

"scutcheon argent" and their "saltoires azeur" for themselves and their "heires male" for ever.

Hereditary honours were doomed in Canada when primogeniture was abolished in the descent of land. Titles of nobility in our fatherlands of Western Europe descended to the eldest son. To sustain its dignity the title required that the family estates should follow it. In the democracy of Canada primogeniture can never be restored, and without the support of that system, hereditary titles could not flourish.

There is a badge of Imperial Statesmanship which is to be distinguished from the mere ribbons of knighthood, and has been most sparingly bestowed upon Colonists. The rank of Imperial Privy Councillor with the title of "Right Honourable," marks the highest class of the Sovereign's advisers. So long as our present form of Union with Great Britain exists, it must be admitted that the placing of a Canadian Statesman in the list of Imperial Privy Councillors is an honourable mark of distinction, because it signifies a high office. Of all titles held by a Canadian Statesman, while Canada is a Colony, that is the one to which least reasonable objection can be taken. It, at least, is neither a remnant, nor a tinsel imitation, of the ancient Orders of Chivalry.

The Most Noble, Ancient and Illustrious Orders of The Garter, The Thistle, and St. Patrick, are too sacred to decorate the Colonial breast; and only one Canadian possesses the Grand Cross of the Bath. The fifth-class Knighthood of St. Michael and St. George has been found sufficiently satisfying for the Colonial appetite for honours; and, even in this inferior order, most of our aristocracy are satisfied to strut about with a ribbon of second or third class rank.

While all men of any prominence in Canadian public life are certain, sooner or later, to have the refusal of Knight-hoods, yet it is to be hoped that few will feel called upon to accept them in the future. It is one of the arguments against acceptance of such titles, that Canadian public men should look to the Canadian people for their rewards, and should not take them from Downing Street. Yet, it must be admitted,