and the Master of the Rolls alternately helped to make a court; and one week, when neither of these judges could attend, the Committee had to suspend its sittings. Excellent, then, as the materials are of which the Judicial Committee is made, they are not properly economised; and the consequence is that the Court does not possess that stable character which is so necessary to ensure success in the administration of justice. Its sittings, coustitutionally irregular, are made still more so by the changing and unstable position of the judges, and the court has consequently given rise to a great deal of dissatisfaction both in this country and abroad.

As for there being a regular Bar, confining its practices entirely to the work which come before the Committee, it is quite out of the question. The Committee sits about three months or so a year, provided it can make a court, which, as we have seen, is no easy matter. The services of counsel are only required for these three months, and it is surely too much to expect that gentlemen would be satisfied with only the fees from three months work in court. Under these circumstances we have come to the conclusion that the principal aim for which Lord Brougham brought the Committee into existence has been defeated. With two exceptions there are no colonial judges members of the Committee; there is no regular Bar; the Committee does not sit regularly; and there is as much delay now in the determination of a case as ever there was before the Committee was established.

That a great deal of very serious inconvenience arises from this state of things we need hardly remark. The business of the Committee goes on so slowly that it is not at all uncommon to see a case standing for hearing for at least two sittings. Indian appeals especially seem to be peculiarly unfortunate. To be ripe for hearing they have to pass through a great many shoals and quicksands. In the first place, whether the suitors are rich or not, the agents in India seem to be so fond of having their clients' money in their hands that, unless hard pressed, they do not think of remitting funds to the solicitors here to carry on the appeals. Secondly, not a few of these appeals are held over the heads of the respondents, *in terrorem*, to induce them to come to an amicable settlement. When, however, all these dangers are passed, and they are set down for hearing, they go on unheeded for a long time. These appeals are now coming in in larger numbers than ever. Instead of four courts, there are now fifteen or sixteen courts in India from appeals which are brought before the Judicial Committee. Then there are the appeals from the various colonies, and to dispose of all this heavy business the suitors have to look to judges already overwhelmed with business in their own courts, and who have metaphorically speaking, no breathing time! Can anything be more anomalous than this? In this old country of ours we have a great many anomalies, but a more complete stumbling-block in the path of the "intelligent foreigner" than this Judicial Committee there does not exist. We expect our retired judges, without any further remuneration than their pension (and the pension is given for *past* services), to be retired judges only in name; and and in their old age, when they want rest, to learn new systems of law, and work as hard as a student reading for his examination! We expect our acting judges to interrupt the business of their own courts and to attend to duties which do not legitimately belong to them, and that for nothing all! An ex-cabinet minister when he gets a pension may retire from active life without being further troubled. An acting cabinet minister is expected to attend to the duties of his own department; but a retired judge must work on in a new field, and an acting judge must be prepared to be called away to new courts. True, through the self-denial of our judges, there has not yet arrived what we may call a regular dead-lock; true, the inconvenience to a great extent has been attendant upon the judges only; but for the due administration of justice the convenience of the judges must be, at least, as much consulted as that of the public; and it is nothing but the most suicidal and short-sighted policy "to work the willing horse to death."

It will be the dawn of the future 'golden ages' in this country whem the reforms in our "judicial system" advocated by Sir Roundell Palmer are adopted. To curtail the House of Lords of its appellate jurisdiction, and to make only one court of appeal for all cases are obviously the best possible changes that could be desired in our administration of the law. But we are afraid it will be long, very long, before they are brought about. The fact that Sir Roundell Palmer's celebrated speech was not delivered until, by the upsetting of the Russell-Gladstone ministry, he had ceased to be the Attorney-General of England, shows how difficult the task is. It is, however, worthy of him, and we trust that he will not rest till the changes are accomplished. In the meantime, and to prevent further mischief with reference to the working of the Judicial Committee, we think some reforms are absolutely necessary. These need not change the character of the Committee, for, if Lord Brougham's idea is carried out in its entirety, all that is needful will be done. There are lawyers in England from all parts of the British empire—lawyers who have held high judicial positions in India and the colonies. If it were made worth their while they might be associated with English lawyers, and thus form a paid court for the purpose of getting through the business of the Committee.

We have no hesitation in saying that, unless all the judges of the Committee are adequately remunerated, there is not the slightest chance of the Committee becoming a regular and a stable Court of Appeal. To pay the judges is of course a matter of £. s. d., but we believe