

salute the future. Surely he must know that a flag in itself is a teacher of history, that it teaches history in our schools, that it teaches history wherever it is flown, and that you cannot snatch from that flag something that belongs to it, something historic in it, without betraying the past. You may salute the future, but when you snatch from an historic flag something that has belonged to it for half a century or more, you betray the past to a certain extent.

Honourable senators, you cannot take a bit of native foliage and put it on a piece of bunting and call it a flag. I shall come to this later on.

The Prime Minister, in the same speech, spoke of the absence from our national flag of symbols which to a large part of our people seemed to represent early differences. He went on, later in the same passage, to identify these people as "Canadians in Quebec."

As one who was born in Quebec, as one whose ancestors sleep in the soil of Quebec, and as one who was reared there, who went to school there, who made his first communion there with French Canadians, I for one refuse to believe, and will continue to refuse to believe, that the majority of the people of Quebec want to tear the last vestige of the Union Jack symbol from the Canadian flag.

Surely that is understandable. Surely the Union Jack in North America, in Quebec, in Canada, has never been a symbol of tyranny, of oppression, or of dishonour. Surely this is something all of us should try to remember at this time.

I call as witness to this, a man who was a glory of French Canada, yes, and a glory for us all—Sir Wilfrid Laurier. Speaking in Paris in 1897, he said:

We have liberty—

Meaning we of Quebec.

—absolute complete, more complete—pardon my national pride for the affirmation I am making—more complete than in any country whatsoever in the world: liberty for our religion, with its worship, its ceremonies, its prayers, its customs; liberty for our language, which is the official language as English is: liberty for all the institutions that our ancestors brought from France, and which we regard as a sacred heritage. Equality is ours. What other proof of it could I give you than this? In our country, where the majority is of English descent and of the Protestant religion, the last general elections have brought to power a man of French descent and Catholic

religion, who has always strongly affirmed his race and his faith...

Honourable senators, I can imagine what was in the mind of Sir Wilfrid Laurier when he made that noble affirmation. I am sure he was thinking of the truth, that in the Province of Quebec, in French Canada, the Roman Catholic religion, its schools and its churches, received legal constitutional and religious freedom years before Daniel O'Connell won Catholic emancipation in the British Isles. No doubt, he was thinking of the fact that long before Daniel O'Connell won Catholic emancipation, the Presbyterian Scots of Cape Breton elected Laurence Matthew Kavanaugh to the Legislature of Nova Scotia. And I am sure he had in mind, as well, the fact that long before Macaulay delivered his great speech on Jews in the British Parliament, the French Canadians of Three Rivers elected Ezekiel Hart to the Legislature of Canada. This was the spirit, this the freedom and the toleration that was built up under the Union Jack in the Province of Quebec.

Honourable senators, are you telling me that the French Canadian is so lacking in intelligence, chivalry and appreciation that he does not remember these facts?

We were told not long ago by the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) that a maple leaf is a symbol that has been on the tunics of our soldiers, buried with our soldiers, and so on. That is true. I shall come to that later on, and I think I have a very good answer for it. What I am complaining about now is that the things in our history about which Sir Wilfrid Laurier spoke, the things of which Taché spoke, when he said that the last gun in British North America in defence of Canada would be fired by a French Canadian, are being forgotten.

What I complain about with this flag is that it does nothing to note, to remember, to commemorate the French achievement on this continent. What is there on this flag to tell us of the discoverers, the great soldiers, the men who journeyed up this very Ottawa River to death and immortality? What does it tell us of the missionaries who illumined our history with the fires of martyrdom? Nothing on the flag to commemorate these things! Not only does it tear from our flag any fact which commemorates the British contribution, but it leaves off the things, the glorious things, to which the French discoverers and founders of this country contributed.

Honourable senators, I am going to be asked why I, of Irish birth, should stand here to extol the Union Jack. Before coming to the reply, let me answer something that was