

come of age—and the Canadians will be glad of that. It will be another step towards progress, towards national development.

I have much pleasure in supporting the resolution moved by the hon. member for North Battleford, which reads as follows:

That, in the opinion of this house, a special select committee be appointed for the purpose of considering the advisability of adopting a distinctive Canadian flag, representing Canada as a whole, thereby symbolizing the dominion as an equality partner in the commonwealth of British nations.

Mr. Speaker, before resuming my seat, I wish on behalf of the electors of Jacques Cartier and of those back benchers who are here present, to add my congratulations and compliments to those that have been tendered this afternoon to the right honourable the Minister of Justice (Mr. Lapointe) by qualified authorities in this house.

Mr. O. B. ELLIOTT (Kindersley): Mr. Speaker, while I have no great demand from my constituency for a national flag, the people perhaps being more interested at the present time in difficulties of a personal nature, being situated in the drought area, I feel that the subject is interesting from an informative point of view.

When one is contemplating a national flag he is likely to be influenced by conflicting emotions. He may desire the retention of the union jack because of British alliances, and because it is symbolic of the many historical events in the process of building the British Empire. There seems to be a considerable amount of confusion about our flags in the minds of Canadian people, and while the National Anthem creates a reverence for British monarchy and institutions, the singing of "O Canada" stimulates the joy of everything purely Canadian.

I am thinking at the moment of the people of many different nationalities comprising Canadian nationhood who immigrated to Canada for a purpose. The object prompting such a move was doubtless the desire to secure an improvement in their standard of living and, believing Canada afforded that opportunity, after much deliberation they decided to take the momentous step. I can almost feel the tumult of emotions that struggled for predominance in the breasts of these many individuals before deciding the most uncertain action of their lives. They had to decide whether to hold steadfast to their old traditions and institutions, or set their eyes on a new star, trusting—and in human life how very important that quality is. They were anxious to contribute their efforts, be they large or small, to the moulding of a new nation. The young men and women

born in Canada, who are not moved by the same sentiments as previous generations with regard to old world institutions and the symbols that represent their struggle for emancipation, look for emblems depicting more particularly Canadian history, while still retaining possibly a symbol of our progenitors, as does the Canadian coat of arms.

The red ensign of the British merchant marine ships, with the Canadian coat of arms in the fly, after floating for thirty years over every dominion public building in Canada was displaced, and the union jack restored.

The shield on Canadian marine flags goes back to the very dawn of our official flag. In order to place a description on the record for those who may read the report of the debate, may I state that in the upper left hand canton are depicted the three golden lions of Normandy, brought from the ancient French province of Normandy by William the Conqueror, and first inscribed on our flag by Richard I of England. In the upper right hand canton we have the lion of Scotland. In the centre cantons we have the harp of Ireland, and also the fleur-de-lis first placed on the British flag by Edward III, in honour of the French princess who was his mother. Beneath these four cantons we have three maple leaves representing Canada. This is placed on the fly of each of the two marine flags of Canada. At present Canada's only flag is the red ensign. In 1892, the dominion government passed a regulation allowing the arms of Canada to be placed on the red ensign for mercantile purposes. The fact that there is no legal right, so far as I know, to fly this flag on land, may account for the change to the union jack a few years ago.

I heartily agree with the hon. member for North Battleford (Mr. McIntosh) who advocates the adoption of a national flag for Canada, the importance of which he has brought to our attention. It is of interest, however, to know that Canada already has a flag which is 176 years older than the union jack or, as correctly described, the union flag. When I say Canada has a flag, I refer to the flag of Nova Scotia, a part of Canada, although it is conceded that she did not want to be. I am pleased to see a number of representatives from Nova Scotia in the house.

It is a matter of record that in 1625 Charles I of England granted to Nova Scotia a coat-of-arms and a flag with an orange tawny field. This flag, as I have said, is 176 years older than the union jack. The circumstances in connection with the making of it take us back to the days of Queen Anne. We find that after the Treaty of Union was signed