

troversy on the ratification of the Declaration of London and the International Prize-Court Convention, are an uncertain and an unsafe guide for the development of law; and the machinery originally provided for the amendment and extension of the Codes proved unworkable in practice. The jealousies of certain powers rendered it impossible to carry any amendment or change of the law by means of the judiciary. Every proposed modification of the Codes had to be submitted to a commission composed of the accredited diplomatic agents in Egypt, who in turn could submit it to a sub-commission composed mainly of judges of the mixed tribunals. Any point raised by the representative of any country concerned would have to be referred to the fourteen powers who were parties to the treaties, and should one or two hold out, the project could not be carried. Legislation by the diplomatic corps was a hopeless innovation in constitutional experiment. It was the burden of several of Lord Cromer's reports on the condition of Egypt, and notably of his reports for the years 1904 and 1905, that the system of the Capitulations, which secured this right of diplomatic veto on any fresh law applicable to foreigners, was incompatible with the good government of Egypt, and that it was impossible to adapt the laws to the growing needs of the country, so long as the actual system of legislation, embarrassing and unpractical as it was, remained unchanged.

At length, after many years of negotiation, a reform has been instituted which gives effect to the design of the Mixed Code for a legislative autonomy, and enables an Egyptian authority to enact laws binding alike on foreigners and natives without having to submit to outside interference. The extreme of embarrassment which resulted from the old system was reached when certain powers protested against the application to their subjects of decrees dealing with compulsory vaccination and the registration of births and deaths, which had been approved by the general assembly of the mixed courts, but to which they chose for political reasons to take exception. In fact, the reform of the Egyptian law, however desirable in itself, was treated as a pawn in the diplomatic game of European