

*Canadian Flag*

act of parliament as being the distinctive property of Canada. Our military routine orders of 1944 and order in council of 1945, were taken under the pressure and impetus of war and I do not think they can ever be regarded by reflective people as having effected any change in the traditional status of this flag of the sea. It is said that on one occasion Edward, Prince of Wales was somewhere near Admiralty Arch when he looked over toward Canada House and saw the red ensign. He is reported to have remarked: "I see the flag, but where is the ship?"

If we had followed the advice of a number of experts in Britain and in Canada in the early colonial period we would have ended up with a blue ensign charged with a roundel in the fly containing three red maple leaves and we would have thereby followed the pattern of other colonies such as Australia and New Zealand which established their flags and tended to confirm them in their proper purpose. Let us not overlook that the red ensign flies today in Australia and New Zealand, as well as in many other former colonies, but used correctly as their merchant sea flag.

Turning to consideration of the proposed flag of Canada, the one submitted by the government, I believe our flag must represent our country, our whole country, and nothing but our country. I refer respectfully to an address which was given by the Leader of the Opposition (Mr. Diefenbaker) when he was the hon. member for Lake Centre, on November 13, 1945. Speaking on a flag resolution, he said:

In my opinion, any flag which is determined upon must embody two ideas: one, Canada as a nation with a distinctive flag; the other, Canada within the empire.

This view was, I think, tenable once, but it is no longer valid today when we note that 17 members of the commonwealth family by 1962 carried flags bearing no colonial insignia whatsoever. I believe that if this resolution is adopted and steps are taken to produce this flag, Canada will possess a banner of exquisite aesthetic quality already, in Shakespeare's words, "loaden with honour". It is a strange claim to make for a flag that has not yet been unfurled, but may I ask hon. members to listen to me as I give the house a number of instances that I have discovered which embody this precise flag emblem; that is, three maple leaves conjoined on one stem.

This emblem may be found in the arms of Ontario, granted by royal warrant on

[Mr. Matheson.]

May 26, 1868. That was the grant by Queen Victoria. Hon. members will recall that in the arms of Ontario there are three gold leaves on a green field. The St. George's cross is an honourable augmentation and refers only to the past. The arms of Quebec, by the same royal warrant, was differenced by having three green leaves on a stem on a gold field. This was the old trick of the heralds of simply reversing metal and tincture to difference members of the same family. This left out one metal, silver—white, the noblest metal—and it left one remaining colour of a leaf in its natural state—red. I think we can only suppose that at an early stage when these achievements were determined for the provinces of Quebec and Ontario it was in the mind of the heraldic advisers at that time that there must be held in reserve for the nation Canada the combination of red leaves on white field.

Then the Great Seal of Canada, by the same royal warrant of 1868 embodies the two sets of three maple leaves of the two key founding provinces. Then we discover the amended crest of Baron Lisgar after he had accepted the appointment of second governor general for Canada. His earlier crest, as I recall, had a lion with a sword in its paw; the sword was struck off this second crest and in its place the lion held a sprig of three maple leaves. Then there is the badge of the Royal Military College club, Kingston to which I have already alluded, and firmly established by 1895. Then there is the Canada general service medal issued in 1899 for service in 1866-1870 in the Fenian raids and the Red river expedition.

Then we have the armorial bearings that were assigned to Sir Wilfrid Laurier by the royal college of heralds after Sir Wilfrid had become prime minister. This was obviously a new coat of arms that was struck for a Canadian prime minister, and he was given the insignia of three maple leaves on one stem on both his shield and his crest. This was apparently following the device given to a governor general several years earlier.

Then there was the crest of the Royal Military College granted by George V on September 16, 1920, the same perennial sprig of maple leaves. We come, I think, at last to the significant and important moment in history when there was heraldically speaking the fixing of the new flag of Canada. I have searched *Hansard*, but I do not think Canadians have ever really realized how much