

Canadian Flag

how this royal proclamation by George V in the year 1921 reads in part:

[Text]

We do hereby, by and with the advice of our privy council, and in exercise of the powers conferred by the first article of the union with Ireland act, 1800, appoint and declare that the arms or ensigns armorial of the dominion of Canada shall be...and the third division argent three maple leaves conjointed on one stem proper...

Given at our court at Buckingham palace, this twenty first day of November, in the year of Our Lord one thousand nine hundred and twenty one, and in the twelfth year of our reign.

Mr. Churchill: May I ask the hon. member a question? Will the hon. member accept a question?

Mr. Caouette: Yes, definitely.

Mr. Churchill: I wonder whether the hon. member would translate the word "argent" for us?

Mr. Caouette: Definitely, if it does not take any of my time.

Mr. Churchill: Thirty seconds. Will the hon. member translate the word "argent" in the passage he read and tell us what it means?

Mr. Caouette: Silver.

Mr. Churchill: Silver maple leaves, and it does not say anything about red or on a white background.

Mr. Caouette: They had red, but were probably using argent or silver around those maple leaves at that time in 1921.

Mr. Churchill: Where is the red?

Mr. Caouette: This is 1964 and probably my hon. friend is still in 1921.

Mr. Churchill: You did not answer the question.

[Translation]

Mr. Caouette: That document was tabled on December 4, 1945, before the joint committee of the Senate and the House of Commons when it was considering the question of a Canadian flag. For the information of committee members, Colonel A. Fortescue Duguid, official heraldist and historian of the Canadian expeditionary corps during the war of 1914-18, translated the royal proclamation into simple words, as follows:

The king, at the request of Canada, attributes to Canada white and blue as national colours and declares that the national emblem of Canada shall be constituted by three red maple leaves on one stem against a white background.

[Mr. Caouette.]

That, he said, answers the two following questions: "What are our national colours? What is the Canadian emblem?"

Now, Mr. Speaker, since those colours and that emblem were given to us in 1921 by King George V, they are not colours and emblems typically Canadian, chosen finally by Canada, by Canadians, by the Canadian parliament, but by the king of England and Scotland, who was then the emperor of India.

Such is the origin of the Pearson flag. It is not a flag that he has chosen. It is not colours that he has chosen. It is not an emblem that he has chosen. They are relics from the past, old souvenirs taken out of the drawers of Buckingham palace or of the colonial office and assigned to Canada more than 43 years ago.

Last night I heard the Leader of the Opposition tell us that we must not abandon old souvenirs; I regret that he is not here at this time, for I would tell him and his colleague, and especially his assistant—who is not his assistant but still the hon. member for Three Rivers (Mr. Balcer)—

Mr. Pigeon: Why don't you shut up.

Mr. Caouette: —that I would not like to put on the boots of my great grandfather in 1964. But if my hon. friend from Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm is at ease in the boots of his great grandfather, let him put them on; then he will greatly help the parliament of the Canadian people.

Mr. Pigeon: You always lack judgment.

Mr. Caouette: Would the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm have a question to put to me?

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I should like to ask the hon. member for Villeneuve a very simple question. I want to ask him when he is going to resign for the good of the Canadian people?

Mr. Caouette: Mr. Speaker, you can see that the question just asked by the hon. member for Joliette-L'Assomption-Montcalm shows exactly what his frame of mind has been since he has come to this house. It is a stupid question which does not even deserve an answer, because the hon. member is but a simple member or a simple-minded one, I do not know how to put it.

Mr. Pigeon: Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I am of the opinion that the hon. member for Villeneuve has shown a lack of judgment in his comments, and that