system.'' In fact, we believe the contrary to be the case, and that property owners have no desire whatever that the transfer of land should come under the control of bureaucratic administration. Turning to ... .e two final Courts of Appeal—the House of Lords and the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council—in Lord Birkenhead's opinion no changes are called for in the House of Lords sitting in its judicial capacity, and ''the time is not yet ripe for the final discussion and settlement of [the] question'' of a Court of Imperial Appeal. Apparently certain changes are in progress with regard to the Judicial Committee, and representations have been made that means must be found for strengthening the Indian representation.

We are not altogether sure that the time for the establishment of an Imperial Court of Final Appeal has not become over-ripe, but we hope we are wrong. The matters dealt with in our columns last week disclose a growing feeling against an appeal to a tribunal in the mother country in some of the Dominions. The Lord Chancellor says: 'The Indian work which comes to that committee vastly exceeds in volume all the work which comes from all the other Dominions,' and, even discounting population and Eastern love of litigation, this fact gives food for thought. Apart from historical development, no good reason exists why members of the Empire should have different courts of final appeal both sitting in London and largely manned by identical Judges. An Imperial Court of Appeal, with due representation from beyond the seas, would form a strong bond of Empire, and without for one moment under-rating the difficulties of its attainment, its institution cannot be placed beyond the bounds of reasonable possibility.

DIVORCE BUSINESS.

The lists which we commence to publish this week shew the serious position with regard to matrimonial causes. At Hilary 1920 there were 1,544 probate and divorce causes, of which 1,325 were undefended; at Michaelmas last year the figures were 2,628 the bounds of reasonable possibility.''