

The word "device" means a thing adapted for a purpose, an emblematic or heraldic design or figure or symbol. "Appropriate" means belonging personally to, peculiarly to, suitable and proper. We may stress that, belonging personally to, appropriate, that is.

"Emblem" means symbol, typical representation, pictorial parable, heraldic device, a token, a sign, a preconcerted signal. A "symbol" is a thing regarded by general consent as naturally typifying or representing or recalling something by possession of analogous qualities by association in fact or thought. I shall have occasion to use strange words from the vocabulary of technical heraldry, which I shall translate as they arise.

(4) *Restatement of task*

These definitions allow of a restatement of the task: "to make a visual signal by means of an appropriate symbol", or, in other words, "to send a message that cannot be misinterpreted or misunderstood".

(5) *Uses of national and other necessary official flags—Instances of necessity*

Flags are used for a number of purposes. Their use for decoration does not, I think, concern us here. They are flown by government representatives, ambassadors, consuls and other representatives of the nation at home or abroad, and particularly at international meetings and gatherings. They are flown from His Majesty's ships, from government vessels, at military stations, and they are flown by ships of the Mercantile Marine. Most nations have different flags for these purposes. In addition there are other flags—on what might be described as a lower level—for defining individual officials, departments and services, such as port authorities, customs, etc.

Instances of the necessity for a national flag have been brought to your attention by a minister of the Crown. May I state two instances from my own experience. In France, in 1917, Sir Arthur Currie thought it appropriate that he, as Commander of the Canadian Army Corps in the field, should fly the national flag of Canada. There was no national flag. He used the Canadian blue ensign, then authorized to be flown from Canadian government vessels. Some months ago, when in Algiers, the wife of the Canadian Ambassador to France mentioned to me that whereas the wives of representatives of all other countries wore the national device of their country at diplomatic gatherings, the wives of Canadian government representatives wore none, because Canada had no national emblem. You will recall other instances from your own experience.

(6) *Specifications for an ideal national flag of Canada*

In any constructive work, a building, a machine, or a national flag, it is helpful to have specifications at the start. The more stringent these are, the fewer are the difficulties that will subsequently arise. May I suggest to you brief specifications, both general and particularized, for the ideal national flag of Canada.

You will notice that five of these are those that the Secretary of State pronounced earlier. I have added others to make it more difficult.

- (1) Easily recognizable; not like any other.
- (2) Visible at a distance.
- (3) Characteristic in structure and appropriate.

You remember the definition of the word appropriate: belonging personally to.

- (4) Symbolic of the history of the country.

That is a paraphrase of what the Secretary of State put. It is really the same thing, but I am more particularly interested in history.

- (5) Unity must be expressed.