

do not, as a rule, cite authorities in their written decisions, which sometimes lead one to suppose that they have been overlooked. As they constantly decide matters of the very greatest importance, it occasionally happens that their decisions do not commend themselves to popular opinion, but it cannot be otherwise in any court of last resort. The Council's most vehement detractors have never denied the undoubted ability and eminence of those brilliant statesmen and lawyers who have taken part in its decisions and dispensed justice for the entire Empire. Among these I may mention Lord Brougham, Lord Westbury, the late Lord St. Leonards, Lord Selborne, Lord Cairns, Lord Watson, Lord Herschell, Lord Halsbury, the present Chancellor Lord Loreburn, Lord Macnaghten, and Lord Lindley.

So much for the criticisms referred to. On the question of its political importance the Privy Council itself, in 1871, in a memorandum, said:

"The appellate jurisdiction of Her Majesty in Council exists for the benefit of the colonies, and not for that of the mother country; but it is impossible to overlook the fact that this jurisdiction is part of Her Majesty's prerogative, and which has been exercised for the benefit of the colonies since the date of their settlement. It is still a powerful link between the colonies and the Crown of Great Britain, and secures to every subject throughout the Empire the right to claim redress from the Throne. It provides a remedy in many cases not falling within the jurisdiction of the ordinary courts of justice. It removes causes from the influence of local prepossession; it affords the means of maintaining the uniformity of the law of England and her colonies which derive a great body of their laws from Great Britain, and enables them, if they think fit, to obtain a decision in the last resort, from the highest judicial authority, composed of men of the greatest legal capacity existing in the metropolis."

And again in 1875 the Privy Council pointed out that "this power has been exercised for centuries over all the dependencies of the Empire by the Sovereign of the mother country sitting in Council. By this in-

stitution, common to all parts of the Empire beyond the seas, all matters whatever requiring a judicial solution may be brought to the cognisance of one court in which all have a voice. To abolish this controlling power and abandon each colony and dependency to a separate Court of Appeal of its own, would obviously destroy one of the most important ties connecting all parts of the Empire in common obedience to the courts of law, and to renounce the last and most essential mode of exercising the authority of the Crown over its possessions abroad."

At the date of the Australian debate, the Government of New Zealand said that "in the best interests of the Empire, the right of appeal on constitutional grounds is one of the strongest links binding us to the mother country." And Western Australia was of opinion "the by the possession of one Court of Appeal for the whole British race, whose decisions are final and binding on all the courts of the Empire, there is constituted a bond between all British people which should be maintained inviolate as the keystone of imperial unity."

Canada has given many recent evidences that she has no reason to regret the absence of absolute finality in the decisions of her own courts, and has many times shown that together with all other portions of the British Empire, her people look to the advisers of the Sovereign in Council in matters of the highest moment for a breadth of decision not surpassed by that of any other tribunal in the whole world.

To appreciate our view of this tribunal, you have to enter into the difference of spirit prevalent under the English Constitution and others,

"One of the great glories of the Roman Empire was that the system of jurisprudence which we know as the Roman Law extended in its application practically throughout the Empire. Napoleon will be remembered by the only beneficent act of his life which remains, and which still influences the lives and the actions of the vast continent of Europe over which his dominion was once overspread. Napoleon, by sweeping away all the separate systems of local law

which prevailed in Europe, and substituting the Code Napoleon, with its comparative simplicity and reasonableness, did undoubtedly introduce a uniformity of law throughout his empire. That has not been the method of the British Empire. Our method has been totally contrary. We have always proceeded on the principle of jealously preserving and maintaining local laws and usages."

The veneration in which the Council is held is afforded in the well-known story which is, I believe, founded on fact, of the conduct of some poor villagers in an obscure corner of Rajputana, who had for years been struggling for their rights against the oppression of the powerful Rajah of that district. An appeal was finally taken upon the question in dispute to the Privy Council and a judgment being obtained in their favour, they conceived that any institution possessing such great powers must be of Divine origin. They erected an altar to this great unknown being, the Privy Council.

It cannot be doubted that it is one of the strongest links which binds the Empire together.

The fire of patriotism burns in our colonies with a pure, clear flame which is the wonder of the world. In South Africa, men from Canada, New Zealand and Australia fought side by side with men from England, Ireland, and Scotland, under one flag. With the copious outpouring of their blood they sealed our Empire together. In the words of a great orator:

"Their blood has flowed in the same stream and drenched the same field; when the chill morning dawned their dead lay cold and stark together; in the same deep pit their bodies were deposited; the green corn of spring breaks from their commingled dust; the dew falls from heaven upon their union in the grave."

While they in their lives and their deaths joined our Empire together, I trust that we shall not put it asunder, by striking at the Privy Council appeal. The Privy Council, one of the most unique tribunals in the world, is the keystone upon which, if we work wisely, we may build up the great edifice of Imperial Federation.



Part of the Ontario Exhibit of Fruit, at the Royal Horticultural Society Show in London. It won the Gold Medal.

Ontario, The Fruit Growers' Paradise

PERHAPS few of the urban population of Ontario realise the immense strides that fruit growing has made within the past ten years in this Province. Our magazines and newspapers give glowing accounts of the beautiful and profitable orchards of Oregon, California, or British Columbia, but fail to see the development taking place right at their doors.

The counties of Lincoln and Wentworth are rapidly becoming immense vineyards and orchards, Welland, Halton, and Peel are also contributing a large share in supplying the increasing demand for more fruit of various kinds. The vineyards of Essex still continue to bear rich harvests, much of which is manufactured into native wine. These counties raise the greater part of the tender fruits. The king of all fruits, the apple, has made Ontario famous, and this fruit, to the number of over one million of boxes and barrels annually is being scattered all over the great West, South Africa, Mexico, Great Britain, France and Germany. The Ontario Spy continues to be the standard by which all other apples that aspire to a place in the horticultural world are judged.

In regard to tender fruits, where five years ago, these were unknown in Manitoba and the Territories, to-day hundreds of carloads, thousands of baskets and boxes are being shipped to these distant markets. From far Vancouver on the Pacific, to Halifax on the Atlantic, our grapes and peaches are finding a welcome market.

Much of this progress is due to organisation. Where in the past the individual struggled alone, to-day the association with its many advantages and powers is overcoming all difficulties, getting justice and fair treatment for the growers from all sources and putting the business on a more stable basis. As a result, sections of the Province hitherto neglected, are gaining prominence for the growing of certain fruits. The old apple orchards of Norfolk county are now found to be by far the most profitable part of the farm; along the sand dunes of Halton and Peel stretch hundreds of acres of strawberries, while in Wentworth and Lincoln, the sand for the peach and the clay for the plum, pear, and grape have trebled in value to their lucky owners.

The apple orchards of the eastern counties along the Ontario shore, have long been noted for

their splendid winter fruit. Not to be outdone by the other countries, the growers continue to plant largely year by year, and the time cannot be far distant when this section from Toronto to Belleville will be one vast orchard, a mass of beauty in the spring, and a source of great wealth in harvest time. With ten millions of apple trees bending under their yearly burden, Ontario is surely a pleasant country to dwell in.

TOLD at a Topeka temperance meeting: "I went into a drug store," said a sad-eyed man, "to get liniment for my rheumatism. I asked for liniment and never winked; but when I got home I found the druggist had given me whiskey. My wife then went and asked for liniment for me, and when she got home we found they had also given her whiskey. Then I sent my prattling, innocent child of six for medicine for her sick father and the druggist wrapped up whiskey. Is it impossible to get anything in the drug store of this town but whiskey?"—*Kansas City Star*.