

Canadian Flag

issue is one which has divided Canada and set one part against another. And all this has happened for no good reason at all, because this issue is nothing but a phony issue; it is not a real issue in this country.

The people of Canada have a flag which they have looked up to and for which they have fought. Many thousands of Canadians have died under it. Though we did not carry it along with our advancing columns during the war, it was behind us. It was there. So we can say we lived under that flag, we fought for it, and many died for it.

In case anyone here has forgotten the constituency that I represent, let me remind him it is a constituency comprised of some 45,000 people. There are people of 40 different national origins there. There are 6,100 Anglo-Saxons. There are 30,000 whose origin is in some part of central Europe and 1,300 people of French Canadian origin. In addition there are 1,300 of our original citizens—the people we call North American Indians. Also living in this constituency are 3,000 people of German extraction, besides many of Norwegian, Swedish, Danish and Finnish origin, as well as representatives of almost every other nationality one cares to mention. I would say that 90 per cent of these people want a plebiscite. They want a voice in choosing the flag which will fly over them, a flag they will be able to respect. That is what they say. I think that if the plebiscite were held there would be an almost 100 per cent turnout of electors because, as I have said, in the last election I believe 86 per cent of the electors of my constituency turned out to vote.

I have had many, many letters from and many, many interviews with various people in my constituency. I said in my last address that only three people had told me they stood for the three maple leaf flag. I have had one letter supporting this new flag with one red maple leaf on a white background, with red borders at each end of the flag. This man wrote to me, "Let's stop talking about it and get on with the business of Canada".

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Fane: That is one man out of 45,000, which is not a very big percentage.

Mr. Brewin: One wise man.

Mr. Fane: I might also say, Mr. Speaker, that the N.D.P. did not do too well in my constituency, and they are not likely to do well in the future either. I am just stating facts which have nothing to do with me, but

[Mr. Fane.]

just with them. Thousands of people have told me, "Let's have a plebiscite and let's say what flag we want". That is my mandate, Mr. Speaker, and that is why I can stand up today in this house, or on any other day that I am allowed to do so, and say these things; and what I have said I will say anywhere, because I am willing to stand behind anything I have said.

Mr. Leduc: Mr. Speaker, would the hon. member permit one question?

Mr. Fane: I certainly will permit one question from my hon. friend.

Mr. Leduc: The hon. member has mentioned that he stands behind every word he has said. Would he stand behind his word when he said that the people in his riding did not know what a maple leaf was?

Mr. Fane: I said that the vast majority of my people had never seen a maple leaf, and that is quite different. They know what a maple leaf is supposed to look like, but they have never seen one, because they do not grow in my part of the country.

Mr. Dupuis: You don't have any money there? You can't travel and see them?

An hon. Member: Not from selling bumper stickers.

Mr. Fane: Oh, I could not take a trip to Asia and all over the world, as did the Minister without Portfolio (Mr. Dupuis). I do not have the government behind me at the moment.

Mr. Dinsdale: He was selling stickers.

An hon. Member: Haven't your people seen pictures of a maple leaf?

Mr. Fane: You can see a replica or depiction of something almost anywhere, but until you come to this part of the country you probably do not see maple leaves in real life.

Some hon. Members: Question.

Mr. Fane: How profound, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Dupuis: Question.

Mr. Fane: I suppose, Mr. Speaker, that after all these interruptions members of the various parties who have been yelling for the question to be put think I am going to sit down and let it happen. How wrong they are, because I am just not that type. I wish to say again that it amazes me that all the Liberal members do not rise in their seats