

Correspondence.

PRIVY COUNCIL GOING ON CIRCUIT.

To the Editor, CANADA LAW JOURNAL:

DEAR SIR,—A cable despatch states that a suggestion comes from Lord Chancellor Haldane to the effect that he, as head of the judiciary has in contemplation a radical change in the administration of justice in regard to the final Court of Appeal for the Empire over the sea. It is nothing less than that the Lords of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council should go on circuit amongst some at least of the outlying countries which form parts of Greater Britain. The Lord Chancellor has just returned from his visit to Canada and has seen things, and perhaps broadened his outlook.

The suggestion (for at present it cannot well be more) is in itself significant of a growing Imperialistic sentiment, but it is larger than it would appear at a first glance. Whether it is practical is a question which must be determined by the Imperial Government and the advisers of His Majesty the King, who accepts their humble but wise advice in dispensing justice to those who crave it from him at the foot of the Throne. If practicable his subjects of the over seas dominions would, we believe, welcome a change which would draw closer the bonds of Empire unity.

At first blush one can see difficulties as well as possible advantages. Presumably the expense of appeals would be lessened. The number of appeals to His Majesty would certainly be increased, and the business in our Supreme Court decrease. Comparisons are odious, but even the judges of that court would all admit that the highest class of judicial minds must almost of necessity be found where the largest field of choice exists, and where the training is of a higher order than is possible in the younger countries. Whilst we are vigorous, we are as yet in our minority, and immature as compared with the mother country and have much to learn in many matters.

Then again there are those who think that some personal knowledge by judges of the country where the events occurred would tend to produce more satisfactory findings. I know, however, that your journal takes no stock in this suggestion.

Those of our Bar who have visited the unpretentious chamber where the Judicial Committee does its work will have there wit-