

Let Us Now Praise Famous Men . . .

Fergus Editor Met Many Titled Personages

Article No. 18

By HUGH TEMPLEIN

Canadian people don't know much about titles and titled persons. The Government of Canada does not allow Canadians to accept titles. There is some argument about whether this is right or wrong, but the theory is that this is a thoroughly democratic country, where class distinctions do not exist, but opportunities are equal.

Before leaving for a visit to Britain, I had several possible titles that I might have one or two titled persons but I never gave it much thought. The invitation had come from Sir Malcolm Robertson, head of the British Council, and, as I afterwards discovered, he was the Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Robertson, a member of the cabinet. It seemed likely that I might meet him.

There were friends who asked me: "Suppose you should meet a Duke, would you know how to address him properly?" I had to admit that I would not. I knew in a vague sort of way that there were ranks of knighthood, but whether a Lord was any higher than a Viscount, I really had no idea, and I don't know much about it yet. But I met many titled men, from here to Viscount, and never had any difficulty about forms of address. Moreover, found them very human, as a rule, the exception being a Canadian with a recent title, which probably had not changed him much, at that.

I learned, too, that many of the most important men have no titles. For instance, there is the Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, and a number of members of the Inner War Cabinet, who are not even Sirs.

There were other persons of military rank. For instance all the world knows the name of General Charles de Gaulle. I met him several times. I talked with the heads of the various services, with

Rt. Hon. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, for instance, and Air Marshal R. H. Peck, and Rear-Admiral Sir Henry Harwood, one of the naval heroes of the last war.

Then again, I talked one afternoon with Viscount Bennett, former Prime Minister of Canada, now enjoying life as a member of the House of Lords in England, and one morning at an informal breakfast in a private dining room of the Savoy a group of Canadian editors sat at a table with Viscount Greenwood, who was Sir Hamar Greenwood, and before that was a student at the University of Toronto at the same time as two of my traveling companions, Bishop R. J. Hanson and B. K. Sandwell. It could truly be said that the four of us had one thing in common, we had all gone to the same University.

I have gone through my little black notebook which serves as a diary while I was away, and have picked out the names of the widely known people whom I met. It is a long list, and I won't burden you with it. I have forgotten for what some of these people were famous. But you may be interested to hear about some of them.

Rt. Hon. Brendan Bracken

I have already written about my meeting with Prime Minister Winston Churchill. I heard him speak in the House of Commons, and then met him in his own office in the Parliament Buildings afterwards—an experience not likely to be forgotten. And he proved to be exactly as I had expected—forceful, dynamic, full of good humor that day, and smoking a big cigar.

On other days, I met several of the Cabinet Ministers, individually or collectively, and on October 1st, sat at a long table in Claridge's hotel in the West End of London, with about half the Cabinet.

The ministers with whom our party had the closest contact were the two whose business it was to deal with

publicity, Hon. Brendan Bracken, Minister of Public Information, and Rt. Hon. Sir Malcolm Robertson, President of the British Council.

(Frankly, I may make some mistakes, in titles or otherwise. After a lapse of nine months, it is not easy to recall all the details, and I have no copy of the British Who's Who. Besides that, several men then in the innermost circles are out now.)

Rt. Hon. Brendan Bracken is a young man, younger than myself, I should guess. He is said to be a rich man, partly through his own efforts. He is striking in appearance, not at all handsome, but certainly different, his chief characteristic being a shock of red hair which defies combing. He was in the publishing business, and has been secretary to Churchill and is a personal friend of the Prime Minister.

The group of Canadian editors, full much indebted to Brendan Bracken. It wasn't just because he gave us a dinner one day, at which we met many of the ministers, though that was a memorable day. But apart from that, he helpfully seemed unbothered if we wanted anything or needed to go anywhere, we only had to ask for it. Bracken, our hosts had not arranged a chance to meet Winston Churchill, probably not thinking how much we would appreciate the opportunity, but when it was mentioned to Mr. Bracken, he arranged it at once, and went farther than we had asked, taking us into the House of Commons while the Prime Minister was speaking, as well as having us meet him in his office.

Our Titled Hosts

Brendan Bracken has no title, but two of our other hosts from the Ministry of Information were Sir Malcolm Robertson is also a Rt. Hon. and is head of the British Council, which deal with publicity. He was just about as striking in his looks as Brendan Bracken though his coloring was dark not red. He was a very tall man and one gained the impression that he had seen a lot of life.

I met him only formally, but Sir Harry Britain used to come around often to the Savoy and talk to the Canadians for hours. He was the

founder of the Empire Press Union and evidently must have been a publisher. But he was interested in all sorts of other things as well. For instance, he was, or had been, a member of Parliament, and he was a great flower grower, having originated a few new varieties. He always had a flower in his button hole.

Sir Harry had been to Canada several times and liked the country very much. He also liked to talk to Canadians, and he would drop in at the hotel about ten at night, and stay for several hours. In 1924, he was host to a party of Canadian editors who went to Europe for a trip, and my father was in the party. Sir Harry's home is in Acton, England, and Sir P. Moore, of Acton, Ontario, was in the group. The two became friends and there was some interchange of correspondence between the two Actons. Later, Sir Harry visited Mr. Moore in Acton, Ontario, and he wanted to be remembered to friends there.

I will tell only one of Sir Harry's stories.

It seems he originated a new color in flowers, an orange carnation. If I remember correctly, and was granted permission to call it after Queen Elizabeth. It was shown first at one of the big flower shows where the King and Queen were to make an appearance, and Sir Harry was there to present a bunch of the new flowers to Her Majesty. Afterwards, they stood around and talked and he told the Queen a few jokes, and there was much laughing. Later, one of the royal escorts came to Sir Harry and said: "I was so glad to see you laughing and joking with Her Majesty." "Yes," said Sir Harry, "she seemed to enjoy it." "And no wonder," replied the other. "Usually when people see Their Majesties coming, they get faces on them like coffin-lids."

In case you are wondering, I did not see the King and Queen while I was in London, they were up at their Scottish home. But I saw Buckingham Palace several times. I met the first member of the House of Lords whom we met after arrival in London was not at all the type I had pictured, and for reasons which ap-



AN OLD CANADIAN CUSTOM . . .

When our pioneer grandparents had a big job to do they called in their neighbours. A barn raising brought help from miles around. Skilled barn framers took charge; sides were chosen and competition between teams lent interest to the work. This old Canadian custom was revived when Canada's National War Finance Committee was

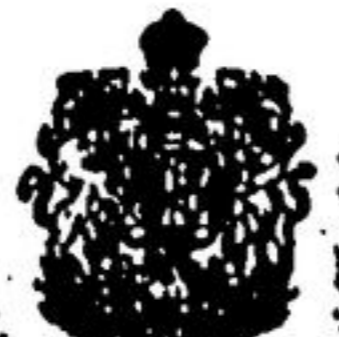
formed and went into operation. Under the leadership of the National and Provincial Committees—men experienced in the organization and conduct of financial operations—Local Committees were formed in all communities. Co-operation and competition characterized the work. The biggest "raising" in Canada's history got away to a magnificent start.

WE'VE GOT A BIG JOB TO DO NOW

The War goes on. The National War Finance Committee carries on. Some will serve on the committees organized to promote continued sales of Bonds, War Savings Certificates and Stamps. All of us must continue to buy these securities. We must save every dollar, every cent we can—and lend our money to Canada. We must provide the money required to carry on the war—the money required to win the war.

Our fighters must have more ships and tanks and guns and planes. They must have better ships and tanks and guns and planes than the enemy has. We must all work, and save and lend. The safest investments we can find for our savings are Bonds, War Savings Certificates and Stamps—and they will provide money for us to buy things that we will want when the war is ended.

SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL WAR FINANCE COMMITTEE



National War Finance Committee 403

NATIONAL WAR LABOUR BOARD

GENERAL ORDER

The Dominion Bureau of Statistics has found that the cost of living index number for July 2, 1942, of 117.9 (adjusted index 117) has risen by 2.4 points over the index for October 1, 1941, of 115.5 (adjusted index 114.2).

Accordingly, pursuant to the provisions of Section 34 (1) of the Wartime Wage Control Order P.C. 5043, and subject to the general provisions of the Order, the National War Labour Board orders that employers subject to the Order who are paying a cost of living bonus shall adjust the amount of such bonus payment, and employers who are not paying a cost of living bonus shall commence the payment of such a bonus, both effective from the first pay period beginning on or after August 15, 1942, as follows:

- (a) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (a) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (b) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (b) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (c) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (c) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (d) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (d) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (e) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (e) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (f) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (f) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (g) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (g) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (h) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (h) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (i) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (i) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (j) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (j) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (k) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (k) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (l) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (l) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (m) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (m) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (n) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (n) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (o) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (o) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (p) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (p) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (q) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (q) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (r) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (r) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (s) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (s) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (t) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (t) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (u) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (u) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (v) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (v) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (w) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (w) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (x) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (x) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (y) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (y) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.
- (z) For employees to whom Section 48 (1) (z) of P.C. 5043 applies, the amount of such bonus shall be increased by 2.4 per cent.

Ottawa, Ontario, HUMPHREY MITCHELL, Chairman, National War Labour Board, August 4, 1942.

peared later. He was Lord Snell, who had been chosen, or had volunteered to guide Canadians through the Houses of Parliament. He was assisted by Sir Patrick Hamon, M. P. for Burlington, representing the House of Commons. That was a most interesting trip, as might be supposed, and they took us to all the little odd corners, such as the cellars where Guy Fawkes hid when he tried to blow up the Parliament of his day, and the cloisters where Cromwell stabled his horses to show his contempt. Parts of the House of Parliament are quite old, while other parts were built during the reign of Queen Victoria. Now the House of Commons Chamber will have to be rebuilt once again, for it turned into rubble when several big bombs hit it at once.

Lord Snell and Sir Patrick Hamon proved to be the most entertaining of guides, with a steady flow of humor and much good-natured bantering of each other and of the House of Lords. Later we learned that Lord Snell was a "Labor peer," getting his title during the time of Ramsay MacDonald and the Labor Government. He had been a manufacturer and at one time a workman.

Viscount Cranborne
The first Cabinet Minister I met was the Viscount Cranborne, Secretary of the Dominions. Our group of editors visited him in his offices in Whitehall, not far away from the Houses of Parliament, and just across the road from No. 10 Downing Street. Our cars drove in through an area guarded by several soldiers, and we stepped out amid piles of sandbags, guarding entrances to doorways. I suppose the buildings are old. At least, as we climbed stairs, and walked along halls, I had an idea that everything was ancient, as I had expected it would be.

Arriving at our destination, there were introductions, and we passed into the Ministers' own room, which was quite large. He sat at his desk at one end of the room, and we formed a sort of audience, facing him. He gave us an official welcome to Britain and went on to tell us something of what Canada's soldiers and other armed forces were doing. The Army, he said, was being kept in England because that was still where it was most needed. After Dunkirk, the Canadians were the only forces in all England who had equipment. The Air Training Plan he termed "wonderful."

Lord Cranborne offered to answer questions, and did, but there was one he rather evaded. Asked about Rudolf Hess, he was rather non-committal, not telling us anything which hasn't already been published.

It is said that Viscount Cranborne is one of the ablest of British statesmen and might be a possible candidate for Prime Minister but for the fact that his health is not good.

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