

I hear, and read in the English newspapers published in Japan, the complaint that in criminal cases the judges of the trial courts are too much influenced by the reports of the examining magistrates, or judges d'instruction, and that if the *procès d'instruction* develops evidence strongly adverse to the prisoner, it is almost impossible for him to escape conviction on trial. The instruction is, of course, *ex parte*, and a case may readily be built up against a prisoner, which on trial would not stand the test of cross-examination. But just here comes in the weakness of the Japanese system. There is no cross-examination, except such as the court chooses to adopt, and hence an impression of guilt derived from reading the record of the *procès d'instruction* may well determine the course of the presiding judge in adopting or refusing to put a suggested line of questioning to a witness. I do not pretend, however, to have formed any definite opinions concerning Japanese legal procedure from one day spent in their courts, but it has occurred to me that possibly an account of my visit might interest some of your readers.—*Case and Comment.*

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We are told that Lord Haldane will probably resign from the British Cabinet. The public do not appear to be satisfied that he has those strong views in reference to the war between Germany and England, that is desirable at the present crisis. The evidence so far seems to run in that direction. These are not days that any flabby, am-not-quite-sure views of Germany's past and present attitude, and the needs of the British Empire are desirable in those occupying prominent positions in the Government. What is wanted in these days is the strong, robust British feeling and intelligent apprehension of things displayed by such patriotic imperialists as Lord Roberts in England, or the late Colonel O'Brien in Canada. These are the kind of men that should be prominent in days like these.