

surprise by the profession in Ontario; firstly, because of the magnitude of the list, and secondly, because of some names being included which ought to have been omitted, and the marked absence of others which might reasonably be expected to have been included.

The memorandum, as well as the list itself, indicates that the foundation of the list is political. Former lists have been so framed for many years past. A few members of the profession who do not belong to the party in power have (as usual) been inserted to give the list a semblance of impartiality. We regret that the present Provincial Government should have followed the bad example set by its predecessors.

The list makes a total of 354 appointments since 1900; not speaking of those who had previously enjoyed the honour. As the making a barrister a K.C. is presumably a recognition of a distinguished position at the Bar, the public of Ontario will be gratified to learn what a very distinguished Bar it possesses.

We do not propose to criticise the list individually, but it may be said in general terms that, to some of those who have been appointed, that they should have been appointed long ago; they were left out of former lists, however, possibly for political reasons, as several have been left out on this occasion, whom the profession know to be more entitled to the distinction than the majority of those who have received it. A few more are certainly worthy recipients; others again can scarcely be said to practice at the Bar, being really solicitors, though nominally barristers, and some few can scarcely be said to do any legal business of any kind.

In fact, for those who care to study it, it is a Chinese puzzle to know how, on any ground of merit, or on what principle, if any, the list was made up. To illustrate:—The fact of a barrister having been elected a Bencher is *prima facie* evidence of his standing at the Bar. Now there were four Benchers who were not K.C.'s before this batch were appointed; but of these only two have been (and very properly so) given this right of precedence, the other two, equally eligible, being left at the outer