

A. McAndrew, K.C., A. Courtenay Kingstone, and R. H. Greer. Mr. Justice Riddell was also present and spoke in his usual happy style.

The banquet was a brilliant affair and a great success. Our neighbours to the south of us are princes of hospitality and good fellowship; and the interchange of courtesies between their profession and our own has been both pleasant and profitable.

LAW AS TO FALSE FLAGS.

The statement of a Press Association special correspondent at Scarborough that a spectator had asserted that he saw that the attacking German ships which bombarded that town had hoisted the British ensign would, if verified, be a grave breach of international law if the British ensign remained hoisted after the bombardment had begun. At sea, as on land, the use of false colours in war is forbidden. When a vessel is summoned to lie to, or before a gun is fired in action, the national colours should be displayed. It is, however, lawful to use false colours as a ruse, as Nelson did when he lay off Barcelona for a long time shewing the French flag, with the object of drawing out the ships of Spain, then allied with France. When such preliminaries are over and the combat actually begins the national colours should be hoisted. Professor Oppenheim thus expounds the doctrine with respect to the use of a false flag at sea, which is analogous to the use of a false flag in land warfare, for the purpose of stratagem as distinguished from deceit: "As regards the use of a false flag, it is by most publicists considered perfectly lawful for a man-of-war to use a neutral's or the enemy's flag. On the other hand, it is universally agreed that immediately before an attack a vessel must fly her national flag, since the principle is considered inviolable that during actual fighting belligerent forces ought to be certain who is friend and who is foe. British practice permits the use of false colours, but the United States Naval War Code forbids it altogether; whereas as late as 1898, during the war with Spain in consequence of the Cuban insurrection, two American men-of-war made use of the Spanish flag, and during the war between Turkey and Russia in 1877, Russian men-of-war in the Black Sea made use of the Italian flag."—*Law Times*.