

Canadian Flag

[Text]

LABOUR RELATIONS

MONTREAL—SETTLEMENT OF WILDCAT STRIKE
OF LONGSHOREMEN

On the orders of the day:

Mr. Heward Grafftey (Brome-Missisquoi): Mr. Speaker, I would like to direct a question to the Minister of Labour. Can he report any progress to the house relating to the dockers' strike in the port of Montreal, and whether in his view a settlement is imminent?

Hon. A. J. MacEachen (Minister of Labour): Mr. Speaker, my officer in Montreal advises me he has been notified by an officer of the I.L.A. that work will resume tomorrow morning.

PRIVILEGE

MR. RICARD—FAILURE TO BE RECOGNIZED
BY CHAIR

On the orders of the day:

[Translation]

Hon. Théogène Ricard (St. Hyacinthe-Bagot): Mr. Speaker, I rise on a question of privilege. I wonder if, in rising, I am in your way when you want to recognize other members behind me, since, a moment ago, you seemed to be looking behind me to try to recognize other members, while I rose many times myself and you failed to recognize me.

[Text]

Mr. Speaker: Order, please. There is surely no question of privilege here. The hon. member has himself asked two questions today, and it does seem to me that other hon. members are entitled to ask one question.

CANADIAN FLAG

OFFICIAL ESTABLISHMENT OF NEW DESIGN

The house resumed, from Tuesday, June 16, consideration of the motion of Mr. Pearson, and the amendment thereto of Mr. Diefenbaker.

That the government be authorized to take such steps as may be necessary to establish officially as the flag of Canada, a flag embodying the emblem proclaimed by His Majesty King George V on November 21, 1921—three maple leaves conjoined on one stem—in the colours red and white then designated for Canada, the red leaves occupying a field of white between vertical sections of blue on the edges of the flag.

Mr. Robert C. Coates (Cumberland): Mr. Speaker, before concluding my remarks last evening I outlined to the house what news-

[Mr. Cardin.]

papers in every province of this country were saying in support of a national plebiscite in order to determine the views of the Canadian people with regard to a flag design. Today I would like to turn to another subject, the Canadian red ensign, and its evolution in becoming Canada's national flag.

We are aware, today, how this debate has evolved—how the original resolution proposing two flags has been split so that a debate might go forward on only one of the two flag proposals. We know from the debate of Monday that Your Honour's decision in this regard was based on British parliamentary tradition. We learned during the Prime Minister's speech that the main reason for his party's objection to the Canadian red ensign is the fact that it was originally a British design. To see the Prime Minister performing in this way presents a curious spectacle. To begin with, he holds an office which originated in Great Britain. He speaks in parliament, which is a British institution. He spoke for two hours in a language which was English. Yet, at the same time, he rejects all that is British in our flag. I would point out to him that Mr. Ilsley in 1945 stated that the ensign flew almost uninterrupted in Canada from confederation until 1904. It has been honoured in Canada for more than 70 years. How long does it take for an immigrant to become a Canadian under the Liberal government?

The Canadian ensign is Canadian by adoption, by assimilation and by tradition. In addition to the union jack it contains the maple leaves and the fleur-de-lis. It is, of course, the presence of the union jack which bothers the Prime Minister and his friends. It is so British that it is still part of the flag of Hawaii, one of the states of the United States. Mr. Speaker, the union jack contains the crosses of Saint George, Saint Andrew and Saint Patrick based on an ensign confided to William of Normandy by Pope Alexander. No one has ever accused William of Normandy of being British. These three crosses symbolize the Christian background of our peoples. Now they are to go. What of the maple leaves? The Prime Minister based his case on a royal proclamation by George V. As far as I know, he was British. Has the right hon. gentleman ever read the words of "The Maple Leaf Forever"? It begins:

In days of yore from Britain's shore
Wolfe, the dauntless hero, came—

He did not come here as a tourist. As far as I know, he was British. Why is it all of a sudden necessary to eliminate from our flag any reference to our British tradition? I say