

believe that it is well for the Bench that it should be shielded from all criticism, but I do think such criticism is a misfortune, and that the habit of mind which seeks explanation for decisions in personal bias of the Judges is one of the most deplorable mental attitudes which can take possession of society.

"The result of the Gamey investigation, if Mr. Stratton was to be acquitted, was easily foreseen, namely, that two of the very best and purest minded of the Ontario Judges are believed by probably scores of thousands of people who have been influenced by circumstances not found in the evidence. Those who know these Judges, as I know them, have no such thought, or, if the language of the judgment is calculated for a moment to raise the idea we can easily put it aside. But we must not wonder that the general public, and particularly strong Conservatives, are not too generous, and that these Judges have been attacked and condemned not only in the press, but in the Legislature and upon public platforms. To a lover of his profession this is, I say, inauspicious and disquieting.

"In Dawson City, at the present moment, a Judge, who, till yesterday, was a strong political partisan, is enquiring into matters in controversy between the political parties. And can we be surprised that his rulings are being telegraphed to the Opposition at Ottawa to be there discussed and denounced? While Mr. Justice Britton's regular salary runs at the usual rate, he is presented by his political friends with the finest holiday trip that the continent can afford, and a bonus of \$2,000. His judicial usefulness in every case of political complexion is forever gone. Henceforward every decision adverse to the Conservative party will evoke memories of the Treadgold Commission.

"The habit of attributing decisions to improper influences is easily acquired, and had already become so familiar that an attack upon Mr. Justice MacLennan (as righteous a Judge as ever sat upon a bench), because of his action in some interlocutory application, passes almost unnoticed. Mr. Justice Killam, too, has been traduced in unmeasured language by the press, and little more heed is given to the incident than if he were a politician. Process for contempt has lately become almost impossible, for the reason, unfortunately, that too many people would be involved.

"My Lord, now that you are Mr. Justice Perdue, you will be approached by the railway companies, and will be offered free transportation over their lines of railway. It is my belief that you will refuse all such degrading offers. If it be asked whether I think that Government jobs and railway passes influence Judges, I reply that human nature is weak; that motive and mental influence work subtly, and their operations are much more easily discerned by onlookers than by the one affected; that such things usually do produce a frame of mind favorable to the donors, and that I myself, with all my innate and trained respect