

on the questions involved in the Gamey charges, for it is facts bearing on questions of political morality, and not points of law, that are involved. But what is to be deplored is that unworthy motives are attributed to the Commissioners. The mud-throwing, incident to a political conflict, reaches to the Bench. It was just this fear, no doubt, that induced a writer in these columns (ante p. 195) to hope that the judiciary might not be called upon to act, or might decline to do so. The learned judges who were appointed, and who undertook the burden of the reference, doubtless thought that they would be discharging a duty to the public by so doing; and without any question such as forum was a much more satisfactory one than the "bear garden" of a Parliamentary Committee.

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It may also be said that the Commissioners exercised very properly a wise discretion in the liberal admission of evidence, though even here complaints have been made, not specially by counsel engaged for the prosecution, but by some of those on the jury, i.e., the public. We have nothing to say as to this, nor do we propose to discuss the evidence or to express any opinion on the finding of the Commission, as that would take us within the arena of political controversy, which should be studiously avoided by a professional journal. But what we do say—and we think it cannot be gainsaid—is, that the report will not, and naturally cannot be expected to, meet with the acquiescence of the community at large, for the simple reason that the enquiry involved party politics in connection with an incident in a somewhat bitter political contest. This non-acquiescence leads to evil results. When a judgment is given in a suit between individuals or corporations it is *prima facie* assumed that the finding is correct, and even the disappointed litigant generally accepts his defeat without calling the judge hard names. This has happily been the habit in the past. It will be a bad day for the country when people get out of this habit in the future, as we fear they are beginning to do; and it is just such enquiries as this which will operate in that direction, no matter how careful or fair the judges may be. For reasons such as these there are many who regret that the services of members of the Bench were invoked, and that these judges felt it their duty to accept the call.