

Flags of Canada

obtain. If we make haste, the news agencies will be able to write Canadian flag without quotation marks during the next trip abroad of the Canadian prime minister.

That shows clearly, Mr. Speaker, that concerning that question of a national flag, which we have not even adopted, not only among our neighbours in the United States, as I mentioned at the beginning, but also throughout the world, in all the other countries, when we proclaim our independence, we are the laughingstock of all those countries because they, at least, have adopted a national flag. And that is to what that article I have just read refers.

I have here another article from the same magazine, *Time*, for January 12, 1959. Since my hon. friends are opposed to my putting it on the record unless I read it, I shall not read it in full; I shall spare them that long ordeal but shall read only a few extracts in English, in order not to abuse the time of the house. That article is entitled:

(Text):

Much of old-line English-speaking Canada is well content to chant *God Save the Queen* and to hail the union jack. But French-speaking Canada resents these as symbols of subservience to Britain, prefers to sing *O Canada* and to salute the Canadian red ensign, though it, too, bears the union jack in the corner. Now another element has entered the flag fight.

(Translation):

I have read this to show that, at times, we are being laughed at, not only in remote countries, but south of the border, in those communities where people are not fully informed on the matter.

And further on, reference is made to a matter brought up by the native sons of Canada. I shall not quote the text in full, but only a few extracts. However, I would not like to be accused of selecting only opinions bearing on a particular context. The article goes on as follows:

(Text):

The flag is serious business for the native sons, mostly blue-collar workers and low-income clerks, who bar foreign-born citizens from regular membership and who, until a few years ago, admitted only Canadians of "white or Canadian Indian descent". They are yammering for parliamentary action. When one son recently urged that Liberal Leader Lester Pearson take a stand on the flag, Pearson replied that "the matter will be raised in the House of Commons when parliament reconvenes".

(Translation):

Well, Mr. Speaker, I see that the Leader of the Opposition is not at his place at the moment.

Mr. Dupuis: Neither is the Prime Minister.

Mr. Martel: Surely he would have derived benefit from that discussion, because he stated to the native sons of Canada that the matter would be discussed in the house when parliament would reconvene.

[Mr. Martel.]

There are other matters related to that problem which, necessarily, are bound, some day, to unite rather than divide us. That matter of a distinct flag is very important, and I am in favour of the adoption of a Canadian flag, precisely in order to ensure the greatness of Canada, to achieve recognition for Canada all over the world as a fully independent nation, and in order to definitely establish that Canada is a fully independent country, which is guaranteed by the constitution. Therefore, I sincerely wish that the matter be definitely settled, so that the flag may become a rallying sign and not a symbol of division.

I have here another editorial taken from the review *Jeune Commerce*, and which is signed by Jules G. Tessier. I shall only read its conclusion, unless my hon. friends allow me to put it on the record. Since they do not seem inclined to allow me to do so, I shall therefore read only its conclusion.

Our so-called differences of opinions and our distinct cultures do not prevent us from being Canadians above all. Besides, when we take time to know ourselves well, we readily realize that there is more affinity between French and English Canadians than there may exist between us and France or England.

If only we could remember and forget at the same time.

To remember the heroic actions of our ancestors and forget who were the enemies. When we can face history with pride but without fanaticism, when we can understand that the respect due to France and England does not make us share their identity, we will then have our distinctive national flag and anthem which will only be the external signs of adult Canadianism.

Those are the conclusions of that article.

And before concluding my remarks, may I refer to the few facts mentioned earlier by the hon. member for Cochrane (Mr. Habel). He said that he has received a letter from his niece. For my part, I have received a letter from a young student girl of my constituency. In fact, she sent me in June 1959 a flag design and at the same time expressed her views. It was a young student from Amos—I may give her name, since she is not my niece, she is Miss Anne Bigue—and she told me that this question should be definitely settled before the centennial of confederation, in 1967.

To our youth, the Canadian flag is a matter of burning interest.

Before concluding, I should like to call your attention to a report published in *Maclean's* magazine of February 1958, which is a true picture of the views of all young Canadians across the country.