

positions a practice which did not and could not be expected to give good results. We have called attention to the absurdity of appointing a farmer to the position of a County Court clerk; it is difficult also to imagine what qualifications an auctioneer could have for the position of a registrar of deeds, or a baker to perform the duties of a Surrogate Court clerk. We might enlarge on these incongruities indefinitely, but these samples are sufficient. Why were these offices not filled by professional men who could enter upon the discharge of their duties with a full knowledge of their duties, and who could, therefore, give better service than could possibly be given by laymen necessarily ignorant of such duties?

We are glad to see that the present government of Ontario has entered upon a new departure in these matters. Two lawyers have in succession been appointed to the position of Registrar in the city of Toronto. Another professional man, Mr. G. F. Harman, is now clerk of the Surrogate Court of the County of York, taking the place of the deceased baker. No one could have been appointed to this office who would be more acceptable to the profession than Mr. Harman as he is thoroughly familiar with the duties of the position, as well as being both painstaking and courteous. The same may be said as to the appointment of Mr. R. H. Bowes as Registrar for West Toronto. We trust that all other provincial governments will see the propriety of filling positions of the nature referred to from the ranks of the profession. Not only are lawyers entitled to it, but it is for the benefit of the public that they should fill such positions. The trouble is the profession does not assert itself in matters of this kind or look after their own interests as other classes do.

THE PREROGATIVES OF THE CROWN AND THE PRIVILEGES OF THE PEOPLE.

Two episodes within a few days of each other, the one in the House of Lords on the 30th ult., and the other in the House of Commons on the 6th inst., illustrate very forcibly the trend of constitutional development by which the prerogatives of the Crown have become virtually the privileges of the people. In