

*National Anthem*

kinds of sentiment as to nationhood, one that is good and one that is evil. The evil type of excessive and exaggerated nationhood is that which places one's own nationality above all others, and despises those who are of other nationalities. The good kind is the one in which the individual has a pride in the country in which he lives, and in the people of whom he is a part, but recognizes the good in others too.

I like to think that in our country we have grown to realize step by step that other nations have a contribution to make in the realm of international relations, and in the development of human society in all parts of the world, and that with our diverse cultures we can work with them in developing the kind of world society of which we can be proud. We may well recognize the value of other beliefs and other cultures, and appreciate the distinctive attributes of different peoples as a contribution to the common welfare of mankind. I believe it is befitting that we in this country, with the consciousness of our distinctive nationhood in the world of nations, should have some symbols of nationhood.

I believe that in the adoption of a national song for Canada we are doing what almost every other nation has done in the past. May I recount a personal incident which emphasized the view that I then held, because we of this party are not recent converts to the idea that Canada should stand on her own feet. In company with my friend the hon. member for Melfort (Mr. Wright), my friend the hon. member for Cape Breton South (Mr. Gillis), and indeed my friend the hon. member for Regina City (Mr. Probe), because he was there at the time in uniform, I remember that we had the great privilege of flying to Brussels in September, 1944, shortly after the Canadian troops reached that city. We found that the whole of the left flank of the allied armies along the coast of France and Belgium was under the control of the Canadian troops.

When we arrived in Brussels we were met and kindly received by a gentleman who is a citizen of Ottawa. I am sure he will not mind my mentioning this incident because I was reminded of it last month when I met him again. I refer to Brigadier Beament. He told us of an incident that I think emphasizes the suggestion that is now before the house. When our troops arrived in Brussels the people of Brussels not only welcomed them enthusiastically but set out to provide entertainment for them. Part of that entertainment was an opera. On the Saturday night previous to the day when we were there, the Canadian troops had attended an opera for the first time in the very fine opera house in Brussels. The people of Brussels wanted to honour the Cana-

[Mr. Coldwell.]

dian troops but they did not know what to play as the anthem of Canada. When they were informed that we had a certain song in Canada, which had become universally accepted in our country as the national anthem of Canada, no one could produce the music for it. I remember that Brigadier Beament told us how he had sent a special message to our high commissioner in London asking that a copy of "O Canada" and its music should be flown to Brussels so that it could be used on the following Saturday evening in the opera house in honour of the Canadian troops.

I recount that incident because it emphasizes the need for Canada—and I think now—to adopt a song that is acceptable to all the people of our country. Perhaps I might interject that I think the same thing about a Canadian flag. On that trip I also saw Canadian troops without a flag, but all the way along they had nailed, on the signposts and so on, pictures of the maple leaf, indicating that the Canadian troops were there. Over there you saw the flag of every other country except Canada; you heard every other song except the song of Canada. I do not think that is fitting for the nation that is Canada today.

There are some people who say that in making a statement of this description one is being disloyal to old symbols that we have had so long. I do not think that is so. I believe it would be well if we all recognized "God Save the King" as the symbol of our commonwealth association in which we are bound together by a common loyalty to a common crown. In that common loyalty to a common crown the valuable thing is the loyalty to a common symbol of unity among those great nations that comprise the commonwealth of nations. In the same way, I think it applies to a Canadian flag.

May I once more recount a personal experience? Last autumn when I had the privilege of again being in Great Britain, the country in which I was born, I noted when driving through the English countryside that over many of the public buildings the Union Jack was not flying but the cross of St. George. This is the red Latin cross on the white background, the flag of old England. If England flies a distinctive flag as well as the Union Jack, there is no reason why Canada should not have her symbol which she could fly with the Union Jack. I say there is no conflict between those of us who wish to preserve the sentiment of the commonwealth and those of us who wish to have a recognition of this nation which is Canada by the use of a symbol that is recognized as Canadian by all the nations of the world.

I do not want to speak at any length, but I do want to say this to my hon. friend who has moved the resolution, that I think the