

# Ottawa House Divides On Question of Titles

Premier Accepted Motion as Test of Confidence; His Amendment Carried With Majority of Thirty-three; Yukon Question Finally Settled

Ottawa, Ont., May 21.—With public galleries packed, and amid scenes of excitement, the House concluded the debate on titles a few minutes before midnight. The end came after an announcement by the prime minister which, no doubt, had its effect on the division. There had been question whether an adverse vote on a sub-amendment submitted by the prime minister would be regarded as a vote of non-confidence. On this point, Sir Robert made his position clear.

"If," he declared, "the House does not propose to adopt the course which I have asked them frankly, and with much respect, to take, I should consider that I am relieved from my duty of carrying on any longer the government of this country and I should ask His Excellency, the Governor-General, to seek other advisors. It seems to me that a somewhat peculiar course has been pursued by some honorable gentlemen on this side of the House in inquiring of the leader of the opposition as to whether or not this motion was to be treated as a motion of want of confidence. In my understanding of the course which is pursued on such occasions, I have always understood that the leader of the government should be asked with regard to that. And I cannot quite understand the reason why there should have been resort to my honorable friend on the other side of the House (Sir Wilfrid Laurier) to learn how I should regard a motion of this kind. However, the course has been taken and it is entirely in the judgment of the House to determine what course they intend to pursue in the matter. So far as I am concerned, my course is absolutely clear, and open."

## Sub-Amendment Carried

The prime minister's sub-amendment was carried on this division:  
For, 104.  
Against, 71.  
Majority, 33.  
Messrs. T. Foster, Fielding and Nickle voted in the negative. Mr. Richardson did not vote.

Debate had arisen on Mr. Nickle's motion for an address to the King praying that no further hereditary titles be conferred on residents of Canada. To this, Mr. Richardson, of Springfield, had proposed an amendment striking out the word "hereditary," and thereby seeking to have all future titles in Canada abolished.

Sir Robert's sub-amendment was in amendment to Mr. Richardson's amendment. It provided that the address request the King to refrain from granting titles to residents in Canada, except in accordance with the principles enunciated in the order-in-council of last March respecting titles. This was the order-in-council which the House had passed when titles were last discussed. The motion, as modified by the sub-amendment, was declared carried.

Sir Robert further announced that the question of titles would be taken up at the Imperial conference.

## Yukon Matter Settled

After three divisions and a protracted argument, the house also disposed of the Yukon election case. The last report of the committee on privileges and elections was concurred in, and it was decided that the military votes cast overseas "are properly applicable to the respective candidates to whom they have been applied." This means the election of Dr. Thompson, the approved government candidate in the Yukon. The solicitor-general intimated, however, that a bill would be passed before prorogation.

## Much Depressed In Spirits

On account of the Exhausted Condition of the Nerves - Though Several Doctors Were Consulted Results Were Disappointing

Albert, N.B., May 21.—All energy and ambition seem to disappear when the nerves become exhausted. How often the audience fall and you feel blue and get looking on the dark side of things. Such was the experience of Mrs. Ting-ley, but she soon got to seeing things differently when Dr. Chase's Nerve Food was used to form new rich blood and build up the exhausted nerves.

Mrs. Geo. T. Tingley, Albert, N. B., writes: "Will you please allow me the privilege of giving my experiences with Dr. Chase's Nerve Food? I was for a long time in a very nervous, rundown condition, and much depressed in spirits. I suffered a great deal at times, and it was four or five years ago before I fully discovered what the real trouble was. The least noise would irritate me, and at times I felt as though I certainly would go crazy. I took various medicines recommended me, and consulted different doctors, but to no effect. A friend advised me to begin the use of Dr. Chase's Nerve Food at once. I complied with the request by procuring the medicine at the earliest convenience, and can truly testify today to the great benefit I received therefrom. I was able to see a marked change in my condition before I had finished the use of two boxes. I kept up the treatment, however, until I had taken about a dozen boxes, and now feel safe in saying that I am cured of nervousness. I am entirely relieved of those terrible feelings I used to have, and cannot too highly praise Dr. Chase's Nerve Food, which has done so much for me. I shall ever be ready to testify to the merit of this wonderful remedy, and gladly recommend it to all who suffer as I did, feeling sure it will give them quick and permanent relief."

This letter was endorsed by George C. Anderson, J. P.

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think Mr. Meighen intended the remark to bear meaning which had been taken from it by Mr. McMaster. If he thought so, he would demand its withdrawal.

## Holds Remark Insulting

Mr. McMaster insisted that the remark was insulting in as much as it implied that the opposition members were not interested in winning the war. Speaker Rhodes requested Mr. Meighen to state that he had not intended to imply that any honorable gentlemen were not interested in winning the war. He did think, however, that if any one seriously suggested that 300 soldiers should be withdrawn from the front for the purpose of repeating the vote of last election, that person did not realize the gravity of the present situation.

He insisted that the right of disfranchisement should not be placed in the power of any court. It was the duty of parliament to guard the franchise, and it must do this for the men overseas.

The house divided on the Devlin amendment, which was defeated by 103 to 68.

Continuing the debate on the main motion, Mr. Lapointe claimed the whole matter was legally before the house. He thought that the only fair and just way to adjust the matter was to order a new election for the Yukon. He then moved an amendment, to the effect that the seat for Yukon be declared vacant, and that writs be issued for a new election, and legislation at once adopted providing for the registration of the military voters of the district for the purpose of taking part in the election.

Sir Robert Borden, in reply, stated that there had been an oversight in regard to the matter of deferred elections, and also in respect of the filing of petitions. He said that the oversight should be repaired, and the matter made to stand before parliament and before the people of the country precisely in the way that parliament intended when the legislation and question was passed. Division on the Lapointe amendment gave the result: Against, 102, for, 69.

The house then divided on the main motion. This was carried, by 103 to 69. Resuming the debate on titles, Sir Robert Borden expressed the view that the amendment moved by Mr. Richardson went further than was desired at the present time. Under the amendment as it was at first proposed, it would have prevented recognition by the crown of the services of men in the naval and military forces. It would have created an invidious distinction between men serving from different portions of the empire.

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Continuing the debate on the report of the committee on privileges and elections, Hon. W. S. Fielding said that the great issue in the matter was whether or not the long established parliamentary principles with regard to contested elections should stand or fall. This concept was that cases of this kind should not be decided by a partisan committee of the house. The difficulty had been caused by the war time elections act. There were some men who professed respect for this document but who had cast their votes for conscription. Mr. Fielding said he was not one of them. In fact it would require very strong language to express his views on this piece of legislation.

Mr. Fielding argued that the soldiers had not voted. Dr. Thompson and Mr. Fielding had cast their votes for conscription and the prime minister had allotted them to Dr. Thompson. According to all, according to the order-in-council read when titles were last discussed in the house went as far as it would be wise to go without further consideration. He then moved a sub-amendment, which would have the effect of making the address to the King read: "That your Majesty hereafter may be graciously pleased to refrain from conferring any titles upon your subjects domiciled or living in Canada, except in accordance with the principles enunciated in the order-in-council approved on March 20, 1918, and laid on the table of this house on May 21, 1918."

Considerations had to be given, Sir Robert thought not only to Canada, but to all parts of the empire. Requests had been received that the whole subject might be considered during the conference this summer in the United Kingdom, and Sir Robert thought no public interest would suffer in holding the matter over.

If the amendment were passed in the form proposed it would have the effect of preventing any minister of the crown or any other person in Canada from being appointed to His Majesty's Imperial Council, because appointment to that council carried with it the designation "Right Honourable." He thought that any further consideration might well be laid over until after consultation with the Imperial authorities.

## Resumed in Evening

The debate on titles was continued at the evening sitting. J. H. Burnham being the first speaker. Mr. Burnham said that, in his opinion, the people of Canada were sick of the whole title business. He thought the matter might have stood over until the war had been concluded, but if an amendment before the house which required a vote, then it was up to the members to express their opinion. The people of Canada were greatly stirred over this question, but Mr. Burnham stated he did not propose to refer to arguments which had been gone over by previous speakers, with the exception of those advanced by the prime minister.

Sir Robert Borden, said Mr. Burnham, had brought up the question of the Victoria Cross. He was not aware, the speaker said, that there was any title of honor attached to the V. C. The man who earned it simply wore his cross without blushing about it. It required no advertising. The prime minister's amendment was based on an order-in-council which provided that no title should be conferred upon a resident of Canada without his approval. But the prime minister himself represented the people and, said Mr. Burnham, the people didn't want titles. They didn't want any measure providing for the continuance of titles. Titles were issued to the powerful and rich, who were often also the crooked and crafty.

If this matter was to be discussed in London at the Imperial conference, said Mr. Burnham, it was for the parliament of Canada to instruct the prime minister to say that Canada was dead against titles. This was our chance to announce the attitude of the dominion on this question. If the people of Australia wanted them, that was their affair. If the people of Great Britain preferred to continue this kind of humbug, let them do it. It was a free world. But don't let the people of Canada throw over their principles for the sake of such nonsense.

H. L. Richardson, who moved the amendment, providing for abolition of all titles, said that the prime minister believed the amendment was going too far. For his own part, he thought the people of Canada were heartily sick of titles. They had been conferred upon unworthy persons and were used for

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purposes of political corruption. A prominent westerner, said Mr. Richardson, had told him that he was offered a knighthood for \$10,000.

Mr. Richardson said he was glad that the leader of the opposition had declared his intention of making this a non-party question. It was an issue on which every member should register his own opinion by his vote. He thought the members were almost unanimous in their desire to wipe out titles for all time to come.

The prime minister's amendment would be an improvement on present conditions, but a real democracy, such as the people of Canada desired, allowed for no titles at all. Canada should take a lead in this important matter and, if others followed, so much the better.

Mr. Richardson argued that appellations by courtesy were not titles. Men who sat in the house of commons and the senate, he said, would continue to be called "honorable" and judges "your lordship." There was no reason why titles should be conferred upon military men, but the V. C., D. S. O., etc., were not titles. They were merely military distinctions. The whole house appreciated what the soldiers at the front were doing. They were shedding their blood in order that we might have liberty. But it would not add anything to any of them if they were knighted. Some of the greatest men, Gladstone, for instance, were quite content to be plain "Masters." Canada should set an example to the Motherland in this matter and do away with "claws." It was a time for striking down precedence.

Mr. Richardson said that, if his amendment was defeated, he proposed to submit another, which would provide that titles of distinction awarded to men in the naval or military forces of Canada should not be abolished, but that all other titles should.

R. H. Butts, (South Cape Breton) caused considerable amusement by asking what was the necessity for such a long debate.

"What difference does it make if I am called Sir Robert Butts or plain Bob Butts?" he asked. "If a Canadian should distinguish himself—if, for instance the right honorable leader of the government and the right honorable leader of the opposition so distinguished themselves in the administration of the affairs of the country—that his majesty the king sees fit to confer upon them the titles of 'Sir', what harm does it

do? It is a distinction which lifts them above the ordinary sphere of life."

## Given Third Reading

The government's measure to meet Canadian Northern maturities was given a second reading in the senate today. Within less than three hours, and with the minimum of discussion, the senate today gave third and final reading to the government's bill bringing the outside civil service, with the exception of railway employees, under the civil service act. The measure now requires only royal assent before going upon the statute books.

## Motion Withdrawn

Senator Dennis' motion calling for the abolition of the senate Hansard was today withdrawn. After Senator Cloran had offered brief objection to the proposal, Sir James Loughheed, government leader, suggested that, owing to the lateness of the session, the motion should be withdrawn until next session. Sir James expressed sympathy with the motion, but thought that it was a matter which possibly required more consideration than the lateness of the session permitted. He suggested that next session the whole question of printing debates could be taken up in conjunction with the commons and expressed the hope that a decision might be reached which, while not abolishing Hansard altogether, would eliminate the printing of minor and committee discussion, thereby saving an enormous amount of labor and expense.

## POULTRY NEWS

Fredericton Mail: James S. Neill of this city has placed an order with an Ontario concern for 700 baby Plymouth Rock chicks. The first installment arrived last week and were taken to Mr. Neill's farm at Royal Road. The balance is expected during the coming week. Walter Bailey of this city is undoubtedly one of the most successful breeders of poultry in the province. He handles Rhode Island Reds and White Plymouth Rocks of the best strains. So far he has disposed of fifty sittings at from \$1.50 to \$3, and has orders still coming in.



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