

# Justice Feetham's Report

JUSTICE Feetham arrived in Shanghai a year ago, last January. His coming was a direct outgrowth of the third biennial conference of the Institute of Pacific Relations held in Kyoto, the previous fall. At that time the British members of the Institute were so impressed with the complexity and importance of the problems involved in the International Settlement that after the conference Mr. Lionel Curtis made the suggestion to the Municipal Council that an expert be asked to make an unbiased study of the whole problem with a view to making recommendations as to how the problems may best be solved. It was with this in mind that an invitation was extended to Justice Feetham who had distinguished himself in making valuable contributions to the solution of interracial conflicts in South Africa and Ireland.

Justice Feetham is much to be congratulated for the rapidity with which he has completed his work. To finish a study as complex in nature as is the problem of the International Settlement of Shanghai within the short space of a little more than a year is a credit to one's intellectual powers as well as diligence in study. The work represents the digestion of a mass

of material and constitutes the only comprehensive study of the subject.

We are asked in the preface of the report to exercise patience and not to draw hasty conclusions. By virtue of this request one really ought to be satisfied with reading the report without making any comments, but at the same time even in the historical review which the first volume of his report covers, one finds some unmistakable indications as to what the conclusions will be. The outstanding impression that one gets from reading the report is that the Justice sets out to make a case for the foreigners as strongly as he knows how. Probably no better presentation of the foreigners' point of view could be expected than is the report under review. His case seems to be based on three main observations. The first one is that Shanghai owes its prosperity to the fact that the International Settlement has been able to maintain a government of law through all these years of its existence. Because of this fact Chinese have found shelter in it and business has prospered. Then the Justice goes on to say that such a state of affairs has not been achieved in the rest of China, the inference being that so long as Chinese fails to achieve a government of law, the existence of the International Settlement is justified.