

C 8488

Titles in Canada

History of

1918

Order in Council, adopted March 25, 1918:

Tabled in House of Commons - May 21st - under Union Government:

placed limitation upon extent to which Canadians could accept honours from His Majesty -

notably transferring power of approving or recommending from Governor General to Prime Minister.

Also requested Sovereign that no further hereditary titles be bestowed on Canadians.

Order in Council approved in House by an address to His Majesty, adopted on division.

Anti-Titles Debate - House of Commons - 1918:

Began April 8th, and ended May 21st;

spirit of expressions in House was that in democratic country like Canada, there was no place for titular distinctions;

precipitated by motion of W. F. Nickle, seconded by A. R. McMaster, called for abolition of hereditary titles.

E. L. Richardson moved amendment to abolish all titles.

Sir Robert Borden moved amendment to amendment to provide that future bestowal of titles should be in accordance with terms of Order in Council.

Sub-amendment carried 104 to 71.

Sir Wilfrid Laurier voted with those who would go full length of abolishing all titles.

Resolution excluded titles that might be granted in recognition of service in the war and those ordinarily bestowed by the Sovereign "proprio motu" - on his own initiative. The latter would concern only those honours which do not involve the use of a title in addressing the recipient - such as the order of St. John of Jerusalem.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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