failed in what he was asked to do completely, in that he has not been impartial. Nevertheless, one credit is due to the Justice and that is that his coming has made available to the public many sources of information which had been closed before. He has the unusual opportunity of getting the active assistance of the municipal authorities and has had access to documents and records which no other man could have laid his hands on. For this revelation, the world at large owes him a debt of gratitude.