

opium case. Another case is an appeal from the Supreme Court of New South Wales touching procedure and evidence in connection with questions between husband and wife. This is followed by yet another which is an appeal from the Supreme Court of Ceylon reversing a decree of the District Judge of Negomba as to the rights of husband and wife under the Roman Dutch Law. All these come for final decision, before perhaps four or five quiet, thoughtful men sitting round a table in morning costume. The proceedings, which are devoid of all form of ceremony, are conducted in a comparatively small room in an office building on Downing Street, in the metropolis of our great Empire, in that "Tight little Island," which rests in peace, happy in the thought expressed in the old sea song:—

"The sea is merrie England's, and England's shall remain
While Britain's sons have hearts of oak her freedom to maintain."

The report of a Committee of the Bar Council of England, suggests the establishment of a Ministry of Justice. In this country we are especially interested in this as such an office has been in existence in this Dominion for so long that the surprise is that there has been no such office in England. And one is at a loss to know how the legal machine can do without it in the Mother Country. Some of the work which would naturally come to a Minister of Justice is doubtless being done now by the Lord Chancellor, but as nothing has been published as to the many details which would have to be arranged, we need not discuss it further at present.

The stress of war requirements in England has necessitated a departure from the wholesome rule advocated by such journals as the *Law Times*, which, before the war, was resolutely opposed to calling upon Judges to perform duties not connected with their position. In a recent reference to this subject, the above journal joins with the Master of the Rolls in hoping that the time is not far distant when a full and complete severance will be made between executive and judicial duties, and the old position reverted to with strictness.