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ST. JOHN, N. B., MONDAY, FEBRUARY 7, 1921.

THE JUDICIAL COMMITTEE.

Among the members of the legal profession, though not very widely known in that circle, there is some discussion as to the propriety of maintaining the present system under which the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council, sitting in London, is the final court of appeal in Canadian law. The question is more academic than practical. The general public do not manifest any large interest in it. The legal profession, so far as heard from, are divided. A few lawyers have expressed a strong opinion that Canada should be able to settle all her lawsuits in her own courts. In some instances the strange notion is advanced that it is a reflection on the competence of our own judges to have our lawsuits carried to a tribunal three thousand miles away. If it is to be admitted that the existence of a right of appeal is a reflection on judges who have already given their decision, then the existence of the Supreme Court of Canada is a reflection on the competence of the judges of the Superior Courts in all our provinces. A number of eminent Canadian lawyers, several of whom have written to the London Times, strongly advocate the retention of the present system. In some quarters the appeal to London is treated as an important link between the Dominion and the mother country, and its abolition is pictured as the sundering of a vital tie—an argument that is somewhat strained, since if the appeal were abolished, nine-tenths of the Canadian people would probably never have occasion to note the change.

In the opinion of the Journal of Commerce there is room for some difference of opinion as to the value of the appeal, but the Journal thinks it would be a mistake to suppose there is any widespread feeling against the existing system. Where the issues in a case are largely matters of fact, requiring the application of ordinary principles of law to the established facts, it is not reasonable to assume that the decision of a number of English judges, however eminent, is likely to be better than that of Canadian judges who should have a better knowledge of the surrounding conditions than can be acquired by the judges sitting in London. Some remarkable cases have occurred in which matters in dispute, largely questions of fact, have been decided one way by the unanimous judgment of the Canadian court and the opposite way by the English court, whether unanimously or otherwise is never known. It is perhaps an advantage in one way, though not in others, that the judgment of the Judicial Committee always seems to be unanimous, inasmuch as dissenting opinions are suppressed. It is possible that the unanimous judgment of the Supreme Court of Canada may be set aside by a decision in London which is far from unanimous.

Where the question to be decided is purely one of law it is worth something to have the decision of such a body of eminent jurists as the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. There is an impression in some quarters that the Judicial Committee sometimes regard themselves as having a duty beyond the mere interpretation of the cold language of the statutes before them. Unconsciously, perhaps, they feel it to be their duty to determine not just what the law is, but what they think it ought to be. And what they have given a decision as the law until legislation changes it, or until, in the lapse of years, other judges in the Judicial Committee give a judgment that seems to conflict with the earlier one. In cases of a constitutional character, such as those touching the relations between the Dominion and the several provinces, it may be an advantage to have the judgment of a tribunal entirely detached from Canadian affairs. On the whole it is safe to say that while occasionally we may expect to find objection to the existing system, there is no widespread dissatisfaction, and certainly not sufficient ground to justify any urgent demand for the abolition of the appeal to London.

THE GROWTH OF DIVORCE.

The growth in the number of divorce applications before Parliament will force this session a consideration of divorce reform. There are now 123 applications and the list is growing daily. These are all from Ontario and Quebec, as unhappy couples in the rest of Canada can now secure release through divorce courts. The Senate divorce committee, which hears all applications, cannot possibly consider judiciously such a multitude of cases. The growth in divorce applications in recent years is startling. A com-

temporary which has been gathering statistics on the subject says that in the first 20 years after Confederation only 25 divorce applications were granted by the Canadian Parliament. During the next 30 years 75 applications were allowed. Altogether, from 1867 to 1907 only 100 acts giving relief from the marriage tie were passed, as compared with nearly 125 applications already this year. Formerly, also, all Western cases came to Ottawa; now the three Prairie Provinces have their own courts, as well as British Columbia and the Maritime Provinces, who had a divorce jurisdiction when they entered the Canadian union.

If Canada keeps up its present record it will soon be in the same class as some of the American States, where divorces are almost as numerous as marriages. It is a tendency which every Canadian will deplore. The cause is to be found presumably in the general breakdown of home life, especially in large cities. Toronto, for instance, furnishes most of the divorces from Ontario. A bill will be introduced this coming session of Parliament to place the granting of divorces in Ontario and Quebec under the courts. If divorces are to be continued, this seems the sensible procedure. The Senate is not a judicial body and not the proper tribunal to take or to pass on evidence. Uniformity throughout Canada is desirable. In addition, the cost of getting an act through the Dominion Parliament runs into thousands of dollars. If there is to be divorce it is contrary to the spirit of democracy to make it a rich man's privilege.

MODIFICATION OF TIMBER REGULATIONS.

The inexhaustibility of Canada's forest resources is a myth which is rapidly losing credit, according to a statement issued by the Commission of Conservation. The symptoms of an actual timber shortage in Eastern Canada are already being felt in the form of high prices. White pine is disappearing rapidly from our forests, and for the most part, is not being replaced by new growth. Spruce, our most valuable pulp wood species, is steadily giving way to less valuable species, such as balsam and the hardwoods. Each year preventable forest fires still levy an enormous toll upon our forest wealth.

One symptom of the timber shortage is the increasing pressure for a modification of the regulations which would limit the cutting of timber under a standard diameter, such as are in force on Crown Lands in Quebec and this province. This diameter limit is, for spruce, 10 inches in Quebec and 12 inches in this province. In both these provinces provision has been made for the local modification of the diameter limit regulations, but only after examination on the ground and a favorable report by the forest service. Unquestionably, there are conditions where even clear cutting may be the best form of management. Other cases exist where a scientific modification of the diameter-limit regulation will permit of the removal of a materially greater volume of timber than is possible under a strict adherence to such a system and still leave the cut-over area in a better position to produce a second crop of timber.

After years of study devoted to the problem, the Commission of Conservation, however, takes the view that, while strict adherence to the diameter limit is much of being an ideal system of forest regulation, it is incomparably better than no regulation and should be discarded, wholly or in part, only when replaced by regulations which, after a careful study of the local conditions by a thoroughly trained and experienced forester, will insure the leaving of the forest in a better condition for succeeding crops.

The future of our forests depends upon the increased application of approved forestry methods to cutting operations and the total or material abandonment of the existing restrictions means a reversion to the system of unbridled forest devastation which has resulted in the extermination of the forests on enormous areas in Canada and the United States.

When the Duke of Connaught inaugurated the Royal Legislative Council, we presume he got three cheers and a tiger.

Volira, successor to Dowie, is sending two earnest women to New York to convert the city. Two do not seem any too many.

France ought to be appointed chief censor for German films. Any that pass her scrutiny will be satisfactory to the rest of the world.

WHAT OTHERS SAY

Behind the Scenes.
 A French writer once made one of his characters say: "Behind every man's success or failure there is a woman."
 Women are essentially the playwrights of existence.
 Standing in the wings, she sends her male puppets swarming, scurrying, conquering, falling across the stage.
 She listens to the applause or "boos," and, like the supreme artist that she is, suffers or is made happy with her actors.
 Sometimes, if it is true, she grows tired of the noise of the wings and ventures into the glare of the footlights for herself. Then there is turmoil. Her men turn on her—they will share neither applause nor the refusal to crown her with deities.
 They say the stage is theirs.
 Undisturbed, perhaps. But most women know that their authority is higher art than acting and are content.—London Express.

The Doom of an Unpopular Tax.
 Unless the government exercise a prerogative shared with women, the excess profits duty will disappear in April. None will mourn a tax which has played so large a part in damaging the morale of the nation and withering to unemployment. During the war, when vast profits were made, the tax was reasonable and timely. With peace it became, as the Daily Express has shown, a consistently, a clog to the machinery of reconstruction.—London Daily Express.

Royalties With Servants.
 Two kings, three queens, two princes, four princesses, and one duke attended the annual servants' ball at Sandringham.

The royalties present were: King George and Queen Mary, Queen Alexandra, the King and Queen of Norway, the Prince of Wales, Prince Olaf of Norway, Princess Victoria, the Princess Royal, Princess Mary, and Princess Margaret, and the Duke of York. Over 400 guests attended, and a full programme of dances was given through the Royal party entering fully into the spirit of the gathering, and remaining until their guests were a late hour.—Montreal Herald.

The British in India.

The Outlook, of New York, has a very interesting article last week on India and British rule there, written by David Dowrie, of Coanor, South India, for over thirty-five years a missionary in that country, and with extensive opportunities of knowing the people and the Government. His verdict touching the wisdom and justice of Britain's handling of the situation in India is summed up fairly well in the following sentence: "Considering the vast multitudes of such diverse races, creeds, and religions that go to make up the population of India, I do not believe that there is a nation on earth that could give India a better government than she now has. I do not say it is perfect, or as good as I hope and expect that it will be, but I do believe that it is the very best possible under present conditions. To do what a small coterie of Indians are clamoring for, in my opinion, would be fatal to the prosperity of this great country." Mr. Dowrie does not hesitate to say that German propaganda is still very largely based on the "friendship" of the British in India. Germany may have given up the Berlin-Bagdad route, but she still has her eyes upon India, he insists.—Christian Guardian.

A BIT OF VERSE

A WINTER DAY IN THE GATINEAU HILLS.

The day is marked by colors bright—Blue sky, white earth, and golden light,
 And bands of green, where spruce and Mark the horizon's lifted line.
 A day of calm, no breath to blow From the smooth path the powdered snow.
 While bracing air gives vim and verve And joy to every tingling nerve.
 A day of silence, profound, Pierced rarely through by shafts of sound;
 As when the distant sleigh teams pass Their bells, and silvery echoes wake.
 A glorious day, a day most fair, Of finer timber, finer
 Than lowland days. My heart o'erfills And every fibre of my being thrills.
 —James Lawler.

THE LAUGH LINE

Was Fastened Tight.
 Doctor (to Edgar, aged 4): Put your tongue out, please.
 Little Edgar protruded the tip of his tongue.
 Doctor—No, no, put it right out.
 Little Edgar—I ain't, doctor; it's fastened to me.

Knew What He Needed.
 Tillie Clinger says the reason she didn't last long as clerk at the book store was because when an old gentleman asked for the Children's Reader's Guide she told him he didn't need a guide—what he wanted was a guardian.

Proof.
 A quack doctor was advertising some medicine on a street corner. Doctor—I have sold these pills for 25 years and never heard a complaint. What does that prove?
 Voice from the crowd—That dead men tell no tales.

Practical Silence.
 "Robert," said the hypnotist's wife. "Yes, my dear."
 "I wish you would come here and tell baby he's asleep."

Inferential.
 She—I say, dear, where do all those burst tires go in the end?
 He—I don't know, but if they go where most people consign them, there must be a terrible smell of burning rubber somewhere.

Benny's Note Book

A box of candy came for my sister Gladie this afternoon, and when she came home I told her Gladie there was a box of candy for you up in your room, so you want me to go up and get it for you?
 No thank you, said Gladie, and I said, Well if I go up with you will you give me a piece of it? and she said, No, I'm not ready to open it yet.
 Well go on, Gladie, when will you open it? I said, and she said, When the spirit moves me. Probably meaning when she got good and ready and none of my business, and I said, Aw back, keep your old candy, I wouldn't eat a piece of it for a gift, I hope it's as stale as I am 8 of your teeth.
 Was a lovely disposition, said Gladie, meaning mine, and I went out to see if any of the fellows was out, and when I went home again I looked in Gladie's room just out of curiosity and Gladie was fixing her face in the mirror and eating candy out of the box, me thinking Gosh G wix, this is a good time for me to apologize.

With I started to do, saying, Haly Gladie, did you think I meant I said about your candy breaking 3 teeth and all? Heck, Gladie, I was only saying that in fun, I could tell it was good fresh candy as soon as I smell it throw the box, how do you like it, Gladie? Are you enjoying it, Gladie?
 Am enjoying it a darn site more than you will, for the simple reason that I wouldn't give you a piece if you begged from now to Doomsday, said Gladie.
 Being a hock of a impulsive way to accept a apology, and I said, O that so, well who asked you for any? I wouldn't take a piece of your old candy if you got down on your knees and told me all over the house, I hope it breaks 8 teeth instead of just 3 and I hope it's all full of stammiok like germs inside.
 And I walked out of her room havy and I wouldn't forget myself to take any of her candy unless she happens to forget to lock it away some time when she goes out.

RELIEF WORK IN IRELAND STARTED BY THE FRIENDS

Center Established at Dublin With Approval of Officials of Great Britain.

IS ONLY SOCIETY PERMITTED THERE

Hoped Their Work Will Promote Friendliness and Demonstrate British Good Will

By MARY HENKE.
 (Copyright 1921, By Public Ledger.)
 London, Feb. 6.—A relief center for work among Irish people who have been victims in the recent disturbances in that country has been established in Dublin by the English Society of Friends, headquarters here. A group of Irish Friends is assisting in the work which has the approval of Sir Hamar Greenwood, the chief secretary for Ireland.
 The chief secretary has given orders that the "Friends" workers be given permits and other needed aid in carrying out their work without hindrance.
 In a conference with members of the Friends' committee Sir Hamar said: "Do your utmost to awaken the people of England to the responsibility of the Irish people. The Irish people say that the English do not care. Show them that we do care."
 Generous offers of help have been received from the Friends in America, the committee here announced. While the Americans have offered personnel, huts, medical appliances and equipment, most of which assistance will be required. Offers of personal work were refused owing to the danger of international conflict.

Emergency Relief Planned.
 Among the Friends who are representing the English society in Irish relief are such well-known Quakers as Frederick Taylor, member of an old Yorkshire Quaker family; Samuel Graveson and Edith M. Ellis, daughter of the late John B. Ellis, who was under secretary for India in the Gladstone administration.

The work in Ireland will be almost entirely in the nature of emergency relief. No reference will be made to creed or political party in deciding the individual needs, and only those places will be aided that have not already benefited from relief. Where industries have been destroyed, throwing people out of work, efforts will be made to provide relief.

Boys' and Girls' Recollections.
 Mayor Church was missed yesterday when he attended a meeting of local Bohemians. Must have recalled his boyhood days in the goose pastures of Cabbage town.

Specials—Salt Fish
 Salt Mackerel
 Salt Trout
 Salt Salmon
 Salt Turbot (Delicious)
 Salt Herring
 Salt Tongues and Sounds
SMITH'S FISH MARKET,
 25 Sydney St., Phone 1704.

Painless Extraction
 Only 25c
 Boston Dental Parlors
 Head Office Branch Office
 527 Main St. 85 Charlotte St.
 Phone 683 Phone 38
DR. J. D. MAHER, Proprietor.
 Open 9 a. m. Until 9 p. m.

Up-To-Date Specialties
 Card Systems,
 Loose Leaf Systems,
 Modern Methods of Analyzing Results,
 Isaac Pitman Shorthand,
 General up-to-date news.
 Send for New Rate Card.
S. KERR,
 Principal

"I'M AS PROUD AS PROUD CAN BE"
 crows the rooster. And right he is. See what a fine specimen of a bird he is. That's because he is fed with Purina Scratch Feed. Our feed makes healthy poultry. Means dollars in your bank. Try our Scratch Feed for your birds and you'll see no other brand.
 "Quality talks"
C. H. PETERS' SONS
 ST. JOHN, N. B.

THE DUNLAP SILVER BLADE CREAM WHIP
 Give you fluffy whipped cream in a jiffy. No more tired wrists and aching fingers. Does not splutter the cream, and there is no waste.
 The bowl comes with the whip (included in the price). There's a depression in the bottom, into which the rod of the whip works. Can't slip.
Price \$1.25
 Mailed Anywhere in Canada
 Phone M 2640 **McAVITY'S** 11-17 King St.

FOR HEAVY WORK TRY D-K-ENGLISH BALATA BELTING
 Wood Split Pulleys Steel Pulleys
 Lace Leather Belt Fasteners
D. K. McLAREN LIMITED
 MAIN 1121—80 GERMAIN STREET, ST. JOHN, N. B.—BOX 702

Wire Desk Baskets?
 Lots of them—Good ones, too—made of strong steel wire, heavily tinned. Call and look them over.
BARNES & CO., LIMITED

The Union Foundry and Machine Works, Ltd.
 Engineers and Machinists
 Iron and Brass Castings. Phone West 15.
 West St. John. G. H. WARING, Manager.

Let Us "Save You a Dollar"
 on your LUMBER for the new building, for repairs, or improvements.
 There's usually a chance to save; besides, our Lumber is of uniformly good quality and Better Value for the Money.
 BRING OR MAIL US YOUR ESTIMATES.
 Phone M. 3000
MURRAY & GREGORY, LTD.

STENCILS
 Cut in Brass, Zinc or Oiled Paper for Packers and Manufacturers
 Steel Punches for Trade Marks
FLEWELLING PRESS,
 3 Market Square, St. John

NOT SINCE BEFORE THE WAR
 Hundreds of houses have not had necessary repairs since before the war and their condition is getting worse rapidly.
 It is a mistake to put off repairs for they will cost more in the long run.
 For lumber, shingles, etc.
 Phone Main 1592.
The Christie Wood-working Co., Ltd.
 189 Erie Street

The Best Quality at a Reasonable Price.
Who Needs Glasses.
 The boy or girl who has a defect in the shape of the eye that causes muscular strain.
 The young person whose sight is not good or who, with good sight, suffers from headaches, weak eyes, or some other result of eyestrain.
 All persons in middle life or beyond, for their eyes are undergoing the natural changes which make close vision increasingly difficult.
 To all these sharp glasses will bring full measure of benefit, and comfort in their use.
L. L. SHARPE & SON,
 Jewelers and Opticians
 21 King St. 189 Union St.

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Old-time Again!

Obituary
 Mrs. Emma Deming, wife of Captain Whitman, died at her home in St. John, N. B., on Saturday morning, Feb. 6, 1921. She was born in Troy, N. Y., on Feb. 1, 1838. She was the daughter of John H. Van Zile, a well-known merchant and one of the founders of the C.P.R. in this city. She was married to Captain Whitman in 1858. She was a member of the C.P.R. and was very active in its work. She was a devoted mother and a kind friend. She is survived by her husband, two sons, and two daughters. The funeral will be held on Monday, Feb. 8, at 10 o'clock, from the residence of her son, Mr. Van Zile, at 111 Charlotte St. Burial will be in the C.P.R. cemetery.

Obituary
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