

sented to the Lord Chancellor a memorial praying for some new system of appointment of these magistrates, which would be non-political. The reply of the Lord Chancellor, Lord Loreburn, is well worthy of being reproduced, and should be carefully noted by the powers that be, and not only noted but acted upon, if the Bench in Canada is to retain anything of its historic dignity and efficiency. The Chancellor's remarks were as follows:—

“It is one thing to correct monopolies and open the Bench to the honourable ambition of men of all parties. It is quite a different thing to treat the position of justice as merely or mainly a reward of party services. Yet this is what I am constantly and most unfortunately asked to do, not, indeed, by the great bulk of members, but by some of them, and by many outside. And it is most significant that, with the exception of two or three names, I cannot recall any application from any Conservative member for the appointment of any person as justice of the peace. So widespread and so deeply-rooted seems to be the persuasion that the Bench of justices is the appanage of party, and the Lord Chancellor the mere registrar of party selections. Now this is, in my judgment, a serious danger. Justices of the peace in England and Wales deal with an immense proportion of the total number of criminal cases at one stage or another, and have a jurisdiction which ranges from long terms of penal servitude at Quarter Sessions to slight punishment at Petty Sessions, with practically little chance of appeal. I am certain that I ought not to allow an office which places in men's hands the liberty and reputation of their humblest neighbours to become the subject of political traffic. The principle upon which I have acted, and shall continue to act, is that, if a man is suitable, the fact that he is a strong party man, on whatever side, is no objection. A great proportion of the ablest and most vigorous men are so; and justices, being unpaid, cannot be required as judges are, to lay aside political activity. But I shall not allow a defect in the necessary qualities to be made good by political services or restrict the choice to those who have been politically active. My purpose is that the Bench of justices