

gave him time this afternoon to rest a little and prepare his remarks. Also the honourable Senator Grosart, who is the seconder of this amendment, will wind up the debate for the Opposition.

It has been a good debate, honourable senators, and like the preceding speakers I wish to congratulate the honourable Leader of the Government (Hon. Mr. Connolly, Ottawa West) for his presentation of the case for the Government. I listened to his speech with care. From an historical standpoint it was complete and most interesting, but I sometimes wondered, as I listened to him, just what his remarks had to do with the motion before us. He recited a long catalogue of the wonderful things that have happened in this country since the days of Confederation. They have been wonderful events in Canadian history. We as Canadians have every reason to be proud of the accomplishments of our country since the days of Confederation 97 years ago, but I would point out to my honourable friend that the great progress we have made, the many things that we have accomplished, were accomplished under the Canadian Ensign and under no other flag.

**Hon. Mr. Roebuck:** What about the Union Jack?

**Hon. Mr. Brooks:** And they were accomplished, honourable senators, not in spite of our British connections, may I say, but due to them and our French Canadian association and heritage—due to the two great strains of Canadianism, the British and French races, which are the undisputed great races of this world.

With regard to the speech made by Senator Grattan O'Leary, it is not necessary for me to add to what has already been said, but I could not proceed without making reference to it. I have been in Parliament for many years, and I think I can truthfully say that with few exceptions I have never heard a finer speech, either in the House of Commons or the Senate.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brooks:** I am not only speaking from the literary standpoint, but more particularly from that of the unanswerable logic of his remarks. Frankly, as I listened to him, and as I read his remarks since, I could not and still cannot see how any member of the Senate, unless he is controlled by a deep-rooted political bias, cannot support the amendment which was presented by honourable Senator Grattan O'Leary.

This is the great opportunity for the Canadian Senate to display that sober second thought for which purpose the Senate was established many years ago; and I do not mind

saying that the public is watching the Senate with very great interest, to see whether we are going to be a rubber stamp for the House of Commons or whether we are going to assert our own individuality as a Senate.

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

**Hon. Mr. Brooks:** They want to see if we will exercise that independence which is so necessary and so clearly indicated at this time—and, may I add, which would so clearly justify our existence.

The debates, both in the House of Commons and here, as far as the Government is concerned, have not been enthusiastic. In the House of Commons for days there were no speakers at all on the Government side supporting a case. But it is easy to understand why they were not enthusiastic. The speeches on the Government side in this chamber have not been enthusiastic. The reason is there is nothing in this flag to be enthusiastic about. In certain quarters there is satisfaction; we know that. However, it is not because of what the flag contains but because of what has been left out of the flag. It is a negative rather than a positive flag that is being presented today to the Canadian people.

Frankly, I had hoped that it would not be necessary for this chamber to debate the issue at this time. I had hoped that the Prime Minister of this country would realize that there is no unanimity in Canada for the adoption of the suggested flag, which is the subject of the resolution before us and of the amendment. In fact, there is a great difference of opinion, according to the polls across this country.

The honourable Senator Croll said the other day that according to his poll—he did not tell us how he took it—he was of the opinion there was a great majority in this country in favour of the new flag. I remember a few years ago when Harry Truman ran for election in the United States, the opinion polls were strongly against him, and when someone asked him what he thought of the Gallup Poll he suggested a formula for polls. I do not know of any poll that has ever been more deserving of this formula than the poll suggested by the honourable Senator Croll.

Honourable senators, at this season of the year our thoughts turn to peace on earth and good will toward men. The Government commits an act which can only bring sorrow and bitterness to tens of thousands of people in this country. The timing was ill-chosen.

I do not intend to become sentimental in this debate, but I must confess that if and