

We have heard some compelling reasons why the symbols of the past should be retained. I intend to quote from a speech made by a man who was Prime Minister for a far longer time than any other Prime Minister in the Commonwealth. This is what Mr. Mackenzie King said, and I hardly need repeat it:

The new Canadian flag should certainly contain the Union Jack. It would be unthinkable to have a flag for this Dominion which did not contain the Union Jack.

I shall go this far and say that if Mr. Mackenzie King, or Mr. St. Laurent, Mr. Bennett or Mr. Diefenbaker, had been Prime Minister of this country during the last 16 months we would not be in the position we are today regarding a flag.

I agree that it is utter folly to speak as some have done of breaking up Confederation if this or that design is not chosen. There is more strength to this confederation of ours than that. Yet, once the relative importance of the issue has been established it is quite right that something should be said about the value of retaining in the national flag the symbols of this country's origins, and this is exactly what we are trying to do with this amendment.

The two great facts of our national existence are, first, our British heritage which gave us our language, our laws, our form of government and, indeed, all the principles and values which guard our way of life, and, second, the Empire of New France which joined with the British in North America in equal partnership. Surely, any flag purporting to represent this country must reflect the dual origin of all the institutions and outlooks which are uniquely Canadian, and which impart a distinctly Canadian character to the people and nation. It is the measure of total inadequacy of Mr. Pearson's proposed flag, that its symbolism reflects not a trace of this rich and unique national heritage. In all sincerity and with all common sense and in my humble opinion, it should be rejected out of hand.

Honourable senators, I have some notes on the history of the Red Ensign. I will not read them. We have had speakers most eloquently present the Ensign before the other house and before this house. It has been our accepted flag since Confederation. It is distinctive. We have had ample proof of that from the remarks I have mentioned tonight.

If I may be personal, my mind goes back—one realizes that he is getting to be an old man—over 60 years ago to when I was in a little school in New Brunswick. I heard my good friend Senator Irvine speak last night, and it brought back very fond memories of those days. We flew the Canadian

Ensign. That was over 60 years ago. Two boys were always selected in the school each week to look after the raising and lowering of the flag. They were very proud to do it. It was the Canadian Ensign. Under it tens of thousands of men served in the army, in both wars. I never knew that the Canadian Ensign was not our Canadian flag until I came up here as a Member of Parliament. I am sure most of the people in New Brunswick and across Canada have always looked on and have always thought that the Canadian Ensign was the Canadian flag.

It has been said that the provinces have flags. I listened to the honourable Senator Phillips this afternoon speaking about Prince Edward Island and saying it now has a provincial flag. Quebec has a flag, a beautiful flag. Often when I motor from New Brunswick to Ottawa, I come through Quebec and I see thousands of the fleur-de-lis flags flying. They are very proud of it and they have just right to be, because it shows their history and their past. But in Quebec also, besides there being four million or more French Canadians, there are a million English-speaking Canadians. I have never heard one English-speaking Canadian—although I do not believe they were ever consulted—object to the Quebec flag, the fleur-de-lis. They have been very proud of it and I know that many of them fly it. But we do not want flags in every province. We will have balkanized states if we have flags in every province. This flag that is suggested with a Union Jack and a fleur-de-lis surely will represent us all across Canada.

How about the French-speaking people outside the Province of Quebec? Would it not be well for them to look up to a flag that had the fleur-de-lis on it, that represents the great men in Canadian history of the French race? It would represent Champlain, Frontenac, Jacques Cartier and many others too numerous to mention. The British people would see the Union Jack that represents the great explorers and the people of the British race who helped with their French compatriots to build this great country of ours.

I think that in time people from one end of Canada to the other, French and English, would learn to love and respect the flag which gave them the history and told them something about the past.

Senator White, in his excellent speech, spoke of the Canadian soldiers. It has been said the Canadian soldiers did not fight under the Ensign in France. Well, the flags of the day are not like the flags of medieval days. In those days the battles were different. In battle they gathered around a flag to defend it. As Senator White has said, and as Senator Huggessen mentioned yesterday, in the First