

In 1832 (by 2 and 3 Wm. 4, c. 92) the appeals in Ecclesiastical matters which since the Reformation had been to the High Court of Delegates, as well as appeals in Admiralty were transferred to the King in Council. The following year the statute 3 and 4 Wm. 4, c. 41 was passed which regulated the constitution of the Judicial Committee for the hearing of appeals—which Committee was to consist of the Lord President of the Council, the Lord Chancellor, and such members of the Privy Council as shall hold the office of the Lord Keeper, First Lord Commissioner, Lord Chief Justice, Lord Chief Baron, Master of the Rolls, Vice-Chancellor of England, Judge of the Prerogative Court, Judge of the Admiralty, the Chief Judge in Bankruptcy, and all Privy Councillors who shall have held any of these offices—to which the King by sign manual might at any time add two other Privy Councillors.

By the same Statute of 1833 it was provided that all appeals from the Admiralty, Vice-Admiralty, or other Courts abroad which theretofore had lain to the High Court of Admiralty in England should be to the King in Council.

By the Act of 1832 (2 and 3 Wm. 4, c. 92) the appeals which in Admiralty cases had from even before the 25th Henry 8, gone to the King in Chancery and so were heard by the Court of Delegates, were transferred to the King in Council. So by 1833, we have the King in Council vested with the statutory powers of hearing Admiralty and Ecclesiastical appeals, and still continuing to exercise a power which did not depend upon Statute of supervising the proceedings of all Courts in the British Dominions not within the four seas. All these appeals—all appeals to the King in Council—were to be referred to the Judicial Committee who were to report to His Majesty in Council. By this Act two ex-Judges from India or beyond the seas were also provided for. Further Ecclesiastical appeals were provided for in 1840 (3 and 4 Vic., c. 86); this act also got rid of an anomaly—Ecclesiastical appeals could theretofore have been heard without a single Bishop or Ecclesiastical Judge being upon the Committee—this Act provided that every Archbishop and Bishop of the United Church of England and Ireland who should be a member of the Privy Council should be a member of the Committee for the hearing of such appeals and one at least be present. Another Ecclesiastical appeal is given in 1874 (37 and 38 Vic., c. 85) and in 1846 (27 and 28 Vic., c. 21) an appeal is given in prize cases. In 1871 (34 and 35 Vic., c. 91) provision was made for four Judges or ex-Judges of the Courts at Westminster or in India being appointed.

Then came the Supreme Court of Judicature Act of 1873, whereby all Admiralty appeals were taken away from the Committee; and in 1876 the provision was made for four Lords of Appeal in ordinary at a salary of £8000 each to sit in the House of Lords and, if Privy Councillors, also in the Judicial Committee.

In 1877, all jurisdiction on the part of the Queen in Council in matters of appeal from Ireland was abolished. In 1895 a very important provision was made that any Judge or ex-Judge of the Supreme Court of Canada or any