

INTRODUCTION

During the World War special prize tribunals were organized, or existing courts designated and authorized to exercise jurisdiction in matters of prize, in Austria-Hungary, Belgium, China, France, Germany, Great Britain, Italy, Japan, Roumania, Russia, Portugal, Siam and Turkey. From first to last these tribunals rendered not less than fifteen hundred reported decisions, besides a large number of other decisions which were never reported.¹ No war of the past ever produced so extensive an output of prize jurisprudence. It deals with every question of international law that had been the subject of adjudication by the Prize Courts during former wars and in many cases old questions were presented under new and sometimes novel forms. Likewise, the Prize Courts were called upon to decide many new questions that had never before been the subject of adjudication, and consequently concerning which there were no exact precedents for the guidance of the courts.

The larger number of the more important reported decisions of the British prize courts may be found in two published collections, both unofficial and both incomplete. The first of these is a collection in three volumes entitled "British and Colonial Prize Cases," edited in succession by E. C. M. Trehern and A. Wallace Grant, English barristers at law. It contains the texts of some 300 decisions which in the opinion of the editors are likely to be of "permanent interest in the law and practice of prize." These include the decisions of various Colonial Courts sitting in prize "in which interesting points have arisen" and also the decisions of the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council in the cases appealed from the Prize Courts. It contains no decisions rendered, however, subsequent to July 1922. The other collection is a publication in ten volumes entitled "Lloyd's Re-

¹ It has been stated that the greater number of cases tried by Sir Samuel Evans, having turned on questions of fact, remain unreported. See Lloyd's *Reports of Prize Cases*, Vol. V, p. VII. While the reported decisions of the Prize Court for Egypt are less than 40 in number, Judge Grain stated in June 1918 that this Court had heard and "adjudicated upon" about 1200 cases in the course of the nearly four years during which it had been sitting. See his statement in the case of *Lützow No. 6, III Brit. and Col. Prize Cases*, at p. 338.