



Letters to the Editor.

A PROPOSED CANADIAN FLAG.

SIR,—The design given above is one which appears to me to be most fitting and suitable for the Canadian flag. It represents the Red Ensign of England, with a green maple and stem, veined with dark green, borne upon a white shield, and placed in the centre of the flag. The design is simple, easily made, and can readily be seen, even at very considerable distance. Attention has been directed to the fact that the Australian colonies have each upon the flag, a device, carried upon a white disc. Whether this disc is placed in the centre of the "Jack" upon the Governor's flag, or upon the fly of the ensign, is not stated. If the latter; the maple leaf shown on the white shield conforms to the general principle recognized by the British Government, yet does not slavishly follow in exactly the same lines. The shield being different in form from the disc, it follows that the distinction between Canadian and Australian vessels flying their respective flags, is more clearly emphasized, and is capable of easy and ready cognizance at sea. Any flag seen to bear the white disc would at once be known as Australian, though the badge upon it might not be as soon "made out" by the observer. The shield would not likely be mistaken for the disc on account of the essential difference of form, and any vessel whose flag showed a white shield in fly would at once be known to be Canadian.

It has been urged that the maple leaf is not distinctively Canadian, in that the tree is not found in British Columbia, Manitoba or the Maritime Provinces. An appropriate device could not well be made which would include the maple leaf, a sprig of Douglas pine, a leaf of the poplar, and a May-flower, in any case such a badge would be incomplete after the admission of any other province, and in a sense, it would partake more of the nature of group of specimens, and so loose in great measure, the desirable emblematic feature. It is not necessary, when deciding upon an appropriate emblem, to select a leaf or flower which grows in every province and in spite of varying conditions. Nor is it essential, for that reason, to exclude on which does not appear in this country at all longitudes. The maple leaf is certainly associated with the name Canada, and the extension of the name from the two old Provinces to be the name of the whole Dominion lends strength to the argument, that the emblem may also be considered to fairly represent the whole confederation of provinces.

It is interesting in this connection to notice the fact that the maple leaf, at present, is found on the Canadian coinage, which passes, of course in all the provinces. It was found, as Mr. Chadwick has pointed out, in the coinages of New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island, prior to Confederation, and has been placed also upon the North-West medals. The crest of the Royal Military College at Kingston, is a mailed arm, the hand holding three maple leaves. This College has no exclusive connection with any one Province, but is distinctly a Dominion institution, and the maple leaves so used would seem to indicate the wider conception of Canadian nationality. The flag authorized by the British Government for all colonial Governors and Lieutenant Governors appears to be a square Union Jack with a shield

borne upon that portion where the arms of the crosses intersect. Upon this shield are placed the arms of the country or province, as the case may be, the whole surrounded with a wreath of laurel leaves. This holds good for all dependencies of the British Crown with one exception. The flags used by the Governor-General of the Dominion, and the Lieutenant Governors of the Provinces depart from the general practice, by having the shield surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves instead of laurel. In this instance, then, the Province of British Columbia sinks the indiginous, and, perhaps otherwise, appropriate Douglas pine out of sight and uses the emblem associated with the name of

Canada. In like manner the other provinces, while retaining their distinctive coats of arms upon the shield, indicate their Canadian connection by the wreath of maple leaves. In view of these facts it seems hardly fair to assume that the maple leaf would represent only Ontario if borne upon the flag of the Dominion.

The Maple leaf also appears upon the escutcheon of Quebec. The Provinces of Ontario and Quebec were formerly known by the names of Upper and Lower Canada respectively. The leaf may not have been officially authorized as the distinguishing badge of the Dominion, but it certainly has received the sanction of custom. The maple leaf has always been connected with the name Canada, and Canada now means the whole Dominion. If the old Provinces of Upper and Lower Canada gave the name to our country, there seems to be no incongruity in accepting, as national, the emblem with which that name has always been most intimately associated.

GEO. S. HODGINS.

Windsor, Ont., 29th June, 1895.

SIR,—It is with much surprise that I have read Mr. Sandford Fleming's letter in THE WEEK, of 28th ult., in which he asserts that the Maple Leaf is not regarded as an emblem of Canada, but only of the Province of Ontario. The evidence of coinage, which in the same issue I referred to very briefly, affords overwhelming evidence to the contrary. I will not repeat or enlarge upon what I have said upon this point, except to refer to Quebec, which I did not mention in my letter. There the Maple Leaf appears on coins and medals both official and unofficial, and issued by French-speaking as well as - or perhaps more than - English-speaking people, during Confederation, prior to Confederation, and prior to the Union of 1840. It is, in fact, the only national badge which appears on the coinage of Lower Canada. The Maple Leaf, besides being since Confederation the accepted and recognized badge of all Canada, was previously used as such by at least four of the Provinces, two of the others having no emblem at all; and Mr. Fleming may rest assured that it will never be displaced by a Star, which many, and I believe the great majority of those of our people to whose notice the suggestion has been brought view with extreme dislike, regarding it as the badge of republicanism and annexation. In writing thus, I do not merely express my own opinions, but echo what I have heard said in various forms, and sometimes in much more vigorous language than I have thought well to use, since the Star arose upon our horizon. To the Maple Leaf on the contrary there has not been, so far as I am aware, an objecting voice raised, except by Mr. Fleming, whose objections are forced and illfounded. The very limited approval which has been given to the Star has, I have no doubt, its *raison d'être* simply in the respect and esteem which the people of Canada entertain for Mr. Fleming personally, and if the Star had been suggested by any one of less note or less popular, no notice would have been taken of it.

E. M. CHADWICK.

1st July, 1895.

SIR,—When I first publicly discussed the question of a new emblem on our flag, in my letters to *The Empire*, commencing October 27th, 1893, I said: "What we want is some well-known emblem, one which has been dear to us in