

*Canadian Flag*

That is a very brief summary, but with it in the background I think I can agree with the Canadians in the province of Quebec on their present attitude. This story is not well known, but we do know that at one time had it not been for the Canadians in the province of Quebec we would have lost Canada to the American powers. The parish priests in Quebec, recognizing the rights and liberties they had acquired from the British authorities, supported them and fought with them against the Americans in order to retain this country as we have it today. They showed their loyalty and I do not think that loyalty is much different today.

Another excerpt I have in my hand is from a work by Barlow Cumberland:

—and on this continent of America the impetuous Brock, facing enormous odds, gave up his life for it on the cedar-clad slopes of Queenston Heights, and beneath it—

—that is, the union jack—

—the French Canadians of Beauharnois knelt on the battle field and, rising, won with De Salaberry and his Voltigeurs the victory of glorious Chateaugay.

I think, Mr. Speaker, that puts it in pretty good perspective. When I think of the method of presentation of the design we have before us I go to Funk and Wagnalls new practical standard dictionary where the meaning of the word heraldry is given as—

—the science that treats of blazoning or describing armorial bearings.

I am not a great student of history, as I have said, but I can see none of this heraldry apparent in the particular design submitted to us. As I understand the value of heraldry it recalls our past and the conflicts in which we were involved. It recalls our religious background—and I see none of this in the new design. How important to us is this? I know—I heard it only this morning—that the functions of church and state should be separated. This may be so; this may be the desire of some people, but I do not think any one of us regrets the advance of Christianity westward onto this particular continent. When we consider the people who are here today and the religions practised in this country, I do not believe for one minute that Christians would deny their own religion and the rights that are theirs and were brought with them with that advancing age.

I should like to refer further to the art of heraldry and quote from a recent article by a gentleman by the name of Jack Doupe, in which he says:

Deep in antiquity, the origins of today's flags were sacred symbols—

[Mr. Winkler.]

Then he says:

The mystic powers of these ancient standards, their call upon divine support for victory in battle, was certainly more important than their function of identifying forces in the field...

After Constantine, Rome's first Christian emperor, the *labarum*—a banner of richest purple silk borne at the head of armies—carried the monogram of Christ. So the divine significance of flags has been carried even into our era.

I would like to dwell for a few more moments on this particular subject because I believe it is extremely important to us. I have taken articles published by the National geographic society and from the Encyclopedia Canadiana. One article states it thus:

The cross of St. George—

—as contained within the union jack—

—was worn as a badge over the armour by every English soldier in the fourteenth century, if indeed not in earlier times. It was the flag under which the great seamen of Elizabeth's reign traded, explored, and fought; it was the flag that Drake bore around the world; and to this day it is the flag of the British admiral.

Some people have derided the union jack, but let us look a little further into the matter. I believe that about 79 countries of the world—I have the information but it is not immediately before me—adopted the flags of their navies simply because it was an outward symbol of communication with the world and also indicated this to the areas of the world to which they travelled and with which they did business. I do not think we need be anything but proud of our record in this particular regard. Again I go on to the choosing of symbols, and particularly the crosses contained in the union jack, which appears on our Canadian red ensign:

The object displayed was a sacred symbol; of the four standards carried before the kings of ancient Egypt, for example, one is claimed to have represented—

—the king of that particular day. This is what the warriors of the Crusades displayed when they proceeded into battle. I believe the important part of this is that not only the two founding races of this country but other countries of the world participated in the use of the crosses that are inherent in the union jack and are still, of course, on the Canadian red ensign. This dates back as far as the year 1200. This article continues:

In assuming it, the crusader at once proclaimed his vow and demanded the aid of all Christians toward its fulfilment.

In other words, the fulfilment of the particular faith they followed: