

tain types of clothing, the family home or farm. In business, the older the firm the deeper the pride. The number of years that the family name has been carried on, or the family business or firm—who can deny it? We all take pride in our past. The same applies to one's school, or the "old school tie."

True, Canada is a fairly young country, but over the years we have slowly acquired certain achievements, backgrounds, history and traditions. We have our loyalties, our priceless heritage from the lands of our ancestors. Honourable senators, traditions form the backbone of any nation.

We have today in Canada a Commission on Biculturalism and Bilingualism, investigating and attempting to save and preserve the two cultures of the founding races of Canada. How strange, then, that in the designing and creating of a new flag, apparently no attention, and scant respect, if any, has been paid to the historical background loyalties and the great heritage, traditions and customs of the founding races in Canada.

In Canada, unfortunately, there has always been a body of people who want to tear down and destroy the past. They have no pride, no respect, and care nothing for loyalties, our heritage, traditions, customs or historical background. Their sole aim is to discard and throw out the window all our past, and to buy a 1964 model.

Honourable senators, today is a very good time to pause, to pause well, and take a good look at the past, to review our mistakes and errors of yesterday, and to make sure we will not make the same mistakes tomorrow.

Speaking for myself, while I greatly admire the Red Ensign, I am not committed to it as the only suitable flag for Canada. I am satisfied to accept any flag which will have incorporated in its design appropriate symbols representing the founding peoples of Canada. The flag I suggest is the one that was chosen by the committee in 1946, a red flag with the Union Jack and fleur-de-lis in the upper two corners, and in the centre a golden maple leaf. In my opinion, such a flag and such a design will satisfy a very large body of Canadians. It will satisfy a much larger body of Canadians than the present proposed design passed by the House of Commons. Do not let us deceive ourselves that the proposed flag, while it may be approved by the House of Commons and this chamber, will ever be accepted by tens of thousands of Canadians. This flag has become a political issue. It is being forced and rammed down the throats of Canadians who will never forget the manner in which it is being done.

A new flag will not be accepted by various veterans' organizations. The Canadian Legion, in its brief to the Canadian cabinet, presented on Armistice Day of this year, had this to say at page 13:

We again bring to your attention the following resolution adopted at our convention with respect to the National Flag:

"Be it resolved, that the delegates to this, the 20th Biennial Convention of the Royal Canadian Legion, assembled at Winnipeg 17th-22nd May, 1964, reiterate the stand taken by the delegates of our 18th and 19th Biennial Conventions that we urge the Government of Canada to, by act of Parliament, adopt the Canadian Red Ensign as the national flag of Canada . . ."

All honourable senators received a copy of a brief from the Canadian Corps Association, dated June 8, 1964, a copy of which I hold in my hand. This brief indicates, in no uncertain terms, the support of this veterans' organization for the Red Ensign.

Speaking to his men one day, one of the heroes of the Crimean War defined the flag as follows:

The Flag—It's the Homeland—It's Pride—It's Safety—It's Glory—And it's Memories.

These words sum up in a very adequate manner what our flag inspires in us—the ideals of honour, liberty and home. It recalls, at least indirectly, the duties it imposes. The flag is well nigh an animated being. When it is unfurled before troops it is rendered distinguished acclaim, the drums roll, the bugle sounds, the band plays, the officers salute with their swords, the rank and file present arms, and the citizen bares his head in respect. Honour always stands high in the army, and it was to this sentiment of honour that Napoleon often appealed in his immortal proclamations to the army, such as that celebrated message to the army of Egypt, in which he said:

Soldiers, forty centuries look down upon you from the heights of yonder pyramid.

One can readily understand why veterans of two world wars and Korea wish to retain the Red Ensign, or at least part of it, in any new flag. As I mentioned, the flag plays a large part in any military operation. Certainly, in World War I the flag was not in the trenches, but it was in France. Last night Senator Huggessen mentioned that fact, and I agree with him. In his remarks he immediately identified himself as an old soldier when he mentioned the rum ration and other things. He could easily have gone on to mention some