

*National Flag*

No doubt our prestige has increased because we were asserting our country's absolute independence, but may I add that the two nations which were being called to order were precisely both countries of origin of the two main racial groups of the population of Canada. However, that magnificent gesture lost much of its value when the time came to send our Queen's Own Rifles regiment under a flag which, in short, is but a replica of the union jack, the official emblem of England.

We all know that, at the time, the Egyptian prime minister, General Nasser, claimed that our men were not sufficiently distinguishable from the British soldiers, the invaders, and that they were taking the risk of being mistaken for them by his countrymen. That situation could have led to very serious and deplorable incidents. When we ask our soldiers to risk their lives abroad, the least we could do for them would be to give them a truly Canadian flag, a flag which would be a real emblem of Canada, quite distinctive of other nations' emblems, and under which our sons would be happy to seek glory, without having to suffer the cruel affront of being mistaken for soldiers of another country.

Need I add that the military field is not the only important one on the international scene? Was it not last summer, at the Brussels' fair, that our representatives and all Canadians who visited the fair felt the humiliation of being assimilated to people of another country? Besides, the lack of a distinctive Canadian flag is deeply felt at the United Nations and in all countries where we have diplomatic representatives.

Mr. Speaker, newspapers, public organizations, chambers of commerce, the *Ligue du Drapeau*, distinguished members of universities, in short, the pick of our population unanimously demand a distinctive national flag which would be the common denominator of our patriotic aspirations and the expression of an independent nation.

The flag model which would surely meet with the nation's approval and which remained after all elimination processes, out of 2,696 designs submitted to the competition of the 1945-46 parliamentary committee, is the white and red diagonal with a green maple leaf in the centre. The red and the white recall both main racial groups of Canada, while the green maple leaf is the symbol of this country's unity.

Mr. Speaker, I do not want to delay for a moment the time when the house will wish to take a decision on this resolution. However, I feel obliged to recall a particular fact of present day history. In the world today

[Mr. Boulanger.]

even the smallest nation, as soon as she achieves independence, quickly adopts her own flag. Canada where we have been bragging about our autonomy for over a quarter of a century, does not yet have the national emblem her people have been demanding for so many years. This lack of national pride is truly unaccountable. How can this country which is giving leadership in so many fields be satisfied with the position of a nation devoid of any pride and ideal?

I think I have proved that nothing now prevents Canada from providing herself with a distinctive flag uniting in its folds all the races which make up this nation and which are called upon to achieve the greatness of this country. Frankly I would be deeply humiliated if a single member, a single Canadian should object to the adoption of a truly Canadian flag.

On Cap Diamant, in Quebec city, a monument was erected to the memory of two heroes: Montcalm and Wolfe. There is on this monument a Latin inscription which can be translated as follows:

Gallantry united them in the same death,  
History awarded them the same fame,  
Posterity built them the same monument.

As Canadians commemorating the 3rd centennial of their utmost sacrifice, let us unite together in the same spirit of pride and love for this country in order to raise a flag in their memory as they stood united in death for the love of Canada!

Before resuming my seat, I shall in a last effort urge the members of any party not to prolong the discussion, or at least to interrupt it a few minutes before the adjournment of this sitting, so that the house may vote on the second reading of this bill concerning a distinctive national flag which will fly tomorrow, I hope, from the Atlantic to the Pacific, and of which all Canadians will be proud.

(Text):

**Mr. G. C. Fairfield (Portage-Neepawa):** Mr. Speaker, I sympathize with the hon. member who has just resumed his seat in his desire to have a distinctive Canadian flag but he has left very little time for any of the other members of the house to discuss it. If he wants us to pass this immediately without further discussion that is a different matter. He has intimated that if we talk at all we are against a distinctive Canadian flag. I want to set his mind at ease right now by telling him that I am not against a distinctive Canadian flag. However, I find that in his bill which is before us at the present time