A. 1919

THURSDAY, 22ND MAY, 1919

And the question being put on the main motion; it was agreed to, on a division. The said Report was accordingly concurred in, which is as follows:-

The Special Committee appointed to consider and report upon the propriety of presenting an Address to His Most Excellent Majesty the King, praying that His Majesty may be graciously pleased to refrain hereafter from conferring any titles upon such of his subjects as are domiciled or living in Canada, except such titles as have reference to professional or vocational appellations conferred in respect to commissions issued by His Majesty to persons in the Military or Naval Services of Canada, or to persons engaged in the administration of justice in the Dominion; and that His Majesty may also be pleased to consider the question of taking measures to ensure the extinction at the death of the present possessors of the hereditary titles at present in existence in the Dominion; and further that His Majesty may also be pleased to take into consideration the question of in future conferring honours, titular distinctions and decorations upon subjects of His Majesty ordinarily resident in Canada, including those who have performed overseas, in Canada, or elsewhere, naval, military and civilian services in connection with the war, presented the following as their

Your Committee are of the opinion and recommend that an Address be presented to His Most Excellent Majesty the King, in the following words:-

" To the King's Most Excellent Majesty.

Most Gracious Sovereign.

We, Your Majesty's most dutiful and loyal subjects, the House of Commons of Canada in Parliament assembled, humbly approach Your Majesty, praying that Your Majesty may be graciously pleased:-

(a) To refrain hereafter from conferring any title of honour or titular distinction upon any of your subjects domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada, save such appellations as are of a professional or vocational character or which appertain to an office.

(b) To provide that appropriate action be taken by legislation or otherwise to ensure the extinction of an hereditary title of honour or titular distinction, and of a dignity or title as a peer of the realm, on the death of a person domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada at present in enjoyment of an hereditary title of honour or titular distinction, or dignity or title as a peer of the realm, and that thereafter no such title of honour, titular distinction, or dignity or title as a peer of the realm, shall be accepted, enjoyed or used by any person or be recognized.

All of which we humbly pray Your Majesty to take into your favourable

and gracious consideration."

A suggestion was made that the titles of "Right Honourable" and "Honourable" be discontinued, but the suggestion did not meet with the approval of the Committee. Your Committee, however, do not recommend the discontinuance of the practice of awarding military or naval decorations, such as the Victoria Cross, Military Medal, Military Cross, Conspicuous Service Cross, and similar decorations to persons in military or naval services of Canada for exceptional valour and devotion to duty.

Your Committee further recommends that appropriate action be taken by legislation or otherwise to provide that hereafter no person domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canada shall accept, enjoy or use any title of honour or titular distinction hereafter conferred by a foreign ruler or government.

On motion of Mr. Nickle, the said Address was ordered to be engrossed.

On motion of Mr. Nickle, an Address was voted to His Excellency the Governor General, praying him to transmit the foregoing Address of this House to His Majesty the King, in such manner as His Excellency may seem fit, in order that the same may be laid at the foot of the Throne.

> W. L. Mackenzie King Papers Volume C 13