

*National Flag*

involved in bringing about the union jack. The flag of St. George, for instance, was the battle flag of the British nation. It was first used in 1277. The flag of St. Andrew was first used by the Scots in 800. I understand there was a little bit of trouble between the Scots and the Sassenachs. One group would fly St. Andrew's cross and the other would fly St. George's cross. James I had his heralds design the first union flag in 1606. St. Patrick's cross was then added to it. No one has any idea where the cross originated in heraldry. The first British union flag was adopted in 1801. That is a period of hundreds of years and yet the hon. member wants us to develop a distinctive flag showing our ancestry in a matter of four months, you might say.

Take the history of the stars and stripes. I was curious about where the stars and stripes, the flag of our great neighbour, came from. In this same book, "Flags of the World", I find the following on page 114:

With that began the war and the making of many flags. Massachusetts had its tree; New York its black beaver on a white field; South Carolina its handsome silver crescent on blue, designed by Moultrie, which was soon afterwards replaced by the very unpleasant yellow with a rattlesnake on it; Rhode Island, best of all, had the white bearing the blue anchor of hope; there is no need to give them all, but they were so various, and so disfigured with mottos, that none would or could without jealousy, be adopted as a national flag. A national flag was wanted; what was it to be? The answer came on January 1, 1776, when a flag was hoisted at Prospect Hill in Somerville, or, as some writers would have it at Cambridge, where General Washington had his headquarters—less than two miles away.

This flag is known as the great union flag or the Cambridge flag.

This was a design of red and white horizontal stripes, seven red and six white stripes, I believe, and in the canon or corner of the flag was the British union flag. One wonders where that was discovered. Later on the writer goes on to say:

To complicate the issue even more, a most definite fact emerges. The Cambridge flag was exactly like that of the East India Company. In fact, the likeness is more than remarkable, it is extraordinary.

It was an exact copy of the East India flag. One may say then, where did the idea for the stars come from? Possibly the hon. member will forgive me, as well as members of the cabinet, if I read a further excerpt from this interesting book. At the bottom of page 116 there is the following:

In spite of all that has been written, and it is considerable, about George Washington's Arms being responsible for the stars and stripes, or the part Mrs. Betsy Ross of Philadelphia is supposed to have played in the construction of the first flag, we cannot perhaps do better than quote the well-known American authority, M. M. Quaife, who wrote in 1942 as follows: "Homer, alive, attracted but scant attention; when safely dead, and assured of immortality, numerous Grecian

cities eagerly claimed him as their son. A like obscurity shrouds the birth of the stars and stripes. No one bothered at the time to record the name of its creator, or claim the honour for himself."

Even within the past year there has been a further development with respect to the stars and stripes, the flag of our great neighbour. No one knows the origin. We only know that the original flag of the revolution was an exact copy of the East India Company flag, and no one knows where the stars came from.

There have been many new flags since world war II. In Compton's *Encyclopedia of World Flags*, to be found in the library, we find, for instance that the flags of Monaco and Indonesia are exactly alike. The flags of Luxembourg, the Netherlands and Paraguay are so much alike that there is hardly any distinction between them. The flags of Venezuela, Ecuador and Colombia are all very much alike and are copies of the original flag of Bolivar who freed the slaves in South America.

So I should like to remind the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska (Mr. Boulanger) that the choice of a flag is not something that can be done by picking one out of a hat. That may well have been done in the first committee in 1946. Perhaps it would save a great deal of time, but the choice of a flag is a developmental thing that requires a great deal of thought and a great deal of time.

I know that many Canadians are very interested in a distinctive national flag. I too am interested. With respect to the point about confusion of forces in world war II, may I say that I do not recall going into battle at any time when we flew the union jack over our scouts and snipers or in the vanguard of our battalion. That would not be done. The only time a flag was used was when we were in rest, so that is of no importance. It appears to me that the confusion is merely a confusion in the mind of the hon. member for Drummond-Arthabaska.

I would reiterate here that any design should be purely Canadian. I do not feel it should be half French and half English with some hodgepodge in the middle. I think we have to get experts, and we have to concentrate on this for some time. I do not like the idea of a contest such as the one that preceded the establishment of the committee in 1946, and by means of which everyone sent in their design. Then, you play a game of tick-tack-toe to see who wins. I feel that is wrong. I believe that the heralds and the people who are interested in the history of our nation should be given an opportunity

[Mr. Fairfield.]