

# NEW YEAR HONOURS

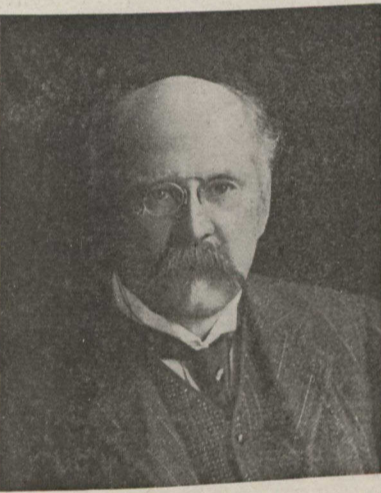
Some Leading Canadians Who Have Just Received Favours From His Majesty the King.

By DONALD B. SINCLAIR.

SEVERAL Canadian gentlemen, whose pictures appear on this page, awoke on New Year's morning, and found themselves amid a shining galaxy of Knights created by command of His Majesty. Such an agreeable experience is one of the peculiar privileges of democracy in our half of North America. A Knighthood may befall any Canadian who builds up a career of national and imperialistic achievement big enough to support one. Titles, so far conferred on Canadians, have been as a rule, fitting climaxes to lives filled with action and accomplishment. The ordinary Canadian Knighthood is as it should be—a recognition that a man has done something more than he might have done with his opportunities; therefore good. It is harmless, because it flickers out with the life of the wearer; it does not remain awkwardly in the way at his death to run the risk of being grabbed by a "second generation" who may like honour more than endeavour.

First, in the list of those Canadians whom the King has just been "delighted to honour," is Premier Borden, Canada's first citizen is not a Knight. But he is now a Right Honourable—which some say goes a Knighthood one better. He has been made a member of His Majesty's Privy Council. That is the highest and most exclusive brotherhood in the Empire. Only the greatest of British statesmen sit in this court. The distinction has been rarely extended to colonials. Australia, New Zealand and South Africa have each only one representative in the Privy Council. Canada has been indulged by His Majesty in respect of the number of citizens who sit within the charmed circle. Five Canadians are Privy Councillors: Sir Charles Tupper, Sir Wilfrid Laurier, Sir Richard Cartwright, Sir Charles Fitzpatrick, and Mr. Borden. The late Sir John Thompson and the late Sir Henri Tachereau were similarly honoured. A Privy Councillor is entitled to wear a court uniform; in precedence accorded to rank on state occasions, he marches before Knights.

The admission of Mr. Borden to the Privy Council is a happy tribute to the Premier's record as a constitutional lawyer and legislator. His appointments in a sense adds historical dignity to our Commons at Ottawa, because, as Sir Wilfrid Laurier is also a Privy Councillor, for the first time in the record of the Canadian Parliament, the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition will exchange remarks with such salutatory preface as, "My Right Honourable friend, the Prime Minister," and "My Right Honourable friend the Leader of the Opposition." What with a royal Governor-General, and Right Honourables directing legislation, Canada is, indeed, being invested with the very atmosphere of Westminster.



SIR EDMUND OSLER, K.B.  
Toronto



RT. HON. ROBERT LAIRD BORDEN, P.C.



SIR RODOLPHE FORGET, K.B.  
Montreal



SIR JOHN GIBSON, K.C.M.G.  
Hamilton

is happy and contagious, for he is human. Sir John is a native of Hamilton. He has practised law there; commanded the 13th Regiment of Hamilton; and sat for Hamilton in the Legislature until the Ross Government, in which he was a Cabinet Minister, went out in 1905. His honour is Hamilton's honour. On New Year's Day Sir John was seventy years old; the elite of Toronto rolled in carriages to Government House to congratulate the popular Governor on his birthday and Knighthood.

## Commander St. Michael and St. George.

IT is a praiseworthy custom, that of bestowing royal honours on members of the Canadian Civil Service. In every batch of titles granted, the deputy head of some department at Ottawa is usually decorated. Men who devote themselves faithfully to the administrative work of government, though they do not figure as prominently in the public eye as legislators, are just as worthy of recognition. It is right that they should be in line for the high prizes.

Mr. Thomas Cooper Boville, Deputy Minister of Finance, now adds the letters C. M. G. after his name. He is the representative of the Civil Service singled out for distinction this New Year's. Mr. Boville came out from Ireland when in short trousers. After winding up his education with a Bachelor's degree at Varsity, he entered the Civil Service in 1883, and passed through all the grades to the top. In off moments, he is militarily inclined. He belongs to the 43rd of Ottawa, and shot on two occasions at Bisley.



SIR JOSEPH POPE, K.C.M.G.  
Ottawa.

## Knights Bachelor.

TWO of those honoured have been made Knights Bachelor, which honour twenty-eight Canadians bear. Mr. E. B. Osler, M.P., of Toronto, is now Sir Edmund Osler. Mr. Rodolphe Forget, M.P., of Montreal, is now Sir Rodolphe Forget.

Two Knighthoods occurring in the same family in six months, as Rex Beach would say, is "going some." Sir Edmund Osler's brother, William, became Sir William Osler during the Coronation last June. Before the frills of Knighthood were attached to the name, the Osler family had long enough been known as an aristocracy of intellect; a triumvirate of great Canadian brothers, those three sons of the wonderful old lady who died a centenarian in Toronto a few years ago—Sir William, world authority on medicine; "B. B." dying when he was rapidly becoming leader of the Canadian Bar; and Sir Edmund, one of Canada's first financiers. Sir Edmund's financial prominence as head of Osler and Hammond, stock brokers, Toronto, and director of the C. P. R., needs no recording here. His is a broad, constructive citizenship. Recently he has been prominent as one of the Premier's lieutenants in the readjustment of government at Ottawa. He was named as successor to Lord Strathcona. But according to what he says, he doesn't want that position. "The High

Commissioner has to wear evening clothes six nights a week; I find it a bother to wear them one night," he remarked laconically in a speech on the matter. A plain, quietly dressed, fire-side-loving man of thoughtful mien, getting up in years and hating fuss, because his mathematical precise mind sees into the heart of things—that's Sir Edmund Osler.

Sir Rodolphe Forget, M.P., like Sir Edmund Osler, is a knight of finance. He is a wizard of stocks in Montreal. Family is a factor in his case, too. His uncle, the late Senator Louis Joseph Forget, founded L. J. Forget and Co., Montreal, which is a modern landmark in the Province of Quebec. Sir Rodolphe early became a stock broker. He has built up a vast fabric of industrial connection. He has also found time to devote himself to parliamentary affairs and take an active interest in military work. He is fifty years of age, but could pass for thirty-five in half light. Electric in movement, shrewd in mental equipment, vigorous in physique, he is a conspicuous example of Lower-Canadian thriftiness.

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## Knights of St. Michael and St. George.

WHEN you count in Sir Joseph Pope and Sir John Gibson there are fifteen Knights Commander of St. Michael and St. George in Canada. Sir Joseph Pope has known court honours before. At various times the Under Secretary for External Affairs has received such letters as C. V. O., C. M. G., I. S. O., and the Japanese Order of the Sacred Treasure. He is known to all social aspirants from one end of the Dominion to the other as the social arbiter of Ottawa. The Under Secretary is in the firing line for kingly favours. Sir Joseph was born in Charlottetown, P.E.I., in 1854. For years he was private secretary to Sir John A. Macdonald. Since that great leader's death he has filled high positions in the Civil Service, and many times has represented Canada abroad on delicate diplomatic missions. Sir Joseph is a keen, affable, intellectual man, possessing much finesse; a born diplomat. He has written several books, such as his celebrated "Memoirs of Sir John Macdonald"; "The Royal Tour in Canada"; "Champlain"; and "Cartier."

Soldier, legislator and legalist is Sir John Gibson, Lieutenant-Governor of Ontario. Sir John is a short man physically, which is an accident of nature; he is straight as a reed because he believes in military discipline; he has one of the best memories in Canada, for he has never ceased studying since he was prizeman in classics at Varsity; his smile