

- (19) Shortcomings in designs.
- (20) Action indicated if the colours and devices assigned to Canada by Royal Proclamation of 21st November, 1921, are considered to be unsatisfactory.
- (21) Selection of new colours.
Selection of new symbol.
Colours available.
Symbols in use by other countries.

I would like to ask, Mr. Chairman, if I may proceed along these lines and if so to suggest that questions be deferred until the end.

(1) *Preliminary Remarks.*

These (indicating mimeographed material being distributed to members of the committee headed, Our National Colours and National Emblem) are copies mostly including the proclamations, which I would like to read in full; two extracts from the *Canada Year Book*; it also includes copies of the Royal Warrants for the coats of arms and armorial bearings of the provinces; a glossary which gives the meaning of some of the heraldic words—which I will explain as I go along. Then there are line drawings of a number of flags, some of them in existence now and some suggested, each of which I have drawn to illustrate some different property or quality or method of making flags, of putting them together, or using flags. The coloured cuts are line drawings of what I have here (displaying 12 coloured flags mounted on grey cardboard) which is a group of 12 flags. They are selected and put together so that I might examine them, so that I may point to a flag, as it were, with a certain characteristic when that flag is under discussion.

Most of what I have to say will be obvious, but much of it hitherto unnoticed, misunderstood, or disregarded. I propose to quote certain important documents and government publications and to make some references for the record and for your future reference and corroboration. In view of the character of some of the evidence that I feel bound to present, I would like to assure you that I am not going to present any brief for any particular flag, and to say that I speak to-day as a Canadian citizen, not as an officer of the Canadian Army, nor as a servant of the Canadian government. Further, I would ask you to bear with me if the examples I may cite are related to Scotland, for that is where I was born and brought up.

(2) *Terms of Reference*

In order that we may all understand exactly what this meeting is for, and that there may be no misunderstanding between us as to the precise meaning of words and phrases, I should like briefly to quote the words used in the terms of reference and in the speeches of ministers and others made recently on the subject. The committee is called upon "to consider and report upon a suitable design for a distinctive Canadian flag."

(3) *Meaning of words used by ministers and others*

The minister proposing the motion used these phrases: "a symbol of unity", "the symbolism of a national flag", "the attributes of a nation", "an appropriate design", and he expressed the hope that you "settle, now and for all, this question of our national flag and symbol".

As to the meaning of individual words: "suitable" means suited to, or very well fitted to the purpose, or appropriate to the occasion. The word "design" means delineation or pattern. The word "distinctive" means distinguishing, characteristic, indicating difference. A reliable dictionary gives this definition of "national flag": A flag bearing the device of the nation. It does not add the obvious extension—"in the national colours". One cannot conceive of a national flag that is not of the national colours.