

Canadian Flag

respects conforms to tradition, we might as well follow, if you like, the republican ideas of some people and break with the past. For my part, I hope that will not happen.

Some hon. Members: Hear, hear.

Mr. Matheson: If my hon. friend would look at the Canadian forces decoration when he goes home tonight he will notice that it is a very beautiful medal, one of the finest we have ever struck. He will notice the three maple leaves conjoined on one side and a portrait of Elizabeth on the other. Then there is the Prince Edward Island regiment's cap and collar badges and button adopted in 1950; the Canadian general senior cap and collar badges and button adopted between 1955 and 1961; the revised emblazon—to answer the comments of the last speaker—of the arms of Canada as announced by the Hon. Ellen Fairclough, secretary of state, on October 8, 1957. I think it would be worth while if hon. gentlemen would take the trouble to read that announcement. Then we find the Canadian Guards cap badge and buttons of 1947. The button has the three maple leaves and around it the motto "A mari usque ad mare". The cap badge has three red maple leaves conjoined on a white field. The other evening the Prime Minister mentioned the beautiful illuminated version of the Canadian Bill of Rights of August 10, 1960, signed by the then prime minister, now the right hon. Leader of the Opposition. It displays not only the full armourial achievement, but under the styling the three red maple leaves conjoined just as they appear on the proposed flag, the same three red maple leaves as they appear on the history of world war II, the three volume edition of "Canadians Serving Overseas".

Then—and this is a pretty compelling argument, to me at least—on Her Majesty's personal royal banner as Queen of Canada there is featured the three red maple leaves on a white field, and this was created by Her Majesty on August 15, 1962. Actually the 1/42nd or the 1/48th part—depending on how you measure it—of the Canadian red ensign is the three red maple leaves on one stem. This incidentally is the only part of the ensign alluding to Canada.

Certain hon. gentlemen have suggested that we are dishonouring the past by trying to support this kind of recommendation. I would ask them as they leave the chamber at six o'clock tonight to go over to this rather famous statue of Sir John A. Macdonald to the east of the Senate entrance where they

[Mr. Matheson.]

will find below the statue the emblazoning of the great seal of Canada in which this device appears in the position of honour twice. I would ask them also to examine question No. 1,449 asked of the former government, when under date of February 5, 1963 I was advised by a Conservative ministry that our national emblem was three maple leaves conjoined on one stem with the colours red and white, and this by royal proclamation.

Mr. Churchill: What royal proclamation is this?

Mr. Matheson: The royal proclamation was the proclamation to which I referred of November 21, 1921. This is really the juridical foundation of Canada's symbolism. There are two dates of very considerable consequence in our heraldry. There are the royal warrants of Victoria of 1868. Then we jump to the royal proclamation of 1921. But before 1868 and after 1921 there were many steps taken by military and civil authorities and by the college of heralds tending to confirm us in our use of symbolic devices.

Mr. Churchill: I do not like to interrupt, but the hon. member's speech is very informative, and I do this with the best of motives. In the royal proclamation of November 21, 1921, what colour was assigned to the maple leaves? Second, are the colours red and white designated therein as the colours for Canada?

Mr. Matheson: No. I thank the hon. gentleman for this useful and helpful intervention. I should have touched on this because it was referred to by the hon. member for Waterloo North (Mr. Weichel). The colours which were assigned to Canada in the proclamation of November 21, 1921 were the colours white and red. These were set out in two places, the wreath of the liveries and again in the mantelling. The shield itself consists of actually five components. At the top there are the quarterings, which are the Plantagenet lions of England—the lion rampant of Scotland, the harp of Ireland and fleur-de-lis of France, which I am happy this committee was wise enough to bring back into our heraldry, because it has been lost since the battle of Culloden, when both protagonists used the fleur-de-lis as part of their standards, both the Hanoverians and the Jacobites. This was brought back with great pride by the authorities in England. In the base, the position of honour or distinction for Canada, were three maple leaves on a