

autonomy. And the examples can be proliferated.

In all essentials, Canada possesses the substance of sovereignty. A new northern nation is in being. It is autonomous at home. It is acknowledged abroad. This resolution emphasizes that this nation should have, as one of its distinctive symbols, a distinctive flag. It is time that this important symbol should confirm the substance.

The symbol which a nation chooses for its national emblem is sometimes an arbitrary one. The Stars and Stripes of the United States and the Tricolour of France, are examples. And, even when it is based upon an abstraction, circumstances like war or revolution can invest it with a deep emotional content. Changes too may come to it, but in all essentials it remains the national flag.

A suitable device can also emerge from a country's history, from the long usage and accepted practices of the people. Such a symbol can reflect in a distinctive way the physical characteristics of the country. This, in turn, can symbolize the character of its people, because notions of a people and of the land they inhabit are closely interwoven.

Canada, even today, is a new country. Canada is a northern country. The beauty of its physical attributes is renowned. The natural wealth which that beauty enshrines is tremendous. We tell this to our own people. We tell it to the world. We use it, and quite properly, to attract visitors and investors alike. Our effort and our enterprise is channelled in this direction. In a very real sense our countryside is a wonder of the world. In our northern summer we never cease to marvel at its verdure. In the magic of its autumn, its spectacular hues astound us afresh each year. And the maple in its many species predominates. It clothes our land with a glory as does the heather in the Highlands, like the shamrock around Shannon, like the magnolia in the early summer of the south-land.

In the spring we tap it for a product as distinctive to Canada as wine is to France, as olives are to Spain, as citrus and coffee are to the tropics. Its wood we move into our markets, both at home and abroad. The discard of its leaves replenishes the fertility of our forest soil.

Canadians have long accepted and used the leaf of the maple as the badge of this youthful country in all its loveliness. Distinctive devices used by the defence forces of any nation have a deep emotional connotation for its people. In the badges and banners of the three Canadian forces and of the veterans' organizations, the maple leaf appears almost universally. I am told that in the military cemetery at Hong Kong, where many young

men of that campaign of the late war are laid to rest, the graves of the Canadians are distinguishable from all the others by the device of the maple leaf on the markers. This is true of other cemeteries where young Canadian servicemen are buried.

The maple leaf has an important element of an official acceptance in our country. British monarchs approved in 1868, by Royal Warrant, designs incorporating the device in the armorial bearings of Ontario and of Quebec.

In 1870 the maple leaf was confirmed as a Canadian badge by Royal Despatch.

In 1921 the maple leaf was part of the design approved by His Majesty the King for the Canadian Coat of Arms.

In commerce, the maple leaf finds acceptance in trademarks and in industrial designs on Canadian products. This is no insignificant body of evidence on its distinctiveness. Canada's common carriers in the civilian field, and its service vehicles of various kinds in the services, display it.

Ours is indeed the land of the maple. Even the word itself, "maple," has a connotation, even a flavour, which means Canada.

I was told a story recently by the Turkish Ambassador to Canada. He was a competitor for his country at the Olympic Games at Amsterdam in 1932. He said that in his mind's eye—and he has a photograph of the occasion—he can still see Percy Williams of Vancouver breaking the tape in the 100-meter dash. William's arms were extended. He looked like the Winged Victory of Samothrace. And the trade mark of the victory was the red maple leaf emblazoned on Williams' white jersey.

Honourable senators, the design which this resolution proposes is simple. It needs no expert to explain it. A child can draw it. Its colours are basic, they are traditional for use in banners, and the combination is both attractive and arresting. It contains the symbol of no country but our own. It neither gives offence to any of the racial elements of the Canadian mosaic nor does it favour any one of our racial or linguistic strains. It is for all.

It is a beautiful flag. It is a symbol around which we can build our hopes and in which we can centre our pride. It has been approved by a great majority in the House of Commons after a prolonged debate and after a study of six weeks by a special committee.

Honourable senators, I commend the resolution to your favourable consideration.

Hon. M. Grattan O'Leary: Honourable senators, I must say in the first place that I approach my task with some trepidation. I had not thought that this motion would come