

**Halton County Reform Association  
Congratulates J. Ross Robertson.**

Toronto Daily Star

The following resolution was passed unanimously at a well-attended meeting of the Halton County Reform Association last Friday:

Moved by James Waldbrook; seconded by C. H. Cross: "That the acceptance of the knighthoods and other so-called honors by Canadians is alien to the democratic instinct of our people. It breeds toadyism, snobbery and flunkeyism, and tends to create social and class distinctions which should have no place in Canada.

"We call for a revival of that spirit of democracy which prompted such men as George Brown, Alexander Mackenzie and Edward Blake to decline titles for themselves, they being content to look for reward for public service to the Canadian people alone.

"We congratulate John Ross Robertson upon his refusal to accept knighthood. In taking this course he has rendered a service to his country that we deeply appreciate. We call upon all Canadians to whom titles may be offered hereafter to follow his example."

**British Opinion.**

Manchester Guardian, in a recent letter from its London correspondent, said under the heading, "The Canadian Peerage": "Canadians here I find are discussing the Canadian peerage in the honors list from a point of view of their own; the last three peerages which have been conferred on Canadians have all gone to Montreal men. This is a fact not altogether pleasing to men who do not come from Montreal. To Toronto people, for instance, the rivalry between Montreal and Toronto is as keen as that between Liverpool and Manchester, or Glasgow and Edinburgh. The Toronto man declares that his city could also produce a self-made millionaire newspaper proprietor equally worthy of honor for his independent patriotic outlook and his philanthropy. It is true, To-

ronto people add that their newspaper millionaire has always refused any honors, and this is some consolation to them."

**Halifax Nova Scotian.**

The Canadian press is giving Mr. John Ross Robertson, proprietor of The Toronto Telegram, much credit for having recently declined to accept a senatorship and a knighthood. Mr. Robertson is entitled to credit, and his action is wholly praiseworthy, but the precedent was set long ago by a Halifax newspaper man, equally as deserving of public honor and preferment. Mr. C. C. Blackadar, editor and proprietor of the Acadian Recorder, had the distinction, many years ago, of declining a senatorship and the Lieutenant-Governorship of his native province, and we have no doubt that if Mr. Blackadar had any desire to be other than the democrat and good citizen that he has been and is, a knighthood would have been at his disposal. He preferred, however, as Mr. Robertson has chosen, to wear the distinction which comes from long and faithful service as a journalist and an exemplar of good citizenship.

**Winnipeg Tribune.**

Toronto Globe—While the acceptance of a British title, knighthood or other, for services rendered to the people of Canada is sanctioned by custom as well as by law, it is refreshing to hear, even at long intervals, that it has been declined by someone to whom it had been offered in good faith. J. Ross Robertson's fellow-citizens will think none the less of him, perhaps they will think all the more, because he preferred to be known to and by them without and fictitious distinction purporting to be conferred by the addition of a title to his name. No one of all the individuals in the rapidly lengthening list of Canadian knights was better entitled to any such distinction than he is, but he preferred to be enrolled in the very much shorter list of those who declined the honor, along with such distinguished Canadians as George Brown and Edward Blake.