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WATERDOWN,

ONTARIO

POINTS OF ETIQUETTE.

People Use Titles "Lady" and "Esquire" Without the Right.

More than one Canadian woman has shuddered at the awful faux pas she made when she inadvertently addressed some knight's wife as plain "Missus." As a matter of fact she was technically right, for strictly speaking the titles of knights and even baronets' wives are only "Dame," but usage has long given them the courtesy title of "Lady" which has become their official style of address. Even the eldest sons of peers who use distinct titles of their own are merely given them by courtesy as are the younger sons of dukes and marquises—Lord Robert Cecil for instance. But if any person undertook to call them "Mister" he would get an icy stare, which even if the outraged nobleman did not administer one of those subtle snubs which his kind is an adept in handing out, would say as plain as paint, "Oh, you poor fish, are you trying to be rude or is it just that a boob like you doesn't know any better?" So the social climber who wants to get a stand-in with a Canadian knight's wife won't forget to prefix her name with the "Lady" which is her due.

Last among titles of honor is the familiar "Esquire" which to-day is affixed in abbreviated "Esq." to letters addressed to all and sundry. In olden times as everyone knows an esquire was the gentleman attendant attached to a knight and who frequently won knighthood himself. Subsequently the title developed into the looser one of squire, signifying any untitled English country gentleman. Under a general sort of rule Burke declares that the persons entitled to the address of esquire to-day are: sons of peers and lords of Parliament during the lives of their fathers; the younger sons of peers after the death of their fathers; the eldest sons of the younger sons of peers and their eldest sons in perpetual succession; all the sons of baronets and the eldest sons of knights; Companions of the Bath and their eldest sons; British barristers, but not solicitors; justice of the peace and mayors while in commission or office; crown officials who are not merely clerks; persons styled esquires by the crown in their commissions as sheriffs, officers in the army and navy, etc.; lawyers in Dominions like Canada where the departments of barrister and solicitor are united. But Burke notwithstanding there has always been dispute as to who were entitled to the affix esquire, and even in England where it is not banded about on letters nearly so freely as in Canada, "esquire" is given to an infinitely greater class of people than that prescribed above.

"Whittaker" and "Debrett" issue annual publications concerning the great and the near-great, and in matters of etiquette "Debrett" is considerably deferred to as an authority, but Burke's ponderous tome is by far the most complete. Near the back of it is a "Table of Precedence for the Dominion of Canada" which in 31 grades, starting with the Governor-General and ending with retired judges, shows the relative positions of Canadian lieutenant-governors, chief justices, military and naval heads, Cabinet Ministers, Senators, M.P.'s, M.L.A.'s, etc. But respecting the democratic attitude of Canada it makes no attempt to go beyond official ranks and diplomatically says nothing whatever about the ladies.

The Clay Belt.

It used to be one of the pleasures of the late C. C. James, when Deputy Minister of Agriculture, to trace on a map the clay belt of New Ontario for the benefit of a newspaper man who called at his office, and prophecy as to its future as an agricultural country. There was mining up there, and timber, but the clay belt, in the end, would be the great thing.

The country has produced no better judge in such matters than the late C. C. James, and the clay belt of the north is going to be a fine country. The Northland Post of Cochrane, says:

"Naturally, so far the development has been very slow here. During the years of the war we could only mark time, but slowly and surely the clay belt is being transformed from primeval wilderness into fertile farming lands. From the Harricana river in Quebec to the Kenogami river in Ontario, along the Canadian National Railways, a wonderful transformation is taking place, and the meaning of the word clay belt is beginning to dawn upon the traveler as he gazes from the car windows upon the clearings which perceptibly increase with every new season and bring in their wake towns and villages around the wayside stations."

The country is making good, and will win out. One of these days the Ontario Government and the National Railways will join forces and push forward the development of the clay belt with results that will arrest the attention of the continent.

Vernacular.

"Why did you discharge your cook?"

"She said she wouldn't be reprimanded."

"Did she express herself to that effect?"

"Yea, but what she really said was, 'I won't take no sass offen nobody.'"

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