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**AN IMPERIAL LINK.**

Of the many links which bind together the seat of empire with the overseas Dominions, none is more potent and of greater value than the right of every British subject to seek for justice at the foot of the Throne, as that right is embodied in the right of appeal to the highest tribunal to be found in the Empire. That right of appeal may have its inconveniences—It may sometimes even work injustice from want of proper information, but never do its judgments fail from want of intellectual acumen, or from the presence of any motive that could interfere with the giving of an honest and impartial decision. To avoid this only weak point—that of full knowledge of the matters in dispute, the presence of Dominion judges has been provided for and now it has been decided to raise the number of such judges from five to seven.

In moving the second reading of the Appellate Jurisdiction Bill, the Attorney-General explained that it had three main objects. It provides for the appointment of two additional Lords of Appeal in Ordinary, bringing the number up to six; it proposes to make the judicial life peers *ex officio* members of the Court of Appeal; and it raises the maximum number of Dominion Judges empowered to sit on the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council from five to seven. In making these proposals, Sir Rufus Isaacs explained, the Government was carrying out a pledge given at the Imperial Conference in 1911, when it was agreed that there ought to be six Lords of Appeal in Ordinary to take part in the proceedings of the Judicial Committee. The appellate jurisdiction of that tribunal he described picturesquely as a link of Empire. It was the most extensive legal jurisdiction known to civilization, and it was necessary that those who exercised it should be equipped with a knowledge of the laws and customs of all the nations in the various parts of the King's Dominions.