

able use. This certainly seems a somewhat extreme application of the maxim *sic utere tuo ut alienum non lædas*, and it is doubtful whether the exigencies of life in this country would permit of its application here to the same extent.

Correspondence.

OUR QUEEN'S COUNSEL.

To the Editor of THE CANADA LAW JOURNAL:

SIR,—Your remarks in a late number of THE LAW JOURNAL anent the recent appointment of Q.C.s cannot fail to commend themselves to the profession as a whole, as well as to the public. Nothing could more effectually bring this "order" into utter contempt than such an indiscriminate increase in its numbers as we have just witnessed.

So soon as a distinction of any sort is conferred upon persons unworthy of it, just so soon does it cease to have any value, and this is precisely the case with the appointment in question.

It is safe to say that in no other part of the British empire are Police Court practitioners and Division Court advocates similarly honoured.

Her Majesty's "patent" no longer affords any evidence that its Canadian possessor has either forensic power, literary ability, or professional standing of any sort, and many of those who have been thus favoured are not even men of respectable talents.

That the appointing power should have been prostituted in such a manner is very much to be regretted, and cannot be too strongly condemned.

But my object in writing to you is not to point out what everybody knows, but rather to ask the question (and to endeavour to answer it), does not this extraordinary exercise of governmental power convey to us some lesson? And here let me say that we are not dealing with any new phenomenon, but merely with a new development of phenomena already well established, and which serves to show us once again the baneful influence of party politics. And this is the lesson I desire to enforce.

The truth is, the "machine" politician has laid his slimy hand upon this "institution," and robbed it of its value, bringing it, as he has brought everything else subject to his control, into disrepute. It is every year becoming more painfully evident that the substantial interests of the country are being completely subordinated to the interests of "party." Every device that can be originated, no matter how questionable, is not only tolerated but welcomed by the professional politician, so long as it will serve to strengthen the "party" to which he belongs. No sacrifice is considered too great, no expenditure too heavy, no inconsistency too glaring, no compact too demoralizing, no favouritism too rank, no shock to our moral sense too severe, if it will either bring votes, discharge political obligations, or revive the flagging zeal of some party political hack, and