

## CORRESPONDENCE—ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNTY JUDGES.

the peace for the county in which such burgh is situated that he and any partner or partners in business with him cease to practise before any justice of the peace court in such county, so long as he continues to hold such office as aforesaid; and it shall not be lawful for him or them thereafter, and during his continuance in office, so to practise."

Manitoba has wisely copied the English statute law provisions in chapter 7, section 20 of her Consolidated Statutes, 1880, by enacting that "No barrister, attorney or solicitor in any Court whatever, shall be appointed to act as a justice of the peace in or for any county in that Province during the time he continues to act as such." I sincerely trust that the Hon. Mr. Mowat will see fit to prevent the abuse complained of, and disqualify practising attorneys from holding the office of justice of the peace or police magistrate. The same arguments which sufficed to carry the County Justices Amendment Bill, 34 Vict. c. 18, 1871, in the English House of Commons, which I extract from the Hansard, will, I trust, be equally convincing and effective next session in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario.

Sir Roundell Palmer expressed his opinion that it was in reason and principle a good thing, that solicitors practising in counties should not, as a rule, be magistrates in those counties, not because it was to be feared that they would abuse that position, but because it was deemed necessary that magistrates should be above suspicion. Mr. Sergeant Sherlock thought it for the interest of the profession itself that its members should not be open to the suspicion of preparing a case upon which they were called upon to adjudicate. Mr. Hinde Palmer suggested that the restriction should extend not only to the counties in which they practised, but to adjoining counties also. Sir Henry Hoare, Mr. Bruce and Sir Lawrence Palk approved of the Bill, only a single member moving an amendment which he afterwards withdrew.

Pardon the length of this letter,

Yours, etc.,

Ottawa.

R. J. WICKSTEED.

## ANNUAL MEETING OF COUNTY JUDGES.

The annual meeting of the County Judges of Ontario was held in the Benchers' Convocation Room at Osgoode Hall on Wednesday and Thursday the 24th and 25th days of June last.

There were about twenty judges present; Judge Jones, of Brant, presiding.

Judge Senkler, of Lincoln, read a very interesting paper on the Jurisdiction of the General Quarter Sessions. With the consent of Judge Senkler we print this instructive paper in another column.

Some interesting questions were debated by the judges; amongst others the practice in Surrogate matters; fees in probate matters; what estate should be considered personalty, etc., etc.

It was decided after some discussion that whenever a party to a suit in a County Court case desired to examine his opponent under the O. J. Act, after issue joined that an order of the judge was necessary, as no official was authorized to take such examination in a County Court case without such order.

The powers of County Judges and Local Masters in Superior Court cases were considered, and the opinion expressed by the judges was that the sections conferring these special powers should receive the most liberal construction, as the object of the Act of last session was to decentralize.

A committee was appointed to enquire into and report on all questions and matters concerning the administration of justice in the County Courts in view of possible legislation in the near future.

After debating and considering a number of questions of practice and procedure, the meeting, which had led to a very profitable exchange of views among the judges in attendance, adjourned till June, 1886, unless the judges were sooner called together by the chairman.