

religious symbolism which originated in the days of faith. It now has a modern connotation, because it is the royal flag of the royal head of the Commonwealth, in addition to being the flag of the United Kingdom.

I therefore commend to this House the motion before us, in these words:

That this House do recommend to the Government that such steps as may be necessary be taken to provide that the Royal Union Flag, generally known as the Union Jack, may continue to be flown as a symbol of Canada's membership in the Commonwealth of Nations and of her allegiance to the Crown.

Hon. A. J. Brooks: Honourable senators, we have all followed the excellent remarks of the Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West). I think we agree with most of what he has said, particularly when he referred to the necessity for supporting the Commonwealth, which I am sure all right-thinking people in the world consider to be one of the greatest forces for good in existence. As I listened to my honourable friend today, and also a few days ago when he introduced the other resolution, I could not but think that if he were not such an excellent lawyer and such a good politician he would have made a remarkable professor of history for some great university. However, I am not going to deal on this occasion with his historical remarks.

In listening to the sports review over the radio in the morning we have often heard the announcer say, "If you lose, say little; if you win, say less." In my opinion Canada has lost a lot, and therefore I am going to say little.

The flag debate is over and we are all glad of that. There has been one great casualty in this debate. The long, long trail has ended, as far as Canada is concerned, for a flag which I know we have all loved—the Red Ensign. Shortly, we will have a new flag flying over this country, for better or for worse. I know I speak for most Canadians when I say that we will do our best to see that it is accepted and respected by our people. However, I must say this, that I believe it will be a very difficult task in many cases, and I would not be surprised if in some circumstances it should be an impossible task.

I do not know of any other country which has more than one flag. In my view one flag is sufficient for any country, and I feel we should have only one flag in this country. If the Government and the Parliament of Canada listened to the recommendations in our amendment, debated yesterday in the Senate, we would have had a flag which would have indicated not only the Com-

monwealth status but would also have suited the people of Canada.

However, honourable senators, it has been decided that we must have two flags. But, if we must have two flags, then why not the Red Ensign as the second one? The honourable leader has stated with truth that the Union Jack is the flag of another country. The Red Ensign has been our flag for nearly a century. Generation after generation has lived under that flag. They have respected it, and they have loved it; and, in the words of the eloquent address of my friend Senator White, soldiers have gone to battle under it in two of the greatest wars the world has ever known. I say that that is the flag we should have, if we must have a second flag to represent our membership in the Commonwealth.

I know that the Red Ensign is loved, not only in Canada but all over the world. Not very long ago I was in Fredericton in connection with the opening of a very important institution there, and I met an American from Massachusetts who was staying in the next motel room to mine. At that time our flag debate was in progress, and he had read about it in the papers. He said, "What in Heaven's name is all this fuss about changing your flag? You have a wonderful flag. I have just travelled across Canada; I have seen it flying everywhere, and it is a beautiful flag." He also added, that of the three flags in the world that were best known and loved, the first was the Stars and Stripes, followed by the Union Jack and the Red Ensign. He also said, "Your flag is known all over the world—I know because I have travelled a lot. Why indeed are you people talking about changing your flag?" I did not bother trying to explain to him the intricacies of the situation and the debates we were having.

A few years ago I spent six weeks visiting the cemeteries of the Canadian soldiers in Europe, in France, Belgium, Holland, Italy, Germany and elsewhere. On our car we had the Canadian Ensign, and wherever we went we did not have to tell people that we were Canadians. Whenever we stopped they gathered around us in large numbers because they saw our flag. I remember in Ortona, where was fought one of the great battles in which our Canadian soldiers took part in the Second World War. There were a few people on the street when our car stopped, but it was not long before crowds gathered, shouting "Canada! Canada!" And these were people who only a short time before had been fighting us tooth and nail. They knew our flag.

Then, let us consider Vimy Ridge. Many of you have visited there—I have on three occasions. It is a part of Canada, generously given to this country by the French people.