

PRIVY COUNCIL APPEALS.

In the discussions on this subject which arise occasionally, and are generally led by those with whom the Privy Council have not agreed, consideration is devoted to purely subjective arguments.

How should we regard the question; how does it affect our autonomy, our self respect, or our pockets? These are the only queries propounded. Does it ever occur to those concerned that there are other matters which might legitimately be considered?

First of all, let us clear the ground of some cant and also of some phrases. No one belonging to the British Empire can possibly urge legitimately that a right of appeal which is not imposed on us, and which we may abolish at any moment, can, while we permit it to exist, infringe or affect our autonomy. Consequently to raise that cry is pure nonsense. What about our self respect? Admittedly the English system of law, both as a body of jurisprudence and as a school for the scientific application of it to human affairs, is unrivalled. We have copied it here and we cannot honestly say that we have either improved on it or forestalled its successive advances. It is small wonder then that the Judges educated under it and practising its methods have attained a wide world renown unequalled by any body of jurists elsewhere, even in Canada. No one denies this, and it is hard to see why it should hurt our self respect that appeals from our Courts should go to a tribunal which we all agree is of the highest learning and ability. It is not really our self respect that is injured, but our false pride that because we have emerged into the world arena we must assert that we are sufficient unto ourselves in every way whether we really are or not. The fact remains that a man may be a good lawyer in the ordinary sense of the term, and yet he may not be a fully educated man, able to cope adequately with problems in constitutional, economic and international law, whose solution calls for wide reading and much study. We do not profess, in Canada, to educate our lawyers in any of these directions. Civilian or Roman law and constitutional law are unknown to our students. The study of comparative legislation in its con-