

a full meeting might have a show of reason had the slim attendance not been brought about by the provision and action of the Government itself. In the excited state of parliamentary feeling at the time, it is indeed possible that the Government might have been roughly handled. Its instinct of self-preservation grasped at the dissolution as a means of prolonging its existence. Still, it would in the end have been better for them to have submitted to whatever action it might have pleased the Parliament to take. If the accused were guiltless, they could have shown that before any Court which might have been appointed. Probably the Parliament would have acceded to the appointment of a Royal Commission, if they had been consulted regarding the persons, and the whole enquiry would thus have proceeded smoothly. Huntington would then have brought forward his witnesses, and a line of examination would then have been pursued which would have really elicited the facts of the case. As it has been managed we are no wiser regarding the validity or invalidity of the charges than before it commenced its sittings. What Parliament may do with the report of the Commission at next session we cannot say. If there be not a very serious defection from the Government ranks, the report may be sustained, and the accused exonerated. In no case, will Mr. Huntington be censured. It will be apparent from all that has transpired that there was sufficient reason for the bill of indictment, though the corrupt acts imputed in their grosser form might not be sustained. Should a large defection from the Government side have taken place the proceedings of the Royal Commission may be altogether ignored, but what possible action the Parliament may find itself competent to take, in eliciting further evidence not yet given, we do not know. It is likely that the Government, finding itself in a minority, may be compelled to resign, when the objects of the Grit party being accomplished, no further action may be taken, or if the defeat of the enemy be not esteemed sufficient revenge and sufficient evidence may appear to give reason to hope for condemnation, the accused may be impeached. It is not likely, however, that the incoming party will deem it necessary to pursue the case further. One thing, however, ought to be done. Much more stringent laws should be enacted and put in force against bribery. It is frightful to think on what a precipice our popular representation is now standing, and something must be effectually done to preserve the purity of the franchise, that we may not be wholly delivered over to the will of a ring of Capitalists who will do as they please with the legislation of the Parliament, and the resources of the country.

The course which the Governor General pursued, and that which he might have followed are so nicely balanced that there is little room left for adverse criticism. That he should follow the advice of his ministers while they were sustained by Parliament, has been met by the statement that Parliament should have been asked