

*Motions for Papers*

was knocked together over a period of nine days by a few people. Some of the other designs that are in the possession of the government, and therefore in the possession of parliament, are the result of much greater care than that. Anyone who will take the time to read the committee report for 1945-46 will find out that a great deal of care and attention was put on the various designs that were submitted to that committee. Some of them, of course, were carelessly done, but others were done with a great deal of care and attention.

The hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough (Mr. Stewart) has told us that there were 2,695 of these designs put on display in the railway committee room. They were seen by the members of the House of Commons at that time. They were examined, checked and voted upon until they finally eliminated all but two. There was a final vote and they made a choice of one. Surely, when this issue has been raised again in this country we should have a look at the designs that were produced in that period, in 1945-46.

What is the government attempting to hide? I suggest they are concealing from the people of this country designs that are superior to the one that was concocted just a little while ago and selected by the Prime Minister. I think there was faulty advice from the so-called experts in heraldry.

**Mr. Bell:** The hon. member for Leeds (Mr. Matheson), for example.

**Mr. Churchill:** The hon. member for Leeds, for example, who was written up as the parliamentary expert on heraldry. I am glad he knows a little bit about that. A very distinguished person, a man who has made a study of heraldry, has indicated that the present design is faulty. Mr. Beddoe, who is responsible for part of the design—he was not responsible for the blue border—misread or misinterpreted the proclamation setting out the coat of arms for Canada. So, you have experts in the field disagreeing. An attempt is being made, which I prophesy will fail, to foist upon the Canadian people a spurious flag improperly designed and based on a false interpretation of the proclamation determining the coat of arms of this country. If you can select from the coat of arms a sprig containing three maple leaves and say this will constitute Canada's flag, why can you not similarly and with equal reason select other designs from that coat of arms and make them into flags? It is just nonsensical

[Mr. Churchill.]

reasoning that any portion of the coat of arms is automatically the design for a Canadian flag.

This is what we are being subjected to by this autocratic government. I regret very much that the hon. member for Antigonish-Guysborough should have endeavoured to leave the impression in the minds of members and of the public that of the over 3,000 flag designs submitted, two thirds of them showed the maple leaf. He would not go further until I asked him a question and discovered his ignorance of the committee report for 1945-46, and say that over 50 per cent of the designs submitted contained somewhere on the flag the union jack. When he mentioned that two thirds of them contained the maple leaf he should have said in conjunction with the union jack, and that would have been a clear statement of fact.

**Mr. Stewart:** I rise on a point of privilege, Mr. Speaker. I think the hon. member has misunderstood what I said. I was giving a breakdown, not of the designs submitted in 1945-46, but rather a breakdown of the designs submitted between 1946 and 1964. I am certain the hon. member did not understand.

**Mr. Churchill:** I do not want to misunderstand the hon. member. I thought he gave us the official figure and there were over 3,000 designs for flags in the possession of the government. Is he now telling us these have all come in since 1946?

**Mr. Stewart:** No, if the hon. member had bothered to listen he would have known precisely what I said.

**Mr. Churchill:** I was listening very carefully to the hon. member. Let us be quite fair about this thing. Am I right in assuming, and are hon. members of this house right in assuming that, including the designs submitted in 1945-46, there are now in possession of the government over 3,000 designs for a national flag; is that right?

**Mr. Stewart:** There are more than 3,000. If you include those two groups, those that came in between 1945 and 1946 and between 1946 and 1964; you would have a total of over 5,000.

**Mr. Churchill:** Well, now he has raised it to over 5,000.

**Mr. Stewart:** I have not raised it at all. If the hon. member had listened or if tonight he will read the record, he will find precisely what I said.