

A year later, this was followed by a more official communication dated June 7, 1912, from Mr. Harcourt to the new Governor General H.R.H. the Duke of Connaught, and this letter was made public in Canada:

I have the honour to transmit to Your Royal Highness a copy of a letter in regard to the Flag which should be used by private persons who are British subjects. I should be glad if you would be good enough to cause the public to be informed that the Union Jack is the National flag of Canada as of all other parts of His Majesty's Dominions and may be flown on land by all British subjects and that the red ensign, with the arms of the Dominion of Canada in the fly, is intended to be used only by Canadian merchant vessels.

Some Canadian newspapers criticized this letter and statement and urged the continued flying of the Merchant Marine flag - notably the Vancouver Sun of June 10th which described the latter as an infringement of self-government in the Dominions. The Montreal Herald, the Winnipeg Free Press, the Montreal Witness, and the Toronto Globe took somewhat similar ground. Sir Joseph Pope issued an able pamphlet in support of the Union Jack as the flag of Canada. (1)

In effect, as a consequence of all his campaigning and the endorsement of the authorities in Great Britain, Pope was partly successful in holding the dyke against the encroachment of a distinctive Canadian national flag. He remained to the end of his days a loyal British imperialist with uncompromising fidelity and allegiance to the Crown and its all-British imperial symbols.

(1) Castell Hopkins. The Canadian Annual Review, 1912.p.167.