

*Canadian Flag*

1892, just 25 years after confederation. The arms of the four provinces that united in 1867 formed the great seal of the dominion. The present arms, which date from a royal proclamation of George V dated November 21, 1921, include a shield containing the traditional emblems of England, three golden lions on a red field; of Scotland, red lion rampant on a gold field; and of Ireland, gold harp on a purple field. It also contains the emblem of France, three golden fleurs-de-lis on a purple field, thus incorporating into the flag that still flies here the one French flag that in ancient times flew over Canadian soil.

From its use on merchant ships, the Canadian red ensign moved, with widespread international recognition, to the position of our flag abroad, superseding the union jack. This was written into law in 1924 when parliament enacted legislation providing for the wearing of the ensign on any Canadian building abroad. At home the ensign is the national flag by authority of an order in council dated September 5, 1945. This order says it is appropriate to fly the ensign on any occasion when it is desired to mark its Canadian significance.

Now, what did General H. D. G. Crerar, the distinguished commander of the first Canadian army in world war II, say when recounting an official welcome to him in Ottawa, as put by the Canadian Legion magazine for March, 1963? He stated:

As we moved away from the central entrance of the parliament buildings, Mr. King the then prime minister turned sideways in the car and looked upwards to the peace tower where, at the top, the Canadian red ensign waved. He then said, "And that, general, is another problem which your Canadian army has solved for Canada—the matter of our national flag".

The Canadian ensign was suitable for prime minister King, and I would like to ask, why is it not suitable for Prime Minister Pearson? What does the Canadian Legion have to say about our present flag? They say:

The Canadian red ensign has grown out of Canadian history. Why now reject that history? All the parliamentary votes at Ottawa cannot blot out the truth that it was under the red ensign in two world wars that Canadians of all racial origins risked and gave their lives for those values which the red ensign symbolizes.

The great Edmund Burke warned that a people who ignore their past, will have no future. Those who believe that maple leaves alone, or other symbols related merely to geography, are sufficient for a Canadian national flag, are suggesting that Canadian nationhood has been determined by purely materialistic factors. It is true that the Canadian physical environment has affected the development of Canadian nationhood and Canadian characteristics. But Canada's soul is rooted in the

flow of history which came out of western, Christian Europe. Spiritual and cultural death is the end of a nation cut from its roots. And the Canadian red ensign does symbolize those roots.

I believe that epitomizes the thoughts of many Canadians and I am glad to have this opportunity to place it on the record. I ask the Prime Minister to look upon Canada as a great tree having twin trunks that represent our French and British ancestors. Our tree has many grafted branches representing Canadians of other national origins, and as an entity I believe it can grow larger and stronger and provide shade and comfort for those less fortunate than ourselves. I ask him, and I ask the house, what could be more distinctive for a Canadian flag than one representing the two great founding peoples of Canada? On this issue the Prime Minister has been given a golden opportunity to provide leadership, to show evidence of his statesmanship and establish unity throughout the entire length and breadth of this nation. In my opinion, it is not too late to make the changes that are necessary.

While I honour and revere our present flag, the Canadian ensign, I believe it could be modified to give more reasonable representation to Canadians of French origin. The easiest way to accomplish this change would be to remove the shield in the field of the red ensign and replace it with a large, gold maple leaf on which there was superimposed the fleur-de-lis. I am convinced that a flag containing these symbols would be accepted as a flag of good design and as a reasonable compromise by most Canadians. This would not be just a flag of maple leaves, which I understand are found in greater numbers in the states that border us to the south than in some of the provinces in Canada; in fact, there are provinces in Canada in which there are no maple leaves. This would be a flag that all of us could proclaim as a symbol of our unity, the ideal flag for a country like ours.

Tonight, Mr. Speaker, I cannot help but wonder, where are the supporters of this maple leaf design? Where are the two members for Halifax, Nova Scotia? Why have they not spoken on this issue? They receive the same mail as I receive, and certainly this must indicate to them that their constituents want them to speak out in favour of our present flag. When are we going to hear from the Minister of Labour (Mr. MacEachen), the hon. member for Inverness-Richmond? When are we going to hear from the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Stewart)? Is their contribution to this important issue

[Mr. Crouse.]