

of His Majesty's dominions."

In a private letter to Pope dated June 4, 1909, Colonel Sir John Hanbury-Williams, the Governor General's Secretary, drew attention to a letter by Lord Ampthill published in The Times on the flag question. "There is evidently still a most lamentable ignorance in England over the question of Flags in the Empire. Ampthill leads one to understand that various Dominions and Colonies have already flags of their own. As you and I are well aware, he is absolutely wrong, for we know what parts of the Empire have particular flags, and they are mighty few." Nevertheless, Hanbury Williams was a good deal ahead of Pope in his views, for he continued in the same letter: "My view is that you will be obliged to have a Canadian flag, and that we should be ready to jump in the moment the crucial time has come, with a large Union Jack, and a small centre to it, with a maple leaf or something of that kind.^x I know perfectly well that you are all for the Union Jack and nothing else, but I foresee that there will be a feeling in favour of something different for each Dominion, and the great point is to get a strong support to the idea that that difference should be made as small as possible." (1)

This suggestion horrified Pope, who promptly the very next day, June 5, sent off his reply to the

^x It is interesting to note that the question of design of a distinctive Canadian flag was being considered as early as 1909, and it has been continuously for the fifty years. It is also interesting to note that the past suggestion above named came from a British representative, not from a Canadian.

(1) Pope Papers, S.O. Vol.94. File 371.