

*Canada Day Act*

The word "Dominion" having a colonial flavour involves a concept of domination, and we want neither to dominate anyone, nor to be dominated by anyone.

We shall thus have the opportunity to express, as citizens of a free and independent nation, our pride in being Canadians, and to proclaim it through all possible means.

Symbols have some importance for expressing this national pride. As it has already been stated, we, Canadians, are somewhat timid when it is a question of showing our national pride.

The Canadian government has taken a few steps in the right direction by adopting a national flag. I hope that the national anthem shall be officially adopted soon and that the creation of Canada Day will afford us another opportunity of showing our national pride.

Symbols are of some value and I am happy to note that the House appears willing to co-operate by proclaiming the first of July as "Canada Day". I hope that the House will agree to this.

[*English*]

**Mr. Heath Macquarrie (Hillsborough):** Mr. Speaker, I enjoy very much participating in private members' hour and congratulate those who have the initiative and interest to bring forward suggested legislation. In this instance, however, I am of the opinion this measure clearly demonstrates that progress and improvement cannot always be equated. I listened with interest to the last speaker and his reference to our not being a colony. He is quite right. I believe it is important to bear in mind that as this country moved from a subservient and sub national status to full fledged nationhood it was following the path, as one great historian has written, from colony to nation. I am sure that changing the name from Dominion Day to Canada Day will not, of itself, enrich the celebration. We should bear in mind what we celebrate on July 1. I am not one of those who believe we must shift around from Monday to Monday. I would be embarrassed if we were to celebrate our national day on July 4.

• (5:30 p.m.)

I think that we should celebrate the day on a specific date rather than try to fit it in following a convenient weekend. A national day in any country reverts back to a time of great achievement. In some countries it is a revolutionary episode such as the taking of the Bastille or the signing of the Declaration

[Mr. Forest.]

of Independence. The great moment in Canadian history, one which reflects its unique character among nations, is surely that it has achieved nationhood by peaceful means, by the getting together of different communities; and since they happened to get together in the city which I have the honour to represent, I feel very strongly about the idea that in 1867 a new country was created, one which was not called Canada. There were provinces before that called Canada. The new entity was a new political society which was called the Dominion of Canada.

That was our unique contribution to statecraft, and it was a contribution of which no historian need be ashamed. The Fathers of Confederation were builders in every sense of the word, men of vision, men of compromise and men of political genius. This is the day which we honour and the day on which a new country was formed. It is a uniquely Canadian expression and we are constantly looking for these things. It has nothing to do with subservience. We are told that it is based upon the experience of one of the maritime leaders, who was naturally one of the most religious men at the London Conference, who was inspired by what he read in the 72nd Psalm: "He shall have dominion also from sea to sea and from the river unto the ends of the earth".

In Latin our motto reads: "A mari usque ad mare". Canada grew from its beginnings in Charlottetown, Quebec City and then Westminster. We broadened our institutions, but always under the framework of that which was created in 1864 and finished in 1867, the dominion structure. Thus the nation progressed.

I ask hon. members to look at the statute of Westminster which we honour by raising the flag on December 11. We find there that the dominions were not colonies; that they were autonomous states. It was this very dominion which led us in a peaceful evolution from colonial subservience to full-fledged nationhood. Robert Borden did not have to drop the name "dominion" to hold office in a country which was fully independent and recognized in the League of Nations and in the chancelleries of the world as a free state.

This is no reflection upon the motives of the hon. member who sponsored this bill—he is a man for whom I have the highest regard—but I think it is an indication, so prevalent these days, that to change is always to go forward. I submit that here is a measure which for historic, geographic, constitutional