

*"King of Canada"*

... that an act be passed making it lawful for His Most Gracious Majesty to make such alteration in style and titles of His Majesty, more particularly so as to include in such style and titles the words "King of Canada."

In speaking on this resolution, I am fully conscious that it has been introduced by a Quebec member, my good friend the hon. member for Kamouraska (Mr. Marquis), and that this matter is generally regarded as of outstanding importance and significance to all Quebec members. But I do not think we should lose sight of the fact that this is the House of Commons for all Canada, and that it is the responsibility of members, whatever part of the country they happen to represent, to analyse the significance to their constituencies of steps such as those envisaged by this resolution. To the average citizen it matters little whether the king is known as the king of the dominions or more specifically as the King of Canada. His full title is "George VI, by the grace of God, of Great Britain, Ireland, and the British dominions beyond the seas King, Defender of the Faith, Emperor of India". Most of us—I believe I am safe in saying all of us—have a clear understanding of the symbolism involved, and what the king stands for. We fully realize that he is the symbolic head of the great British empire; and I do not believe this change of words would make any great practical difference to the layman, though it may have a great deal of significance for students of the constitution or historians who are concerned with the various steps in the development of Canada toward full nationhood. In other words, I feel that the rank and file of Canadian citizens will regard this as an academic problem.

There is, of course, the strong feeling that by adopting this resolution we would be taking another step in the direction of complete and separate nationhood; and there is no denying the fact that we have been growing quite quickly in this direction in recent years. The Statute of Westminster in 1931 guaranteed our status as a nation, and the Citizenship Act passed by this parliament further clinched the deal. Recently we have had up for consideration the matter of a distinctive national flag, or drapeau Canadien, and the question whether we should continue to call one of our national holidays Dominion day or change it to Canada day.

There is a growing feeling in Canada that we may be rushing somewhat too quickly along this road. By keeping these issues of nationalism before the people we may in fact be making Canadians conscious of our internal difficulties and problems. The feeling is growing that at the moment we need a shake-down period to consolidate the gains we have made

[Mr. Winters.]

and to give us a chance to become more familiar with our new strength, to get used to it and to work out our problems arising therefrom. Growing pains can be uncomfortable. There is a feeling in many quarters that our differences of race, language, religion and so on could be more easily overcome if we had greater solidarity and separate entity as a nation. But I am not at all sure, Mr. Speaker, that as a member of the British commonwealth we have been denied any opportunity to overcome whatever obstacles we might have had or might still have in this direction.

At this point I should like to refer the house for a few moments to some of the problems with which my own province of Nova Scotia has had to cope, because I think in good measure the rest of Canada might well take a lesson from the road Nova Scotia has travelled. As all hon. members are aware, Nova Scotia was discovered somewhere around 1497 by John Cabot, who set foot on Cape Breton island just five years after Columbus discovered America. I would also remind hon. members, at this time, that it was some forty years later, in 1534 I believe, that Cartier sailed up the St. Lawrence to make his landings on this continent. Then at a later date, in 1621, James I of England deeded all the land that now comprises the three maritime provinces and part of Quebec to Sir William Alexander. He justified this action because of the prior rights established on behalf of England by John Cabot. During this development period the French Acadians played a strong and active part in the growth of Nova Scotia with their establishments at Louisbourg, Port Royal, Beauséjour and other centres. The names of Marc Lescarbot, Samuel Champlain and Pierre du Gast with their Order of Good Cheer go deep into our provincial history. There is a rich French heritage in Nova Scotia. Then, too, there were the Germans from Hanover who were so closely linked with a sovereign who later became George I of England that their ties with Britain are unquestioned. I say these ties are unquestioned because, coming from Lunenburg, the centre of the German settlement, I know this to be the case; but I can tell this house that there are many people in Canada who, particularly during the first world war, felt suspicious of this colony because of their German background. This suspicion, of course, greatly maligned a class of people whose loyalty to Canada as a nation within the British commonwealth of nations has been a bright beacon whenever this country has been under stress. They have