

propriety of allowing appeals in criminal cases was fully discussed for some time before the Act was passed. It was strongly opposed by Lord Chief Justice Alverstone, whose views on the subject we published at length on a previous occasion (vol. 42, p. 582).

The first court was composed of the Lord Chief Justice, Mr. Justice Channell and Mr. Justice A. T. Lawrence. The *Law Times*, in referring to the matter in a recent issue, says: "From the way in which the cases that came before this court were dealt with, it is clear that, although the court intends to administer this new branch of our judicial procedure in the spirit which the legislature intended, at the same time it does not mean to open the door to those abuses which are so often to be found in some countries where criminal appeals exist."

It is well that the Chief Justice, holding the views he so forcibly expressed, was a member of the court at the beginning of its history, so that the dangers which he feared should as far as possible be minimized. The first list for disposal by the court consisted of seven applications, some of which were for leave to appeal and some were appeals. Of these seven cases, leave to appeal was given in one, and in two of them the convictions were quashed.

Our contemporary after referring to these cases and their treatment, concludes with the following pertinent observations: "To our mind, the first work of this tribunal amply justifies its existence, and it is undoubtedly better that cases of alleged miscarriage of justice should be investigated in open court rather than by the informal procedure of the Home Office, though, of course, the powers of the Crown exercised through the Home Secretary are in no way interfered with. We have very little doubt that there will be a considerable increase in the work of the Court of Criminal Appeal, and an increase in the number of judges of the King's Bench will become necessary; but, as we have stated, although the tribunal gives indication that it intends to administer loyally the new procedure, it does not intend to allow criminal appeal to become a by-word