

nevertheless their own flag and not ours. Inasmuch as we are concerned, it is a disguise that causes us to be taken for someone else. It is a vestige of misplaced colonialism. It is an identification mark which does not identify us. For the last twenty years Canada has grown and has carved peacefully for herself a place in the world; we have commercial relations with one hundred and fifty countries; we maintain embassies, legations, consulates, offices; in a word we are everywhere. However, the flag that we fly is no indication of that fact, because we may be mistaken for someone else.

I understand very well the difficult position in which this problem places the Government of Canada, and all Canadians realize that the time may not yet have come to give our country a totally distinctive flag, because there are still among us certain reactionary groups who have not yet been able to rid themselves of an unfortunate complex of colonialism. It is quite evident that a national flag cannot come from one group or section of the country. It is just as evident that the imposition of a flag which would be flown in some places and reviled in others would, *ipso facto*, constitute a menace to national unity. Such disastrous results would be worse than obtaining the totally distinctive flag, that most Canadians seem to want. As long as there remains any possible danger of national disunity, the adoption of a national flag would seem a dangerous and practically impossible measure. Racial quarrelling would only adjourn the problem for another fifty years.

Our friends of the Conservative party who, toward mid-December, will meet in a national convention to choose a successor to their chief who was forced to retire because of ill health, could surely, if they saw fit, take steps which would definitely make it possible for Canadians to have their own distinctive flag. If their resolutions committee adopted the principle of a national flag at the convention and managed to have it accepted by the general assembly, unanimous agreement on this question would be achieved and the question of obtaining in short order our own flag would be only a matter of routine. Far be it from me to interfere in the internal affairs of the Conservative party, but I deem it my duty to advise them that in rallying frankly and loyally to this principle they would certainly make it possible for our nation to enjoy this definite and final symbol of national sovereignty and pride.

Our present flag recalls what we have been; what we need is a standard which will tell the world what we are at present. I firmly believe that no standard would be more respectfully or sympathetically received by the

nations of the world where we have many friends. Let us fervently hope, when the time comes to choose its design and general appearance, that white will predominate among the colours of our banner, because the history of Canada is spotless.

Honourable senators, almost every day we are the anxious witnesses to some shocking and desolating spectacle in this world of ours. The greatest cause for sadness of our present century, you will all agree, is the existence of the communist world and the knowledge of the countless abominations and crimes perpetrated by its leaders. Without a doubt, the application of its diabolical principles will remain in the annals of history the greatest subject of humiliation for the human mind. If communism were to spread to the whole world, I really wonder if life would be worth living. When I see that entire nations—formerly accustomed to freedom and dignity and now living under Moscow's yoke in the most abject conditions—prefer death and exile to the sort of life imposed upon them, I do not think so.

We have the great satisfaction and joy of seeing, on the other hand, the existence and advantages of another civilization which originated twenty centuries ago and to which we have the good fortune to belong, our Christian civilization.

The second reason for which we have been called and are actually gathered in session in the Canadian Parliament is to allow the people of Canada, through their representatives in the House of Commons and in the Senate, to take a step which, in truth, does honour to mankind. The ancient civilizations of Egypt, Greece or Rome, however brilliant they may have been, remained impervious to any charitable motive. Today, the Christian world has given free rein to its emotion and to its tangible compassion before the terrible trials of Hungary and the sight of this nation in agony. Along with other countries, we shall be able to help this nation, because there are today certain governments whose thoughts and decisions are inspired by the Gospel.

Canada is accustomed to helping the unfortunate, wherever they may be. In some circles our Government has, I know, been severely blamed for its generosity towards other poor and unhappy countries, suffering from want in far away lands.

Honourable senators, I would like to remind you that the benevolence of Canadians has not made them any the poorer. Indeed, Canada now stands third among the trading powers of the world. Canada entertains commercial exchanges with other countries and among our population of barely 16 million, more than 5½ million labourers earn an honourable living in our Canadian in-