

was a surgeon in the army. Our only son was an officer in the navy.

When I first entered the Legislature of Nova Scotia there were two members from many counties in Nova Scotia, and in many cases one was a French member and the other British. When I was a member of the legislature in 1916, I think there were five counties having French representatives in that house. We came to be good friends; they were splendid people; we had no differences because of race or religion. I considered them to be a little better than I was because they could speak two languages, while I could speak only one. One of them is now a senator, the honourable Senator Comeau. He is, I think, the oldest member of this chamber, being about two months older than Senator Crerar. While his children were brought up to speak their mother tongue, French, his daughter won the gold medal for English at Pictou Academy.

Later I came to Ottawa and became a room-mate of a French Acadian, Vincent Pottier, M.P. He is now a judge in Halifax. We spent nearly 10 years together, and I learned much from him because he had the better education. However, I had more experience, and together we worked out many problems satisfactorily. We came to have the highest regard for each other.

At the present time I do business with many French people. It is not necessary to have a contract; their word is as good as their bond. There are no conflicts about freedom or place. We all have equal opportunities. They are splendid artisans and great citizens; they are a God-fearing people who attend their church, and in my view they are a tremendous asset to the province from which I come.

Let us also take a look at New Brunswick. Recently the Premier of New Brunswick, a brilliant young Acadian, has been advocating unity with Nova Scotia. Well, he must come down to the British of Nova Scotia, since they are now in the majority in the legislature. It seems to me that this is a situation where we find citizenship at its best. We live happily together. We do not like to think that there is anything that pulls us apart. We in Nova Scotia know that while we do not become wealthy, we do live well and we live in a way which, I think, makes good citizens.

Now, if any person had told me five years ago that I would subscribe to a new flag I would have been angry. The flag means much to the maritime people. It is really part of their language, and the Union Jack is very popular. The Red Ensign comes to us, however, from the British merchant marine. In 1930, when the Statute of Westminster proved to be our emancipation, we retained the Red Ensign which was still the flag of the mer-

chant marine. It was declared Canada's flag by order in council, which denotes that it was to be temporary, with a view to being changed when necessary. I think Mr. Mackenzie King said at that time that it would be the flag of Canada until Parliament decided otherwise. Parliament has now decided otherwise.

I have been a borderline case since the discussion started. I went so far as to design a flag and submit it to the committee. It had a Union Jack in the corner. That design was deleted by the committee when they made their selection. That committee has now reported to the House of Commons, and by a large majority the maple leaf flag was selected when the committee reached the hour of decision.

In my public life and in business I have made many decisions, some good and some bad, and sometimes under very difficult circumstances. In the existing circumstances I now support the maple leaf because I think it is timely, and I think it is of benefit to the country.

I may say that my wife, who is of German stock as well as having an Irish mother, is rather like Senator O'Leary (Carleton) in that she is a little slow about forsaking her idols and joining in the parade. However, she is liberal, and I think she will stay in the fold.

When mention is made of the maple leaf, I am reminded of a young lady who appeared on the television program "Maritime Gazette" some time ago. Her name is Miss Dorothy Walker. She is a physical education teacher in Halifax, and she chaperoned the women members of the Canadian Olympics team that went to Japan. She recounted that when she and her party arrived there wearing sweaters bearing the maple leaf emblem, the Japanese girl who met them said: "Oh, you are from Canada. What a beautiful emblem."

Honourable senators, I think that Mr. Pearson has given us an official Commonwealth flag. We have never had one before. In my area we are pretty close to the Crown. Our people do not change very much. On the waterfront in Lunenburg, the town where I live, the Union Jack is flown, and the idea of retaining the Union Jack as the Commonwealth flag seems to me to be something that will please the people there very much.

I should point out that the red flag is very much misunderstood. I have travelled in Africa, along the Mediterranean coast, and also in Europe. When I am abroad I usually go down to the waterfront of the different cities I am visiting to look at the ships. When you see a ship flying the red ensign you know that it is part of the British merchant marine. You have to look very carefully to see the Canadian flag flown by a Canadian ship, and if there happens to be no wind