

For all people there is a native product dear to their hearts. Thus England has the rose, France, the fleur-de-lis and Scotland, the thistle.

Canadians throughout the country see in the maple leaf, and quite fortunately too, the truest symbol of our country. Instead of leaving it on the coat of arms where it still is, we take it and put it to rest in the folds of our flag.

Honourable senators, the maple leaf is more than a product; once it appears on the flag, it becomes Canada's signature.

I do not wish to prolong this debate, but it is important that all Canadians realize now that by including other symbols in our flag, the fleur-de-lis, which is French, the rose, which is British—perhaps there is a sentimental reason for doing that—we are establishing a link with the past and I say that there is a mistake to avoid there. Why oblige the Canadians of our generation and those of future generations to think of France or of England whenever saluting the flag of Canada?

We have nothing to do with foreign flags and their symbols. We have enough imagination in this country to adorn our flag. Therefore we can do without imported designs. Let France respectfully keep its fleur-de-lis and England its rose, but let Canada choose its own design and colours. Everyone of us understands, I hope, the importance of this question. When the time comes to vote, let us consider a little less the past, beautiful undoubtedly, but the future a little more. We will give Canada a flag which will be exclusively and distinctively Canadian. Let our flag be our own choice and it will testify to our pride and will be flown with honour.

Then, when the bitterness of the present fight will be gone—time is a great healer—I have no doubt, honourable senators, that under a true Canadian flag, all citizens living now and the future generations will be proud, and rightly so, to say in chorus, in the same spirit and with the same feelings, considering the future of our country over which our flag will fly, that the most serious guarantees of order, progress and prosperity rest on unity and agreement.

I believe all Canadians, of any generation, will be proud and happy under a flag which will reflect their mood and their ideal; I believe that all Canadians will be proud to sing:

Sous l'œil de Dieu, près du fleuve géant,  
Le Canadien grandit en espérant.

(Text):

**Hon. James Gladstone:** Honourable senators, I speak at this time with mixed feelings of sadness and curiosity. I am sad to think that a proposal for a Canadian flag different from the one we now have could be considered. And I am curious to know how the people of Canada have let this matter develop as far as it has. I expected to have my say in the flag debate, but as a voter in my home town of Cardston—not as a senator in Ottawa.

Some time ago I was watching "Front Page Challenge" on television, and an Indian leader from Saskatchewan was on the show. During the discussion period, one of the panelists said that since he was one of the real Canadians he must want a new flag for Canada. The chief answered that the western treaties were made with Queen Victoria under the Red Ensign, and that was the flag his people wanted.

In my travels, I have found that most Indians feel the same way. We love our Queen and we love our flag. Under these symbols of justice, we feel safe. Take them away from us and it will be another sign that we are not safe. If you can take the flag away, then maybe the next time you will want to take our treaties away. Even the recent court cases on hunting rights seem to indicate this may already be happening. If we cannot hunt ducks because of an agreement with the United States made in 1921, what are we to think of our treaties?

Treaty No. 6, signed in 1876, has a clause about hunting. When explaining it, Lieutenant Governor Alexander Morris said this:

You want to be at liberty to hunt as before. I told you we did not want to take that means of living away from you, you have it the same as before, only this, if a man, whether Indian or half-breed, had a good field of grain, you would not destroy it with your hunt.

Governor Morris was the Queen's representative, and he made that promise to us while the Red Ensign was flying overhead as a symbol of fidelity and honesty. Now, since there has been talk of tearing down the flag, there are also signs of tearing apart our treaties.

In Alberta we have an organization called "The Indian Association of Alberta". We have representatives from quite a few reserves, in both the north and the south. At the 1963