

tions that the legislatures fix for persons presenting themselves as candidates to become members of such legislatures should determine what are the qualifications candidates should have in order to present themselves for election as members of this House. I think, that for us to leave that to be determined in the different provinces according to the views that these legislatures may entertain as to what requirements they should impose on a candidate for election to the legislature, is highly undesirable. Whether it is or is not desirable that we should require a deposit, it seems to me undesirable that we should leave that question so far as the qualification for this House is concerned, to be determined one way in one province and another way in another province according as the members of the legislatures of these provinces may or may not think a deposit should be required of a candidate for election to the provincial legislature. For my own part, I should be disposed to think the House would act wisely in rejecting the measure that is now proposed.

Motion for second reading of the Bill negatived.

#### TITLES OF HONOUR.

Mr. J. H. BURNHAM (Peterborough, West) moved the second reading of Bill No. 3, to abolish titles of honour in Canada. He said: In moving the second reading of this Bill, seconded by Mr. Lapointe of Kamouraska, I should like to say that there are really two aspects to this question. The first is necessarily the constitutional aspect. Todd, in his *Parliamentary Government in the British Colonies* says that grants of honours and titles of distinction, like the prerogative of mercy, are extraordinary prerogatives and of exceptional nature, but 'nevertheless this prerogative, like any other function of royalty, must be exercised with the concurrence and upon the responsibility of ministers.' Whatever the Crown may wish to retain or exercise of this prerogative is not in any sense within the purview of this Bill. This Bill deals wholly with the actions of the people and their representatives. The general aspect of this Bill may be referred to somewhat in this way: Modern titles spring from names that were originally names of the occupants of actual offices or those actually following certain occupations. In the course of time, the occupants and the occupations disappeared, leaving their bare names behind. These names have been

appropriated by others for ornamental purposes, and have gradually developed into names for the establishment of classes. They are class names. Now, for a democracy to utilize names for the establishment of classes or orders in the democracy is in itself a contradiction in terms and is, I maintain, entirely contrary both to the wish and the spirit of democracy. Moreover, it is unscientific. In this scientific age—and we may refer to it perhaps in that way—it is entirely crude to label an object, 'homo sapiens,' when—

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BURNHAM: I knew that a little learned reference would call forth a response from the members of the Opposition, and I am glad their Latin goes so far. I say it is entirely crude to label an object *Homo Sapiens* when the one so named may be merely a greedy feeder at the public trough, or in fact a member of the protozoa order, the most absolutely undeveloped order of all. That, Sir, I say, is unscientific and objectionable. I do not for one moment pretend that there are not people who have received titles, such as—if I may be allowed the reference—the right hon. leader of the Opposition (Sir Wilfrid Laurier), who are worthy of any title and who are superior to any title; but that does not make the action less a violation of the principle, nor does it make it less likely for democracy to incur the grave and serious danger of drifting into a possible—not under this Government—sale and purchase of honours. We have lately seen, as history will show, that there has been an alarming condition developed in England. And not merely is it the cable report, but it is the established fact—established by members of parliament—that there have been sales of honours by the people's representatives in England. That is, of course, most detrimental both to the honours and to the people at large. We know from the facts of everyday life that these things are quite possible and indeed probable. In any event, I still adhere strictly to the principle that democracy in itself does not contemplate class honours, and therefore it is a violation of the principle of democracy and of the will of the people that they should be established.

It being universally admitted that virtue is its own reward, it logically follows that all those who desire further reward must, by so much, lack the requisite qualification. It should be open, I maintain to every man and woman, to reach the highest