

Some sort of checkerboard of white and red might be used—but the Canadian Pacific Ocean Steamships and Chile and Panama use that type, and the International Code for the letter U.

So some sort of diagonal subdivision might do. We have precedent in the Scottish national ensign and in the flags of Brazil, Czechoslovakia and the Philippines. Let us place a white band diagonally across a 1 by 2 red background. Centered on the white we might place the arms of Canada in a shield. To be different we require a distinctive shape of shield. A nearly rectangular shield is used by Austria, Italy and Portugal, an oval is characteristic of Spain, a circle of Germany and Brazil, a straight sided shield with curved base is used by South Africa, and one with an irregular outline similar to that in the Heralds College version of the Arms of Canada is used by Peru. And so you might choose for Canada a long tapering crusader's shield, like the one held by the unicorn at the main entrance of this building. That shape suits the five devices, and symbolizes the four overseas crusades in which over a million Canadian men and women have participated during the past half century. The Imperial Crown might be placed above the shield. That also is in the Royal Proclamation, of 21 November, 1921.

We have yet to include the subsidiary colours occurring in the national coat—blue and gold. The blue might be inserted as a narrow border or fimbriation—which is the heraldic word—along the edges of the white bar. The gold might find place in two narrow bars parallel to the white bar on either side—the heraldic term is “cottised”.

To make the flag more distinctive or unusual, the trailing edge or leech might be cut in swallow-tail form, two straight cuts at 45 degrees which would resemble, but not duplicate, Denmark, Norway and Sweden. Moreover this would be appropriate, since the Canadian hard maple leaf is the only leaf in which the five main veins are set at 45 degrees—almost exactly, in every leaf: a remarkable peculiarity, but one which you may not have noticed.

Now the design is complete, and most if not all the stringent specifications have been met.

Now for the benefit of critics let us pull it apart, in the unpleasant but often effective method so much in vogue to-day.

### (19) *Shortcomings in Designs*

Someone will say that Canadians of other than English, Scottish, Irish or French descent are not represented adequately. The answer is that they are represented by the maple leaves which are made as important as any two of the others together.

Another will protest that The Union Jack is omitted. The answer is that England, Scotland, Ireland and Royal France, and the Imperial Crown, are displayed instead, and convey the same message. But the Union Jack could be placed in canton, and the arms of England, Scotland, Ireland and Royal France omitted, but the three maple leaves, enlarged, remain. The blue edging can be omitted as we now have the blue in the Union Jack. This leaves Royal France unrepresented—unless the objector can be persuaded of an obvious fact—that there are not three but four crosses in the Union Jack: the cross of St. George, the cross of St. Andrew, the cross of St. Patrick, and fourth, the white cross, parallel to and larger than that of St. George which is the cross of St. Louis of France. This Cross of St. Louis is white, and used to be placed on a red, or a blue, or (in the case of French regiments) a parti-coloured background; and it is not uncommon in Canada to-day, on a light blue field.

The placing of one cross directly over another is not good heraldic practice—although, in our present Union Jack, St. George is placed over St. Andrew and St. Patrick. That placement drew a strong protest from the Privy Council of Scotland to the King. The argument was that England, having come under the King of Scotland, should not have its Cross (St. George) placed over that