

Affront to Parliament:

Mr. Mackenzie King has taken the correct view of the issue when he says that Parliament itself, not the Government, should have made the decision.

Mr. Bennett decided that he could settle the matter himself, leaving Parliament out of the picture.

Fourteen years ago the Federal Parliament made it clear that the granting of titles to Canadians was not desirable; and there will be wonderment and speculation as to why the decision of 1919 has been over-ridden. This is a subject that should receive attention at the forthcoming session of parliament, and there will be wide public interest in whatever explanation may be offered by Premier Bennett.

When it was proposed last year that a time be set for discussing the question of titles in the House of Commons the Prime Minister, Mr. Bennett, said he could not give any such assurance. He disputed the belief that the resolution of 1919 was binding now.....but for Mr. Bennett to ignore that resolution, and in so doing ignore the House of Commons, is quite a different matter.

The status of Mr. Bennett as Prime Minister is based on his membership of the House of Commons.....  
"No one, until Mr. Bennett, had ever thought that the precedents of the House, formulated in its resolutions, did not bind each member, be he a leader or private".

The House of Commons refused to even appoint a committee to consider the question whether the resolution should be rescinded or not. Thus twice, the House of Commons - which is the mouthpiece of the Canadian people - expressed its opinion. Parliament is to meet on January 25, and a notice of a resolution is on the order paper for a discussion of the subject.

But Premier Bennett cares for none of these things. He snaps his fingers in the very face of parliament. He is "blasting a path the further end of which leads to the House of Lords. And Premier Bennett in a democratic country - or at least a country which was democratic - of his own will, has advised the King to restore the granting of titles in Canada, and it has been done. There was once a French King who said, "The State! It is me," and the fate which befell that state before many years passed, is one upon which the autocrat of Ottawa might do well to ponder.

The objection raised is not so much to the principle of titles in Canada as to the manner in which the Prime Minister has gone about defying the decision of a former Parliament. Although a former House had requested His Majesty to confer no more titles in Canada,

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