

but reversed and judgments from Provincial Courts maintained."

That the Supreme Court itself has appreciated its weakness is, to my mind, shewn by the rule limiting time of counsel on argument. Doubtless some counsel may be tedious in their arguments and prone to dwell on comparatively unimportant features of the case. The Judicial Committee, by the training and ability of its members, can and does control the length of arguments by properly directing counsel's attention to points on which the real difficulty appears, but no drastic rule such as the above obtains in any English Court. Neither do I believe that it is possible to cite a case in the Judicial Committee where the Committee has sat dumb during the presentation of the appellant's case and, without calling on the respondent's counsel, dismissed the appeal. Yet this has happened in the Supreme Court of Canada. Such a course finds its parallel only in the practice which obtains in a few State Courts in the United States, where counsel, in objecting with reasons to a question being put, is met by the summary ruling: "Objection overruled."

C. S. T.

CHINESE MARRIAGE LAWS AND THE PRIVY COUNCIL

It seems strange to read of a British Court of justice, in another part of the Empire, adjudicating on a practice which in that country is legal, but which would be bigamy in this country.

The case we refer to also brings before us in a marked way the great variety of law which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council has to deal with, as well as the multitude of races over which our King holds sway, scattered over all parts of the earth's surface.

Phin v. Loy (1920), A. C. 367; 122 Law Times Rep. 593, was an appeal from the Supreme Court of the Straits Settlements, where, in the case of Chinese residents, Chinese law prevails. The Committee had to decide the case according to that law. The question was whether the respondent, since deceased, had been the lawful secondary wife of a deceased Chinaman. The evidence shewed that according to Chinese law a man may have secondary wives, who have the status of wives, and whose children are legitimate. Although some ceremony is usual on taking a secondary