

House of Lords with the Privy Council. Numerous objections were raised to the feasibility of the plan, and it was recognized that there would be the greatest if not insuperable difficulty in carrying it out. While the Judicial Committee has attracted to itself a great deal of business, because of its high efficiency, it is doubtful if it were composed to a considerable extent of members from the different parts of the Empire, the same need would be felt of resorting to it that now exists. The utmost that can be said in favour of a central court for the Empire is that it would have an immense sentimental aspect. That it is required in order that there may be a competent elucidation of the legal questions that arise within the Empire, I scarcely believe can be proven if colonial courts were made up of the best men available. The Empire will in the end establish itself for certain great and central objects, such as community of commercial interests and as an impregnable defensive league. It will be knit together by the abiding loyalty of its people to the throne, and the flag we now reverence will be its cherished heritage. For agreement and action in all matters of Imperial concern a deliberative, representative assembly of the Empire, will some day be established that will signify the reality of the Empire in a more vital way than an Imperial Court could ever hope to do. On all questions of general policy whether relating to itself or affecting other nations the Empire will speak with a common voice. The litigation that arises within the Empire is not a matter falling within the purview of its Imperial concerns, but is a subject of local interest. A scheme of Empire which consistently preserves to each of its constituent parts complete autonomy as to all domestic affairs as an arrangement founded on convenience and necessary for the full development of its individual nationality, will, I should think, so regard it.

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