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WITH THE COMPLIMENTS OF JOHN S. EWART. He
will be grateful for expressions of opinion upon the subject discussed.

An Imperial Court of Appeal

OR

The Abolition of All Overseas Appeals

At the Imperial Conference of 1918, the following resolution
was passed:

"The Conference is of opinion—

(1) That the question of replacing the present dual system of appeal (a) by the constitution of one Imperial Court of Appeal demands the prompt consideration of His Majesty's Government.

(2) That the Lord Chancellor should be invited to prepare and circulate to the Governments of the Dominions and of India, as soon as possible, a memorandum of such proposals as in the opinion of His Majesty's Government are practicable for that purpose with a view to decision at the next Imperial Conference.

(3) That each such Government as soon as possible thereafter shall communicate to the Government of the United Kingdom its views with regard to such proposals.

Under these circumstances, it is fitting that someone should assert that the judges and lawyers of Canada are not incompetent for the work of administering justice in their own country. Canadian bankers are admitted to be capable of managing the affairs of institutions handling hundreds of millions of dollars per annum, without assistance from abroad. Canadian railway men have surplus ability for employment in Australia and France. Canadian manufacturers need no help. Canadian commercial men buy goods from everywhere, but ask advice from nobody. Canadian statesmen deem themselves wise enough to make their own tariff arrangements. On the field of battle Canadians are the equals of any others from anywhere. And the Canadian lawyers—are they incompetent? Are eight millions of Canadians unable to settle their own lawsuits? And if they are, ought they to humiliate themselves by admitting the fact? Were it certain that, by making assertion of our competence in this respect, we should plunge ourselves into judicial chaos for a time, we, nevertheless, ought to

(a) United Kingdom appeals go to the House of Lords, while Colonial and Indian cases go to the Privy Council.

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