

World War there were over 300 miles of trenches and mud, and your only associates were lice, rats and the enemy across the trenches. They did not stick up a flag and wave it along the front line. It would have been shot with many bullet holes before it had been up ten minutes.

What happened in France in the First World War? Who were the people who were defending those 300 miles of trenches? On the left we had Great Britain and the Commonwealth; on the right we had France. What were the flags of the countries from which the people came? On the right, from Britain it was the Union Jack, from Australia it was the Australian flag, which is certainly, in their opinion, a distinctive flag, although it has a Union Jack next to the masthead. The New Zealanders had their flag, the South Africans had theirs, with the small Union Jack, and the Canadians went over under the Red ensign. Those were the flags. Whether anybody says that they fought under them or not, those were the flags of the nations which were fighting alongside France in those days when the civilization of the world was in danger. The same was true of the Second World War. It is not necessary to emphasize those facts.

I am sorry that there is dissension in Canada over this matter. I think we could have a great united people, and I think we will have, but this suggested flag has made it most difficult. I was very pleased to hear Senator Vaillancourt speak. He asserted—and I think it is a fact—that it is outside influence which is causing a lot of the trouble, not only in this country but in other countries.

I read an article not so long ago on Cyprus, where the Greeks and the Turks were being stirred up. I read that in Switzerland, where there was a Canton for a thousand years, the French and German descendants had got along well, and that now strife is being stirred up. The same is true in Belgium, with regard to French and the Flemish. The same applies in Viet Nam between the Christians and the Buddhists; and in the Sudan between the Arabs and the Negroes.

This is what the article said:

We cannot help but wonder if there is not some wicked and sinister influence from outside world which is making dupes and tools of the peoples of those countries.

I think we should be very careful in this country. Let them not make dupes of Canadians. Our flag, if we have it, is to have a maple leaf. I am proud of the maple leaf. You could not travel up the Saint John River from Saint John to Fredericton or up around my home in Sussex, New Brunswick, and not be very proud of the maple.

Again, when I was a boy at school, I remember that we were taught different songs, one of which was "The Maple Leaf":

The maple leaf, our emblem dear  
The maple leaf forever.  
God save the Queen  
And Heaven bless  
The maple leaf forever.

We were taught also "God Save the Queen". That has always been my feeling towards the maple, but I do not think it was ever intended to be the main part of a flag.

Senator Phillips said he thinks he knows the people of Prince Edward Island and the Atlantic provinces, and he does. I have lived in the Atlantic provinces for many years, I think I also understand the people there. I do not care what Gallup polls may indicate in Canada, but in the heart of the great majority of the people of the Atlantic provinces they are definitely opposed to any change in their flag.

This afternoon Senator Baird spoke, I am sure from the heart, and for the people of Newfoundland. The old City of St. John's has had a flag for 400 years. It is not going to pull it down for a new flag such as is being offered us today.

Take the City of Halifax, which has, I suppose, as great a history as any seaport in the whole British Commonwealth. I remember it in two wars. There were flags flying from hundreds of ships that left the port. Go to Halifax today and you will see hundreds of flags flying, the Canadian Ensign, if you will. They are flown by the air force, the navy and the army. Is Halifax going to pull down all those flags and put up a nondescript flag like the one that is being offered us? I do not think so!

Throughout Canada we are all proud of Charlottetown, that great little city, for the reception it gave to the Queen, and also the reception it gave to people from other parts who went there to help them celebrate the 100th anniversary of the proposed confederation. Do you think Charlottetown is going to pull down the flag she has had for all these years and put up this new flag? I do not think so. If its people have to do so, they will, but they will not want to.

The same is true of Fredericton, an old, old city. I know the sentiment of the people in Fredericton. They will be deeply hurt and opposed to this change.

I could go on and speak of other cities across the country, the old city of Kingston, Brantford, London, Kitchener, Calgary, Edmonton, Vancouver and Victoria. Are all of these cities, after Christmas, going to pull down their flags and put up a flag, which I know in their hearts they do not like, and