

*Canadian Flag*

His Majesty King George V to order a new coat of arms for Canada. In response to this request, His Majesty commanded the Royal College of Heraldry to design a suitable coat of arms. The coat of arms is in use today, and in accordance with custom, the design of the shield has been displayed on Canada's flag. The Canadian red ensign is the distinctive flag for Canada. It properly shows upon it the union jack, which is the flag of the empire and commonwealth of nations. This proclaims to all the world that Canada is one of the great nations in that group. In a like manner Australia, New Zealand and South Africa also display the union jack in the upper corner of their own national flags. Surely Canada is not ashamed to be in that company. I know that we who fought with their fine men are honoured to share with them anything that will honour our country and theirs.

The emblem of the shield dates back to very ancient times. The couchant lion—or heraldic leopard—came to us from France, and was the emblem on the flag of William of Normandy. Ever since 1066, it has been incorporated in the heraldry of the British kings. The red lion rampant on the golden field is even more ancient, as it was the emblem of the Scottish kings and came to them from ancient Ireland, where it had arrived from the east about 580 B.C. However, it was also the family emblem of Brutus and Trojan, who founded the city of London about 1100 B.C. The harp emblem is equally ancient and was taken into Ireland by the Tuatha de Danain, the Danoi of the ancient Greek writers. The fleur-de-lis of the fourth quarter of the shield is well known as the lily of France, and held a proud place in the arms of the British kings from the time of Henry II down to the time of George III, proclaiming the French ancestry of the sovereigns from the distaff side of the house. Just about the time this emblem was removed from the royal arms, it began to appear in the heraldry of Canada and has been with us ever since.

It should be remembered that it was this emblem, not the tricolour, which came with the French settlers into this country long before the tricolour was used in France. I mention the emblems on the shield because it is my honest belief that not too many Canadians are familiar with these representations on the red ensign. The Canadian red ensign, therefore, symbolizes the main streams of history, with their common Christian heritage, which combined to produce the Canadian nation. Even the colours of the flag, red,

white and blue, have a rich meaning. Yes, Mr. Speaker, the red symbolizes the blood of Christ shed for the remission of sins; the white represents the righteousness of the saints, and the blue, loyalty and dedication to service. What else would we want?

The establishment of the Canadian red ensign through history, tradition and custom, was formalized on September 5, 1945, when our Governor General signed an order in council P.C. 5888 which stated that:

The red ensign with the shield of the coat of arms of Canada in the fly (hereinafter referred to as "The Canadian red ensign") may be flown from buildings owned or occupied by the federal government within or without Canada...and that it shall be appropriate to fly the Canadian red ensign within or without Canada wherever place or occasion may make it desirable to fly a distinctive Canadian flag.

I hope, Mr. Speaker, that I have given a very complete explanation of the Canadian red ensign. I hope that the Prime Minister will still give very serious consideration to withdrawing this resolution and giving every Canadian the privilege of voting for the flag of his or her choice. I still feel that such an important decision should not be left up to the members of parliament because, after all, such a vote could cause grave doubts in the minds of a great many citizens as to whether or not it represented the will of the people. These doubts could linger on for years and would remain a serious obstacle to the attainment of national unity.

Here, Mr. Speaker, is probably one of the most important parts of my speech. I say that when the Canadian red ensign design is examined dispassionately, without prejudice or unreasoned emotion, it can be seen that every desire of our multiple religious, racial and cultural background is answered. I realize that this flag is the cause of a great deal of controversy. It is such an important question that controversy, of course, is quite natural. However, when some people criticize the Royal Canadian Legion unfairly and say that organization is trying to run the government or is playing politics then I, as a member of this great organization since its inception, must bitterly protest such charges and statements. The cartoon in the *Ottawa Citizen* was grossly insulting to any legionnaire and I would say also to the Prime Minister. It is beyond my comprehension why the manager of this respected daily newspaper would allow some thoughtless, brainless guy to carry out such a cartoon. I have the cartoon here with me.

[Mr. Weichel.]