

Interim Supply

accepted the decoration to which you have referred and I can confirm that your friend will not jeopardize his Canadian citizenship by accepting a high decoration from another country.

Yours sincerely,
Jean Marchand

I have given that original letter to my friend as a surety that by accepting a decoration from a foreign government he does not jeopardize his Canadian citizenship, as was the case with Lord Thomson.

I have looked up the Nickle resolution, as it is known, which is supposed to be the guiding factor in cases of the award of titles or honours by foreign governments to citizens of Canada. There are several very interesting angles attached to this resolution, which I have had photostated from *Votes and Proceedings* of Thursday, May 22, 1919 page 295. This is the official report of the action taken by the House of Commons on the report of a special committee. Here is the preamble:

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.—

This is the preamble. Hon. members will notice that it refers to conferring any titles upon such of the King's subjects "as are domiciled or living in Canada". I read on:

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—

That is the limitation placed on Canadians accepting honours from the Queen of Canada—or from the King of Canada for that matter. And when Mr. Thomson was being considered as a recipient of an honour from the Queen of Canada he was not domiciled in Canada; he was not ordinarily resident in Canada.

But the Queen, this being a constitutional monarchy, will not confer an honour except upon the advice of the head of the state in that part of the commonwealth in which the British subject resides.

[Mr. Cowan.]

Well, Roy Thomson was not domiciled in Canada and he was not ordinarily resident in Canada in 1963. But the Canadian government would not recommend him for the title which he understood was awaiting his pleasure. No recommendation came forward from the Canadian government in this regard. Do not forget, Mr. Chairman, that Canadians are wandering all over the earth, picking up foreign decorations where they like. But we are now talking about Britain. Let me read on from this Nickle report.

Your Committee further recommends that appropriate action be taken by legislation or otherwise to provide that hereafter—

—this was in 1919—

—no person domiciled or ordinarily resident in Canadian shall accept—

—notice the word "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.

Hon. members will notice the words—

—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.

● (12:40 p.m.)

I ask this question: When the rank of Chevalier of the Legion of Honour is conferred on anyone, is that a titular rank or is it a title of honour—or is anyone going to say it is only a medal and therefore exempt from the provisions of the Act? We have quite a few people in Canada upon whom the title of Chevalier of Honour has been conferred by the French government. As a man born in Ontario, raised in Ontario, and representing an Ontario constituency I have been quite interested to notice how often people in the province of Quebec are created Chevaliers of the Legion of Honour of France, and I do know that they have not all saved human lives.

The Chief Justice of Canada is a Chevalier of the Legion of Honour. At page 834 of the 1966 *Canadian Parliamentary Guide* we find the following:

Taschereau, Hon. Robert . . . at Quebec, Que., Sept. 10, 1896 son of Hon. Louis-Alexander Taschereau, Quebec Prime Minister, 1920-1936 . . . created Chevalier of Legion of Honour by the French government in 1947.