

This presents completely the case for a national flag. In coming to a conclusion on this all-important question many viewpoints may be considered. We might have a national flag based on the white ensign; we might be able to base it on the red ensign; we might base it on the blue ensign. Australia has founded her national flag on the blue ensign; southern Ireland has a tricolour scheme, green, white and orange thus making use of the colour white, one of the predominant British colours. This flag is a co-equal flag with that of Great Britain. Newfoundland's flag is based on the red ensign. We are flying a flag—the red ensign—which is not officially recognized as our land flag. There are many instances in which the three ensigns might be used as bases for a national flag. Then we might have a flag with a union jack in one corner, but that is something which will have to be decided by the committee and the House of Commons. We might have a flag in which there would be no union jack. Some people advocate that, but I do not. I suggest that had this question been settled a few years ago that argument would never have arisen; but so far as the argument is concerned I do not believe there is much public opinion in Canada in favour of it. With the spirit of co-operation and harmony prevailing, a simple and beautiful national emblem can be evolved.

I am not discussing any particular design; but in my opinion the maple leaf should find a prominent place on our flag, and I believe the union jack should also be there, prominently displayed. That, however, is a matter which can best be decided in committee. I am firmly convinced that with goodwill prevailing, with tolerance and patience, and with loyalty to this young nation and its constitution we can make progress in the house and in committee in coming to a satisfactory decision upon this extremely important problem.

I leave the question with hon. members. The very fact that we have in Canada one flag that is not officially recognized at home while the same flag is given official recognition abroad is an anomaly that should be corrected without delay. If it is, I believe that it will mean advancement democratically for this nation and it will give us that respect nationally and internationally that is due to us as a rising young dominion on the north American continent—a nation great to be in the annals of mankind.

Mr. VITAL MALLETTE (Jacques-Cartier) (Translation): Mr. Speaker, convinced of the necessity of a national flag for our beautiful country, I consider it my duty to support the resolution proposed by the honourable member for North Battleford

(Mr. McIntosh). I do not intend to go into the history of the matter, but simply to offer a few arguments in favour of the establishment of a national flag. Every country in the world, from the most humble to the most powerful, has its national flag. Each country on every continent, in every part of the world, has its emblem, of which it is proud. Whether throughout the ages it bore the name of oriflamme, guidon, banner, standard, or was called something else, the emblem represented first individuals, then clans, groups and finally an entire nation. The mediaeval knight, defender of all good causes, was always accompanied by his equerry bearing a banner decorated with his lord's coat of arms. Even then men understood the importance of having some sort of emblem to identify them. The idea seems to have spread simultaneously in all parts of the globe. Every nation has its flag. In the British Empire itself, outside the mother country, Australia, the Irish Free State, New Zealand, the South African Union have their respective flags, and these countries all belong to the same family of nations. Thus, including Great Britain, at least five British nations have their distinctive flag. I do not see that anyone can object to Canada adopting a national emblem as its sister nations have done.

We have already taken a step in that direction by adopting a national coat of arms as other countries have done. Furthermore, this coat of arms bears a device indicating the size of our country: A mare usque ad mare.

Since we have adopted, as the honourable member for North Battleford pointed out a moment ago, a device and a coat of arms which are recognized by the whole country, why should we not have a national flag? Had we done so a few years ago, we should now have a Canadian flag, playing for our beautiful country the same part as that of the other nations. It would be a rallying-point. It would fly on our navy, on our merchant marine, on our public buildings, on our schools, on our residences. It would be displayed at the head of our processions and at all great patriotic manifestations. It would form a link between Canadians from all provinces. A Canadian flag would contribute to the unity of the dominion.

From a purely practical point of view, the Canadian flag would advertise Canada in other lands. Our tourists, like all other tourists, would display it throughout the world. This would be excellent publicity for Canada. This need of having an object to represent an idea, an association, a people, a union, is not something new. It reveals itself in guilds, unions, brotherhoods. All such organizations