

The arms of France were the first heraldic emblem erected in Canada, by Cartier, at the entrance of Gaspé harbour on Friday the twenty-fourth of July, 1534. At Annapolis Royal, then Port Royal, in Nova Scotia to welcome Poutrincourt that same device was, on the 14th Nov., 1606, placed over the gates of the fort. In the Dominion Archives can be seen the actual carving of the Arms of France which was on one of the gates of Quebec on 13th Sept., 1759. It was taken to England and returned to Canada.

If the historic past of Canada is to be symbolized in the national flag of Canada, then, from the heraldic standpoint, it would be proper to incorporate in it this device of royal France, or another more appropriate emblem if such can be found.

I had intended here to review briefly the French and British flags that have been flown in Canada in the past, the flags of royal France and the union flag, or union jack, in various forms; but this not now necessary.

I would like just to make one or two additions to what the secretary of state (Hon. Mr. Martin) has told you. He spoke of the fleur-de-lis coat of arms having been on the British Royal Shield for 400 years; and that it ceased to be the device of France and was not restored to international usage until authorized for Canada. That does not apply, however, to the fleur-de-lis as a single symbol, which appears in many places to-day. You may not have noticed it but I at present am wearing, in plain view, 28 fleur-de-lis. I mean by that that there are two fleurs-de-lis exposed every time the British or Imperial Crown is shown or reproduced anywhere. Neither in Britain, nor in Canada, nor in any other country under the British Crown, can the fleur-de-lis be brushed aside. As has been said, the Union Jack is the flag of all those who own allegiance to our King; it is also the national symbol of Great Britain and as such appears on many official British flags. You may decide to recommend that Canada similarly should have several official flags based on the national symbol, the three red maple leaves.

(15) *Types of national flags of yesterday and to-day*

- (a) Colours dominant.
- (b) Device or symbol dominant.

National flags are, in their composition and design, of two general categories. Both conform to the essential requirement. In the first category: a flag displaying the national colours and bearing the national device. In the second category: a flag bearing the device of a nation in the national colours.

In the first category, the national colours are set out in a series of bands 2, 3, 4, 5, 8, 9, 11, 13, or even 20 in number, with the national device placed centrally or in a compartment or canton in the upper corner next the staff. The bands are sometimes vertical, but more usually horizontal. They may vary in width, the more important being wider. Not only the colours actually assigned as national colours are used, but any other colour occurring in the coat-of-arms may be introduced. So that the national flag of Canada, if designed according to this custom might have wide bands of white and red and narrow bands of the gold in the coats of England, Scotland, Ireland or Royal France, and of the blue in the fields of Ireland and Royal France. In the second category, the colours and device or devices belonging to or assigned to a country are displayed as on the shield, but occupy the whole area of the flag.

Flags of the second category are more readily recognizable than those of the first category. Those of the first category are sometimes very difficult to identify at first glance or on a still day. For example, the closest scrutiny is necessary to read the signal conveyed by a flag having three vertical bars, green, white, red, with a centrally placed national device,—if the device is a red shield with a white cross the signal is "Italian Mercantile Marine". If it is an eagle and snake the signal is "Mexico".