

## The Legal News.

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### THE QUEEN v. DOUTRE.

We publish this week the text of the decision of the Privy Council in this important case. The *Law Journal* (London) has the following remarks:—"In the appeal of *Regina v. Doutre* the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council decide some interesting professional questions. It is laid down that when a client retains counsel for professional services, he retains him according to the custom and law of the bar of which he is a member. For instance, if an Englishman happened to meet an English barrister or solicitor in Paris, and retained him to conduct his case in a French Court, the rights of the parties would be governed by English and not French law, the place of the contract and the place of the services rendered being irrelevant. Secondly, the Committee entertain 'serious doubts' whether in British Colonies in which the English common law prevails, the fee for advocacy due to a practitioner who is both barrister and solicitor can be considered an honorarium. It would have been as well if the Committee had been more positive on a subject which scarcely admits of doubt. The theory of honorarium belongs not to the service rendered, but to the person rendering it. As soon as that person can recover at all for professional services, he can recover for all professional services. It has never been questioned that solicitors can recover in this country for advocacy in the County Courts, or any other Court in which they have co-audience with barristers. Thirdly, the Committee decide that the rights of the Canadian lawyer against the Crown are the same as his rights against private clients, as to which it need only be said that it would be very strange if it were not so. In reading the formal judgment of the Committee, which in style and manner is half-way between the recitals of a French judgment or the note to a Scotch interlocutor and the judgment of an ordinary English Court of law, whether at home or abroad,

one is struck with the loss sustained by the prohibition of *seriatim* opinions. On a subject of so much interest the judgments in the Court of Appeal and the House of Lords would have been doubly interesting."

### EX PARTE ANNOUNCEMENTS.

A letter in a daily paper affords an illustration of the way in which *ex parte* announcements work. We know nothing of the merits of the case, but we take the following as a sample of a very numerous class of proceedings. There was an announcement in the papers about an action for \$100,000 damages. The writer of the letter referred to says:—"The fact that the same has been made public for several days, and as yet no writ has been served on those supposed to be most interested therein, has, to say the least, a very peculiar look about it." We have it from several informants that in many of these cases no writ is ever served. If the announcement in the papers fails to effect its purpose the case is dropped.

### THE SALVATION ARMY IN CANADA.

We noted some time ago a decision in England (5 L.N. 265) by which the Salvation Army were permitted to pursue their conquests undeterred by the fear of the police. In Ontario, the police magistrates took a different view (6 L.N. 233), but on appeal to a higher tribunal the verdict is in favour of unimpeded action. In Toronto, July 24, judgment was given at Osgoode Hall by Mr. Justice Rose, on an application to quash the conviction against Bella Nunn, of the Salvation Army, for beating a drum in the streets of London. The judgment was a lengthy one, and, after referring to technical objections and the arguments of counsel, it went on to say: "In my opinion, if the beating of drums be an unusual noise or calculated to disturb, it may be prevented; otherwise not. It follows, if I am correct, that evidence must be given, and, if given for the crown, must be given for the prisoner. In this case evidence was refused on behalf of the prisoner. I am therefore of opinion that the conviction and commitment disclose no offence, that the by-law, so far as it seeks to prohibit the beating of drums simply,