

it is of the utmost importance both in the interests of freedom and justice, and as a safeguard against any such aberrations, that the right of every British subject, no matter in what quarter of the Empire he may be, to carry his appeal to the fountain head should be jealously maintained and preserved. It may be a labour union to-day, or the employers of labour to-morrow, whose rights may be invaded. It may be the liberty of the press, or the rights of individuals, which have been jeopardized, under the forms of law; but whatever may be the nature of the rights which are threatened, let us always remember that one of the great means by which such rights may be safeguarded is this ultimate right of appeal to our King in his Privy Council.

This jeopardy is so real that one is amazed that the great majority of newspaper writers seem unable to appreciate it; and scarcely a voice among them is raised against doing away with what may prove to be as useful a safeguard to labour as to capital.

It is true that if the decisions of courts are thought to be inimical to justice or the public interests, there is always the legislature to fall back upon, but according to our method of legislation, it is not customary, or in accordance with constitutional principles, to reverse judicial decisions so as to restore to a defeated litigant his rights, no matter how erroneous the decision may be thought to be; that can only be done by the process of appeal. And recent legislation in Ontario has shewn that in that Province at least the legislature is not to be trusted to do justice, but rather the reverse.

We have no hesitation in saying that the recent proposals of the present Government of Ontario to attempt further to restrict the right of appeal to the Privy Council were ill-advised, and though we do not suggest that that Government is tainted with "Little Englandism," we fear it has shewn a disposition to pander to those who are. We are inclined to think that the prerogative right which it was proposed to restrict is one that cannot constitutionally be abrogated or interfered with in any way by a provincial legislature. It is not a prerogative inherent in the Crown as represented by His Honour the Lieutenant-Governor, it is a right inherent in His Majesty's own proper person, and