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Armorial in Ontario.

IT is probable that there are in Ontario more persons, proportionately to the population, entitled to bear arms than in any other part of her Majesty's dominions. A statement which may be understood when it is considered that this province was largely settled by retired military and naval officers, and by the younger sons of families of established position. According to heraldic rule, applicable to most of such cases, the arms borne by such persons should be "differenced," that is, should undergo some change by which the cadet family settled in this province should be heraldically distinguishable from the parent family. There are some cases—two of which occur in the present number of this journal—where families have divided up into numerous and widely scattered branches, in which conformity to the rule is especially desirable.

It is unfortunate that there is no way in Canada by which arms may be registered and proper differences assigned. Applications to the Heraldic authorities in London, Edinburgh and Dublin, though in some respects easy enough, are beset with obstacles which not many Canadians care to encounter, and which appear to us to be of a very unnecessary character, and not at all in accordance with proper heraldic principles.