

Quebec, so coming absolutely within the terms of the resolution to be moved by the hon. member for East Hamilton (Mr. Mitchell). In other words his resolution is met in exact terms.

Mr. MITCHELL: I would like to point out that the Prime Minister has misconstrued the intent of the resolution.

Mr. BENNETT: I am only saying how it reads.

Mr. MITCHELL: The right hon. gentleman must recognize that I am at a disadvantage. My impression of the whole discussion, both yesterday and to-day, is that it is out of order in view of the resolution on the order paper.

Mr. BENNETT: As a matter of fact I felt somewhat as the hon. gentleman does, that it is anticipating a discussion that must take place, but as the right hon. leader of opposition proceeded with it, it became my duty to place this statement before the house. I merely say that this resolution as it reads excepts persons engaged in the administration of justice in the dominion, and the only two persons who received titular distinction were the Chief Justice of Canada and the Chief Justice of the province of Quebec. The rest received recognition for services rendered in various walks of life; I will not discuss that now, that may be discussed later, but this I will say, that it could not be said that any of them received titular distinctions, none of them had any title conferred upon them except the two to whom I have referred. I take the view that if it was fit and proper for the right hon. leader of the opposition to become a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George in 1906 it is quite proper for a woman who has devoted fifty years of her life to caring for mothers and children from door to door and establishing homes, to receive recognition by becoming an officer of the Order of the British Empire.

Some hon. MEMBERS: Hear, hear.

Mr. BENNETT: No title is conferred; no social precedence is given. Our table of precedence, as is noted in the little red book, very clearly and positively says that neither knighthood nor recognition of this kind confers any precedence. That is in the order itself. In this young democracy, believing as we do that there should be just and proper awards for meritorious service given to the state, that there should be recognition of these men and women who toil without thought of reward, who live lives that are

honourable and effective and that are in themselves incentives to better citizenship, why should not the head of the state, on the recommendation of whoever happens for the moment to be in charge of the government, recognize their services in some way as an indication that their services have not passed unnoticed? I can say with respect to one of these cases that came to my attention—none of them, fortunately or unfortunately, are people of wealth or money position—a woman working in one of these remote communities where the task is difficult and the conditions bad, said in a letter to a friend—my memory is clear upon it—that on this particular day, worn and tired from caring for the poor and looking after children and mothers, a spirit of great despondency came over her. Was it worth while? Later in the day she said: "As I was sitting at my desk a letter came from the Prime Minister asking me whether I was content that my name might be recommended to the sovereign for recognition of the service which I was carrying on in this remote place. I went to work with renewed vigour; my work had not been in vain, was not unnoticed." There is recognition of the fine service—she did not say that, but I say it—the fine service given to the state. Have we so lost that sense of regard for really effective service, based not on money or the hope of money, as not to be willing to extend some recognition to those who in remote parts of this country thus serve their fellowmen and the state?

Mr. DUFF: Why not recognize the thousands of women who did the same thing?

Mr. BENNETT: It is always so; there must be recognition of individuals on behalf of all. All may not be at once recognized, but those who represent classes, those who represent particular activities in remote sections, are fairly recognized as typical for all.

Mr. DUFF: No, you pick out a few among many.

Mr. BENNETT: All may not be thus recognized, but those who are, bring credit and distinction upon those with whom they are associated. Despite what the right hon. gentleman said, we see in the newspapers that in remote sections of western Canada the people have gathered together from long distances to do honour to one whose services to humanity have been recognized. They did so with no thought of politics, no thought of religion, no thought of race, but with the realization only that here was service worthy