

distinctive Canadian National Ensign apart from those we now have.

Let us first ask: What would be the value of this new ensign to Canada?

It would be without any tradition or history; it would not have floated over the heroic struggles of those who hewed this Empire of the West out of the forest-covered slopes and plains of Canada; who linked our scattered lands with our transcontinental railways; who fought and won the tremendous political battles which made Confederation a fact.

It would not be associated with the creditable achievements of Canada since Confederation. It would have no associations with the struggles and triumph of the Canadian people in the Great War. It would not be associated with any step of Canada's progress from the scattered colonies of her early days upward through the stages of national evolution—until, to-day, she stands, beyond dispute, among nations with all the rights and powers of any nation.

Those who cannot find authority for her nationhood except on the written page, will say that Canada has not yet arrived at the glorious moment of nationhood, but one has only to read or recall statements by such men as Lord Shaw of Dunfermline, Andrew Bonar Law, Mr. Baldwin, the Premier of Great Britain, and other leading statesmen of the British Isles, the documents and treaties by which Ireland exchanged her status, to realize that, as Lord Shaw put it: "Changes made by the Great War and as yet unrecorded in text books" have made a nation of Canada. Nor can we think that representatives of the Irish Free State were ignorant of the status which they proposed to assume, when they placed themselves by treaty on an equality with Canada and the other nations of the British Empire.

Neither can we safely assume that the British Foreign Office was acting ignorantly when it advised the neighbouring republic on the question of British representation that the former self-governing colonies were nations entitled to representation in their own right. Other proofs could readily have been gathered, but, probably, enough has been given to make it clear that many and authoritative people recognize the full nationhood of Canada.

Any new flag, other than those under which Canadians have achieved what they have achieved, would be disassociated from any part of Canada's great achievement of nationhood.

Apart from this, it is worth while asking in what quarters we have the demand for a new Canadian Ensign. Does it arise from the spirit of a people made conscious of a new unity on its arrival at the glorious moment of nationhood? Does it not really arise from the wishes of those who are avowedly desirous of marking their freedom from British control—or a larger and more thoughtless group animated with the spirit of the big boy who with the size but not the sense of a man, wishes to assert his supposed manhood by independence of parental authority? These groups are anxious to give vent to their Canadianism by having Canada choose an ensign of its own for no other purpose than to show that it is capable of so doing.

Read closely the history of Canada—mark the attitude of those whose sacrifices made her possible, made her British and kept her British at all cost to them. Are their descendants behind the movement for a new Canadian Flag? Most decidedly not—save for a scattered few who can well be disregarded as representing their wishes or the ideals of these old patriots. What is the Canadianism that is behind this demand

for a new flag? Where it is not the result of agitation, it is, we venture to assert, the outcome of a very parochial Canadian viewpoint—the very epitome of little Canadianism, with nothing grand, nothing striking in its appeal, intensely provincial and thoroughly selfish.

If these ultra-Canadians are anxious to honour their country by giving it a distinctive place among nations, a revered name and an assured future—let them cease their petty, paltry cry for a new Canadian Flag—let them, each and all, resolve that, in every thought of their minds, in every act or deed that they perform, they will reveal the virtues and characteristics that should distinguish a great people; that their business integrity shall be accepted throughout the world as sound, sane and reliable; that their word given to a fellow-man shall be a sufficient assurance that it is true in the fullest and most complete sense; that their honour shall be as unquestioned as their patriotism, and their patriotism shown by a willingness to sacrifice everything, if need be, that their country shall stand before the world a nation founded in righteousness, established in truth and erected in the beauty of holiness. By such works, and by such works alone, can Canada be worthy of herself, her resources and her opportunities, and an ounce of achievement in this direction is worth tons of puerile talk about a new National Flag and a new Canadianism, which is in fact the embodiment of selfishness and a denial of every patriotic principle which animated our Canadian ancestors and which, in our opinion, still rules and governs Canada, and will rule and govern her when this sporadic appeal for a new Canadian Flag has been buried deep in oblivion.

What change, then, shall we have? None! If there be any Canadians who lack consciousness of possession as their ensign when they look upon the Union Jack and our Marine Ensign, if there be those who feel no thrill of nationality when they look upon the banner that has braved and achieved for centuries; if there be those who can picture no banner as the flag of those whose three centuries of achievement made Canada—let us, then, solemnly re-affirm by Act of Parliament that the Union Jack, carrying its crosses of St. Andrew, St. Patrick and St. George contained in one design, thereby typifying at once our descent and our unity—is, and shall remain, with our Marine Ensign, our own Canadian Flag.

Lest it be thought that we are selfishly overlooking the large French-Canadian element in Canada, we will remind our readers that the fleur-de-lis was not always the banner of France, and that French-Canadians in the past have found no difficulty in dying, as well as living, for the Union Jack.

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