

since 1892 the same flag with the arms of Canada in the fly has been allowed to Canadian merchant vessels; other colonies, such as Australia, etc., also use this ensign with their own particular device, while a crown on the fly denotes a custom house flag; the red ensign, either plain or with the Canadian arms, is used very much on shore, though a maple leaf or some simple emblem easier distinguished than the arms would make a more distinctive Canadian flag.

The Blue Ensign, which also has the Union in the first quarter, is only used by the Royal Naval Reserve, or by merchant vessels commanded by an officer of the Royal Naval Reserve, provided a certain number of the crew are also members thereof; this flag with the arms of Canada in the fly is used by all Canadian government vessels, which also when armed fly a command pennant of blue with St. George's cross at the head on a white ground; the plain Blue Ensign is authorized by special permission for certain yacht clubs that are allowed to call themselves Royal, and by certain government departments in Great Britain, with special devices in the fly.

The three Ensigns were formerly all used by the Navy to distinguish the different grades and ranks, each ship flying a flag of the color of the admiral commanding its squadron, there being Admirals of the White, Red and Blue, but at the battle of Trafalgar, Nelson, who was a vice-admiral of the white, signalled that to prevent confusion, all ships were to fly the white ensign, and this was the origin of the use of this flag for the Royal Navy.

A fact not generally known is that the first flag of the American colonies or United States was composed of thirteen stripes of red and white alternately on the fly, with the Union of Great Britain as then used in the first quarter, but this flag existed for a few months only early in the year 1776.

THE ROYAL STANDARD

is the personal flag of the sovereign, flown only over vessels or buildings when the King, Queen or a member of the Royal Family representing the King is on board or in residence; therefore this flag should not be used by any one either ashore or afloat; the Royal Standard has the three lions of England in the first and fourth quarters, the lion of Scotland in the second, and the harp of Ireland in the third; it is

strange that Wales is not represented in this flag, nor is that part of Great Britain or any representation of its patron, St. David, given a place on any emblem; the first of March is, however, always kept as St. David's Day.

REGIMENTAL COLORS.

Colors or flags carried by infantry regiments are of silk, the first or King's color is the Great Union and the second or regimental is the same color as the facings of the regiment with the Union in the first quarter and the particular device of the corps on the fly; these flags are always consecrated on presentation and are to be treated with every respect; thus when colors are being carried through the streets soldiers salute them, and citizens generally should raise their hats out of respect.

HINTS ON FLAGS.

As a guide to those having charge of flags, a few hints are given as to certain regulations and customs regarding them. The part of a flag next to the flagstaff is called the hoist, the outer part the field or fly; flags are generally hoisted at 8 o'clock in the morning, and by naval and military earlier, but should never be allowed to fly after sunset. Flags are lowered to half mast as a sign of mourning, but should then be only the width of the flag from the top of the flagstaff; when a flag is to be placed at half mast it should always be raised to full height and then lowered. Salutes at sea are made by dipping or lowering the flag and then raising it, and in this connection it may be interesting to note that all nations are the first to salute British ships at sea is a recognition that Great Britain is the Mistress of the Seas. A flag of one nation should never be raised above that of another, as it is a token of disrespect. An ensign hoisted reversed or Union down is a sign of distress or that help is required.

In closing this brief story of the Union Jack it is hoped that some lessons may be learned therefrom, and that our people may become familiar with the honored flag of our country, and bearing in mind its glorious history may ever treat it with the greatest respect, for it is "the flag that has braved a thousand years, the battle and the breeze," and is the flag on which the sun never sets, and

"That flag may sink with a shot torn wreck,
But never float o'er a slave."