CHANGE OF NAME.

It is quite time that there should be some legislation on this subject, uniform, if possible, in all the Provinces of the Dominion. References have already been made in our columns to the present objectionable practice; and some of the legal journals in the United States have also referred to the matter, taking much the same ground as ourselves.

Names have for obvious reasons been changed in the various Provinces since the beginning of the war. There were changes in previous years, in Canada, England and United States, but apparently not enough to call special attention to the matter. Some of these changes may not have been especially objectionable, but it may fairly be asserted that in the great majority of cases in recent years these changes have been made for reasons which are of a deceptive character and therefore not desirable in the public interest.

The late war has made it more clear that the instincts, habits and national characteristics of some other races are such that too many, though by no means all, of the new comers need watching and in the public interest it is well that they should be labelled as belonging to their own race or class. This label is naturally to be found in the name they bear and which came to them by inheritance from their forefathers.

Why should someone without leave take the name of someone else? Why should some objectionable character, ashamed of his own name or who has made it shameful, or who belongs to a race whose instincts, habits, and characteristics are objectionable to Anglo-Saxons, steal the name of some respectable citizen of this country, and pretend to be of the same stock as the one whose name is taken, a name it may be, which *noblesse oblige* helps him to keep stainless? This is going on at present; should it be allowed to continue? There are laws against stealing and frauds of other sorts, but none against this.

Rather let the man who is ashamed of his name or thinks it "better business" to have some other name try by honest dealings and rectitude to establish a character for himself in the name he was born under.