

Titles and distinctions, which are, of course, entirely foreign to our democratic institutions are supposed to emanate from the fount of all honor — the Crown. But as we all know they, in reality, emanate from the political party that happens to be in power at the time. Through this and other means a sham aristocracy has been created in Canada with its ramifications throughout the country and with this condition Canadian democracy will have to reckon in the future as one of the chief dangers to our democratic institutions. And the movement against tinsel distinctions is but one of the numerous signs of the times. The tide of democracy is rising in Canada, as elsewhere, and it will continue to rise.

Of course by democracy I mean a *real* democracy and not a sham or spurious democracy. For after all what is democracy? Words are cheap and the word democracy is one of the cheapest as it is used by many speakers and writers. Too often, in fact, the cry of democracy is made the instrument of the brilliant charlatan or the shallow demagogue. To be justified democracy must be regarded in its true meaning as the abolition of privilege, equal opportunity for all and the utilization of ability. "Unless democracy achieves these things it is not democracy and no matter how progressive its methods, how apparently democratic its machinery, it may as well be an oligarchy, a kakistocracy or a tyranny."

We must be careful after the war is over, that things shall not be done in the name of democracy that are at utter variance with the true principles of democracy. Above all we will have to beware of the form of Prussianism, masquerading in the guise of *efficiency*. There are those, in fact, who are so enamored of German methods that they would apparently be quite prepared to see them generally adopted on the ground that they make — so they claim — for greater *efficiency*. That is the spirit we must beware of when the war is over, the spirit that would crush all individualism and enthrone a huge bureaucratic system under which the individual would become merely a pawn, as he is to-day in Germany. Let us, once the war is over,