

that this symbol should ever change—a vast community comprising peoples of very different characters and whose bonds are very liberal. The 1864 conferences that preceded Confederation were convoked by the various sections of British North America to discuss their common interests. At that time the London Government just ignored this project. It can even be said that for the first time in recorded history colonies gave themselves their own constitution.

So in 1964 the Queen came to commemorate the wholly Canadian project. As for the British Crown, after 1760 it has in a way been a traditional ally of the French-Canadians seeking to ensure their survival. This it did for its own interests so that French-Canadians would contribute to the stability of the country and to the maintenance of its own identity, which they have done in a supreme and elegant manner. Away with the bigots—that day has passed. So it was that 55 years before the Catholics of Britain obtained their religious freedom, the French-Canadians gained theirs, as was so well expressed by Senator Grattan O'Leary. The Act of Quebec (1774), which remains the great Bill of Rights of the French-Canadian nationality, had brought about some resentment amongst the English-speaking Canadians towards London, and in London itself it was with shouts of "No Popery!" that many people protested this bill. Nevertheless, George III ratified the bill. He even declared in his Speech of Prorogation that this measure was founded on the most manifest principles of justice and humanity.

Let me recall to your memory that an Order in Council of 1945 did not officially proclaim the Red Ensign as Canada's national flag. It did, however, provide for all the official occasions on which this flag would be flown as Canada's national flag. It just happens, of course, that all such official occasions include every conceivable time that a country would fly its flag. On this basis, there can be no question that the flag is flown as such on our embassies abroad and on international occasions when Canada is represented, such as the Olympic Games, which the Leader of the Government mentioned in his speech yesterday, where I was proud to carry that flag in 1928. How intensely proud I was of being a Canadian and carrying the Red Ensign in the Olympic parade, and on my playing sweater an Olympic crest with the maple leaf.

As to the great and beloved Province of Quebec, on official occasions they have accepted the Red Ensign, and whatever flag is adopted now I hope it will be widely accepted in spite of the fact that in that province they have developed their own emblem, the

armorial bearings of which consist of a crown atop a three-part shield containing three fleurs-de-lis, a lion rampant, and a sprig of three green maple leaves. This is widely flown in Quebec, and rightly so; but I pray and I ask that we remain one Canada under the Crown, mutually respecting and believing in one another, for the common good of our great and young nation. Having said that, allow me to proceed.

This legislation far transcends political parties and politicians. There must be no partisanship in this issue. I would be losing faith with those of my friends, deceased and otherwise, and my family, if I were not to stand up here today and express myself. I had two brothers serve in the First World War. I was too young, but I was asked to become the chief consultant in my specialty to the Royal Canadian Air Force during the Second World War. I accepted that responsibility and duty gladly, and, again, how proud I was I had been asked to do so. I had the great privilege of serving under the then Minister of Air, Senator Power, who sits in this house today. There was not an airman or officer who would not have stood on his head for him.

**Hon. Senators:** Hear, hear.

**Hon. Mr. Sullivan:** As for this flag, surely there is some record of the dedication of this handsome flag under which the finest, bravest of our men have served in three wars? Who can be so ill-informed as to imagine that it is the Merchant Service Ensign when it carries the Coat of Arms of Canada on the fly? Why change it? Who in this still young and dependent country hates Great Britain so much that we must discard the Union Jack which, on a white background, stood alone between us and the invasion in two wars? I repeat, a nation which denies this past has no future. I want a flag just as much as anybody else in this chamber and country, but it must be symbolic and not an arbitrary one, not a piece of bunting, but one which depicts the two founding races of this nation and its other assimilated peoples. What nation worthy of its name flies two flags at its masthead?

I am critical of those who bow to the raucous cries of students who have never known adversity or war, but only soft living today in the universities. I know whereof I speak and I could enlarge on that greatly, but I do not wish to do so. They know only ease and prosperity, and fail to realize that freedom and prosperity were due to those who have gone before and now lie in the cemeteries in Europe and Hong Kong.

This flag issue should never have been brought into Parliament at this time. There is