

The Legal News.

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It appears from a letter received, that the Q.C. appointment has fallen so low that it is not considered worth the fee exacted on the commission. A "Q.C." writes us as follows:—"I see in No. 4, of 13 Legal News, an extract from the *Canada Law Journal* about appointments of Queen's Counsel, to the effect that it is an *inexpensive* mode of pleasing etc. Some kind friends got my name included in a list of Q.C.'s published in the *Canada Gazette* about three years ago. At the same time I received a letter or circular (partly written and partly printed) from Mr. Powell, Assistant Secretary of State, informing me of the appointment, and that as soon as I sent to the Government at Ottawa a fee of *twenty dollars*, my commission would be sent to me, etc. As I thought that *le jeu ne valait pas la chandelle* I never sent the \$20, and therefore never got the commission. I do not consider that I am a Q.C., having declined to pay the required fee to buy that great (?) honor, and I have never put on the silk gown, nor taken my seat at the Q.C. table in Court. You see that it is not altogether an *inexpensive* mode of pleasing etc. I may add that in 1878 the Provincial Government at Quebec sent me (without requiring a fee) a commission as Q.C. But about that time there was a question raised in the Supreme Court as to the legality or constitutionality of these provincial appointments; at all events I never availed myself of this commission." It would be interesting to know how many of the persons similarly honored have not paid for their commissions.

The *Law Journal* (London) referring to the case of *Reg. v. The Justices of Bromley*, says it is an interesting and instructive illustration of the rule of law that the king is not bound by any statute if he be not expressly named to be so bound. A summons had issued to a baker, who was also a postmaster, and had been supplied from the General Post Office

with a scale for the purpose of weighing the Queen's mails. A summons was issued against him as 'a person who uses or has in his possession for use for trade a scale which is false or unjust' under section 25 of the Weights and Measures Act, 1878. The justices issued the summons, but Lord Coleridge and Mr. Justice Mathew had no hesitation in making a rule absolute for a prohibition, on the ground that it was clear that the provisions of the Act were not intended to apply to weights, measures, and scales supplied by the Post Office. In other words, they were the property of the Queen and could not be called in question, and her servants are not 'persons' within the meaning of an Act of Parliament unless expressly named.

QUEBEC ELECTION ACT.

An Act was assented to on the 31st January last to provide for the immediate operation of the Act of this Province, 52 Vict., chap. 4, intituled: "An Act to amend the Quebec Election Act by extending the franchise, and to amend the Municipal Code respecting the preparation of the valuation roll."

The Act passed in the present session contains three sections, which read as follows:—

1. Until the next general valuation roll is prepared in any municipality (city, town, village, parish, township, &c.) any person to whom the electoral franchise is given by paragraphs 3, 4, 5, 6 and 7 of article 173 of the Revised Statutes of the Province of Quebec, as replaced by section 3 of the Act 52 Vict., chap. 4, may, by a simple application to the council of his municipality, and upon proof of his qualification, have his name entered upon the list of electors of his municipality, and any elector of the said municipality may make such application for the inscription of one or more persons so qualified.

Such inscription shall be made by the council, notwithstanding the fact that such persons are not entered on the valuation roll in force in the municipality, and within the delay and in the same manner as for the ordinary revision of the list of electors of the municipality, and the provisions of law governing the appeal from the decision of the council with respect to the revision of