

HON. MR. CAMPBELL said it was difficult to exaggerate the importance of the bill before the House, and he concurred with many of the remarks of the hon. Minister of Agriculture in bringing it before the notice of this Chamber. For many years appeals from this country to the existing Appeal Courts had been chiefly from his own part of the country, and he was, perhaps, therefore entitled to more authority with reference to the results of that system than those of us who came from some other part of the Dominion. There was certainly this to be said, that in the appeals that had been made under that system there was a great security to be derived from the permanence and stability with which the laws for many generations had been administered in England, and he thought that those who lived in the colonies had undoubtedly felt that there was great security to us to our rights and to our properties in maintaining that right of appeal which had always been the privilege of those living in the British Empire, whether or not the system which was sought to be substituted for the present one in which we had had this confidence, was one which would be followed by the same results of confidence, by the same results of stability of purpose, and by the results in the stability of the administration of law, remained to be seen. Undoubtedly one of the great elements of strength and one of the great elements of confidence which had always been felt in the administration of the laws in England, had been the reverence for authority and precedent with which the laws were now administered, and had been for hundreds of years upon principles which were studied out *au fond* by gentlemen of high education and capacity, and who possessed in that way attributes which were sometimes sought for with great difficulty in the colonies. Whether or not we could get men of that earnestness of purpose, and could get them in sufficient numbers and get them constantly in a colony comparatively small as compared with the Empire, remained to be seen. Undoubtedly there was something that recommended itself to the minds of Canadians in the establishment of a court of our own. We

all felt the desire—inherent, he supposed, in young nations—to stand upon our own strength, and to endeavor to accumulate upon ourselves all the attributes of nationality. There was no doubt something in the idea of such a court that recommended itself to the minds of those who framed the Confederation Act, as it did to us, but still those of them who were tolerably advanced in life—and he was one of the number—still felt that they had had a security in the past, and they entertained, perhaps, a little too freely, a doubt as to the future. There was, perhaps, a tendency to linger upon the system which had afforded them such perfect security in the past, and in considering this additional endeavour to take upon ourselves all the attributes of nationality there was, perhaps, in many minds a doubt as to our being able to secure all the advantages derived from the administration of law upon fixed principles which followed from the exertions and the lives of men whose learning, intelligence, earnestness of purpose, and perfect uprightness commended themselves to the mind of every student and every person who had at all imbued himself with legal knowledge in England. He was quite ready to acknowledge, as had been mentioned by the hon. Minister of Agriculture, that this was a measure which had occupied the attention of a former administration as well as of the present one, and as such, undoubtedly, many members of this House would be disposed to give it a more favourable consideration than under other circumstances they might be disposed to do. When we came to study it more fully in detail, and to possess ourselves more completely of the provisions which the bill contained, we would be able, no doubt, to suggest changes or amendments, which might or might not receive the favourable consideration of the Government. But he thought that the bill, as it was now presented to the House, was one that ought to receive the earnest consideration of this Chamber. His hon. friend had pointed out in detail some of the provisions which it contained, but there were certain difficulties which, whether advisedly or otherwise, his hon. friend had not alluded to. There were difficulties con-