

*Canadian Flag*

ada's heritage and our past, to the contribution made by the French and by the British to the building of this nation? I ask that question, Mr. Speaker. There has not been one word. We have important matters to bring before parliament that deserve attention. The Prime Minister says he is bringing about unity in this country. I say to him that by this action—and the apologetic manner was apparent throughout his speech today—he realizes he has caused in this nation cleavages and fissures and separations that more than a generation of people to come will recall, those that have strong opinions either way—and he mentioned that—or conscientious opinions either way, but certainly strongly held. No one in this nation today would say that there is an overwhelming majority of opinion in favour of the change he is trying to bring about—and he knows he can do it—to separate this nation from the past. He says that when the maple leaf design is produced, it will be peculiarly Canadian. Well, all I have to say in that connection is this. While I wore the maple leaf badge, too, in the first great war—and I was proud of that—and while everyone realizes that under the Meighen administration the national symbol of Canada was declared to be the three maple leaves, not since that date in 1921 has any leader of this nation claimed that a distinctive national flag should be other than the union jack, with also a reference to the French contribution upon it.

**Mr. Nowlan:** Meighen would have died if anyone had suggested that to him.

**Mr. Diefenbaker:** As a matter of fact, I am going to refer to the committee of 1945 and of 1946. I followed the Prime Minister (Mr. Pearson) in the views he has expressed. I recall the speech he made at a resort in April or May of 1963 when he spoke of two nations, two flags, two anthems. Is this the way to bring about unity within this country?

Mention was made today of Macdonald. What did Macdonald say? He viewed Canada as one nation despite the fact that the Minister of Trade and Commerce (Mr. Sharp) ridiculed this in a speech very recently. On the other hand, the Prime Minister said this evening that he believed in one Canada and that this action would produce one Canada. It will produce one Canada, separate as never before, and that is the reason I am going to make a special appeal to him.

What did Macdonald say? Speaking in the provincial parliament of Canada in 1865 he said that we shall build "a great nationality

commanding the respect of the world, able to hold our own against all opponents and to defend those institutions we prize."

Cartier at the same time said, "We are joined together". He went on to say that only through British North American confederation could we prevent absorption into the vortex of American confederation. He went on to say that was contemplated at the time of the American union. He said, "We shall build in Canada a unity", and went on:

As early as 1775 the French Canadians were solemnly addressed in a proclamation by General Washington who called upon them to abandon the flag of their new masters, inasmuch as they could not expect anything from those who differed from them in language, in religion, in race and in sympathies.

He said, "Not two nations", and then:

The question for us to ask ourselves was this. Shall we be content to maintain a mere provincial existence when by combining together we could become a great nation?

With regard to the objection that a great nation could not be formed because Lower Canada was in great part French and Catholic and Upper Canada was English and Protestant and the lower provinces were mixed, he said that was futile and worthless in the extreme.

They builded this Canada and they brought it together. All through the years references have been made to flags. I heard Mr. Mackenzie King speaking in the house on a number of occasions and the stand that Mr. Mackenzie King took was this: We want a distinctive flag for Canada, but no one can contemplate a distinctive flag without the union jack being included therein. On the 21st of June, 1943, he said, as found on page 3823 of *Hansard*:

A national flag is one which normally is used by a single nation only, and which is used to distinguish that nation from others at international gatherings and to serve as a symbol of it. The red ensign, with the union jack in the first quarter next to the staff, and the Canadian coat of arms in the fly, has for over 70 years been very generally used in situations where a flag specially distinctive of Canada was essential.

I call Mr. Mackenzie King, gone to his reward, to the attention of the Prime Minister, about to secure his reward. Yes, I am reading from Mr. Mackenzie King, and I know the Minister of Transport (Mr. Pickersgill) will say that everything here is confirmed by him.

It was first authorized by the government of Sir John A. Macdonald shortly after confederation for use on Canadian merchant vessels. Its use as a distinctive emblem on all buildings owned or occupied by the Canadian government and situated outside of Canada was authorized by order in council on January 26, 1924. It has been popularly