

of many of the religious flags and shields used in the Province of Quebec.

We have associated the fleur-de-lis with the Province of Quebec, and therefore are putting forward the suggestion of the fleur-de-lis. However if this is not acceptable to the Province of Quebec, I would be perfectly happy, as an Anglo-Saxon, to take any suggestion that my colleagues from that province would care to put forward.

One suggestion among the numerous flag designs which have been received came from the Province of Quebec, and I think this one could be considered under the terms of the amendment. It has ten horizontal bars. The colours could be blue and white, or red and white, or any colour you wish. They come into a circle, and at the end of each bar were the coats of arms of the various provinces. In this design, I found a certain amount of what I would like to see in our flag. Here I found symbols of the two founding races and a recognition of the contribution of everybody to Canada, plus a certain amount of our history.

Many senators have stated that we cannot achieve any more unanimity, agreement, on the design than exists at the present time. I find among the people in the Maritimes that there is no agreement and no acceptance of this flag.

Many sincere people, and they are sincere, keep asking me why the Government seems to consider it to be almost a crime to have a heritage—a descent of Anglo-Saxon origin. These people are not being antagonistic to anyone, they are genuinely confused, resentful and, in most cases, deeply hurt. This I consider to be one of the most unfortunate aspects of this debate.

Before concluding my remarks, I wish to draw to the attention of honourable senators the results of passing this resolution and accepting a flag that will not be accepted by a great many Canadians. Many people are going to feel deprived of the present flag, are going to resent the proposed flag, and will turn to their provincial flags. As honourable senators know, many provinces have their own provincial flag. Nova Scotia has had its own flag for hundreds of years. Quebec, as everyone knows, is proud of its flag. Newfoundland has, as its provincial flag, the Union Jack. Its outspoken premier has left no doubt that he expects the Union Jack to continue to fly in that province.

This year Prince Edward Island adopted its own flag. I am sorry, in one way, to have noticed that in that province the Canadian Ensign and the Acadian Flag are being lowered, and that the provincial flag now flies on the flag poles which formerly flew either the Canadian Ensign or the Acadian

Flag. Perhaps I should explain to some honourable senators that the Acadians, in Prince Edward Island at least, fly the tricolour, with the golden star of the Acadians on it. The provincial flag, not the new flag, is replacing the others. I feel that this will further emphasize the provincial trend that is developing all across Canada. The result will not be unity, but disunity.

I urge honourable senators to give consideration to the many merits of the amendment, an amendment that was moved in the spirit of the Senate. I urge senators to take advantage of the opportunity this amendment provides, an opportunity worthy of the Senate. I hope the Senate will rise to the occasion and be worthy of that opportunity.

I make one final plea to you to join us, not in a spirit of partisanship but in the spirit of Confederation. This problem can be solved and we in this chamber can establish a pattern for the solution of future difficulties, a pattern that will stand the stresses and strains of many generations to come.

**Hon. Nelson Rattenbury:** Honourable senators, I must be frank and admit to a certain amount of soul-searching before I decided to enter this debate at this time. Too much has been said by too many people already. Too much has been said that was deliberately designed to stir the emotions of our peoples to fever pitch. The subject is not a new one; Canadians have talked about having their own flag for many years. Perhaps this debate has served a useful purpose after all because now the temper of our people, as I sense it, is such that they are demanding action and, fortunately, it would appear they are within days of getting it.

I have enjoyed listening to most of the speeches that have been made here in the past few days, and I intend to mention a few of them in the course of my remarks. However, at this time I would like to make a few remarks about the speech made by Senator White this afternoon. He dealt at great length and, I feel, from his heart with the reactions of the veterans of the First World War. He brought us through that horrible conflict. I think he is right. In fact, the press leads us to believe he is right, when he speaks of the reactions of all those veterans of that war and their desire to retain the ensign we have known for the past few years. But I, in my travels, have been exposed to the men and women who are serving today and who, perhaps, served in the Second World War. I sensed in my conversations with them a different attitude, one that is more—I hate to use the phrase “up-to-date”, but one that is looking for a change, and that change could very well be the new flag.