

grips with Toryism. Imperialism and Reaction. Then we shall witness the rise of a new Liberalism or rather of an old liberalism inspired by the splendid example of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, rejuvenated, the great role of which will be to strive for the triumph of true democratic principles, for real Canadianism, against the machinations of Imperialism, for the interest of the masses, and for the fullest political freedom consistent with the public welfare and safety.

The liberal or democratic spirit is already beginning to assert itself in Canada. A striking indication of this is furnished by the commendable movement for the abolition of titles and distinctions, in the Dominion. The conferring of decorations and titles has become in Canada, as in Great Britain, nothing short of a public scandal. With none of the historic associations that to some extent palliate such conditions in the old country a set of Canadians are apeing the British aristocracy and attempting to create in the Dominion the social and class divisions that prevail in Great Britain. In a few cases those who have received titles have shed lustre upon them but in many cases the distinctions have been cheapened by being conferred upon wealthy parvenues, Imperialistic boomsters, and sycophantic toadies, who have either been able to contribute large sums to political campaign funds or to advance the social financial or political interests of those who had the distinctions conferred. It is not necessary for me to particularize, you all know to whom I refer. Why some of these men were ever considered worthy of a title or a distinction of any kind, is a mystery and will likely always remain a mystery. In certain instances titles have even been conferred despite protests from the Canadian authorities who were politely told to mind their own business.