

to bring it about that the menace of war shall cease. It does not seem to me appropriate that we should continue designations of distinction solely to those who have served in military or naval forces. There may be persons in this country who have rendered valuable public service to Canada in other spheres of national activity. If we adopted the proposal of recognizing only service of a military or naval character we would be very much following the example which Germany has given to the world. So I would suggest with all due respect that perhaps we have gone for the present, by the Order in Council which has been laid on the Table to-day, about as far as it would be wise for us to go without further consideration, and I have myself prepared an amendment to the amendment submitted by the hon. member for Springfield. The sub-amendment which I thus propose to move, reads:

That after the word "Canada" referred to in the said amendment, the following words be added,

"Except in accordance with the principles enunciated in the Order in Council approved on the 25th day of March, 1918, and laid upon the table of this House on the twenty-first day of May, 1918."

In order to make my proposal perfectly clear, I shall read to the House the Address as it would be if the sub-amendment which I have just now proposed, should be adopted:

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty praying that Your Majesty hereafter may be graciously pleased to refrain from conferring any titles upon Your subjects domiciled or living in Canada, except in accordance with the principles enunciated in the Order in Council approved on the twenty-fifth day of March 1918, and laid upon the table of this House on the twenty-first day of May, 1918.

In order that I may make the matter still clearer to hon. gentlemen, I shall read, not the whole of that Order in Council, because I read it in my remarks on the 8th of April last, but just the portion that sums up the conclusions which Council reached and which, when approved by His Excellency the Governor General, have been forwarded to His Majesty's Government:

1. No honour or title distinction (saving those granted in recognition of military service during the present war or ordinarily bestowed by the Sovereign proprio motu) shall be conferred upon a subject of His Majesty ordinarily resident in Canada except with the approval or upon the advice of the Prime Minister of Canada.

2. The Government of the United Kingdom shall exercise the same authority as heretofore in determining the character and number of

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titles or honours to be allocated to Canada from time to time.

3. No hereditary title of honour shall hereafter be conferred upon a subject of His Majesty ordinarily resident in Canada.

4. Appropriate action shall be taken, whether by legislation or otherwise, to provide that after a prescribed period no title of honour held by a subject of His Majesty now or hereafter ordinarily resident in Canada shall be recognized as having hereditary effect.

I should add that it is my intention, so long as I am called upon to discharge the duties now incumbent upon me, to see to it that whenever any honour of any character is conferred upon my recommendation, the reasons on account of which the honour is conferred shall be publicly stated at the time when the honour is announced. That is the course which, I understand is to be followed in the United Kingdom and I think it eminently desirable that it should be followed here.

There is another consideration which I submit to the House and it is this: His Majesty's Government have to take into consideration, of course, the relation of this proposal not only to Canada but to all the dominions of the Empire and they have asked us, in a respectful and courteous way, that the whole subject be brought under discussion during the coming summer when certain of the Canadian ministers are to visit the United Kingdom. It seems to me that as the Order in Council has been passed and has been communicated to His Majesty's Government, the delay that would ensue between this session and the next session, when the matter might be taken up again, if desired, ought not to stand in the way of our acceding to that respectful request. I do not imagine that the public interest will suffer by any action taken before Parliament shall assemble again. The Government of this country will then be in a position to announce to Parliament the result, of their conference with the Imperial authorities in respect to this subject. So, I would suggest to my hon. friend from Springfield (Mr. Richardson)—and I hope he will accept this suggestion—that the sub-amendment which I have proposed be accepted.

There is just one further consideration which I omitted to mention, and it is this: If the amendment in the form proposed by my hon. friend on the 8th day of April last, or in the form since suggested to me, were passed, I think it would have the effect of preventing any minister of the Crown or any other person in Canada, from being appointed to His Majesty's Imperial Council. Appointment to the Privy Coun-