

cient ground for declining to deal immediately with one of its forms which is already producing an abundant harvest of deplorable consequences, and which threatens to cause far greater evils in the future. The mere fact that the proposed law would, if honestly and unflinchingly administered, go far towards depriving the party which happens to be predominant of the opportunity of influencing voters at the expense of the community at large, is quite sufficient, as it would seem, to recommend that law to favourable consideration. If, as our critic states, and perhaps truly, political corruption is to continue for an indefinite period, the taxpayers would gain something, if corrupt politicians were at least compelled to supply the materials of bribery at their own expense. It is a preposterous situation that they should be allowed to manipulate the public money in a manner which, though technically legal, is essentially inconsistent with the primary and fundamental obligation of legislators and ministers to use that money impartially for the benefit of the whole community. Finally it may be observed that a distinct and noteworthy advantage of the suggested statute is that, as the acts to be prohibited could, in the very nature of the case, only be committed under circumstances which would render it extremely easy to obtain the evidence required to convict the offender, the deterrent effect of such an enactment would in all probability be much greater than that of any of those which are directed merely against the corruption of individual voters.

C. B. LABATT.

LOCAL MASTERS OF TITLE.

It has been customary in times past to appoint men without any previous legal training to be registrars of deeds in Ontario. On the whole we believe no serious difficulty has arisen from the practice; but we do think that if the present government of that province should unhappily adopt the same principle in making