

TOPICS OF THE DAY AT HOME.

OUR CANADIAN FLAG.

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THE rank is anew claimed for Canada, in the prospectus of "THE YOUNG CANADIAN," as "The Brightest Jewel in the Crown of the British Empire." While cherishing a genuine Canadian spirit, with all its eager longings for a grand future for our Dominion, we can still rest proudly in our share of the common glories of the great Empire of which Canada forms so important a member. We cannot divorce ourselves if we would from the grand and glorious historic memories which are our inheritance as Canadians.

But there is one thing we stand in need of, and that is A FLAG, AND DISTINCTIVE HERALDIC BEARINGS of our own. England, Scotland, Ireland, and each Province of the Dominion has its Arms. But as for Canada as a political unit, all that has been done is to patch together the heterogeneous blazonry of Quebec, Ontario, Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, and all the other Provinces, into a conglomeration that lacks all distinctive significance. Every additional Province increased its obscurity, till already it looks, for all the world, more like an ill-matched bit of patch-work bed cover, than a genuine Dominion Flag. When Assiniboia, Regina, and all the prospective Provinces of our great North-West follow in the wake of Manitoba and British Columbia, all discernible meaning will vanish from the multiform piece of nondescript quarterings.

Yet there should be no difficulty in devising a piece of genuine historical and emblematic heraldry for the Dominion as a loyal member of the Empire. It might be blazoned thus:—

- 1st Quarter: The Union Jack.
- 2nd Quarter: On a field argent, six fleurs de lys, three and three.
- 3rd Quarter: On a field azure, seven maple leaves, gules, two, three, and two.
- 4th Quarter: On a field or, within a double tressure, the Beaver proper.

Such a heraldic combination would tell of the history and growth of the Dominion; with the Imperial emblem of Union, the Lilies of France, the Maple of Canada, and the Beaver, a favourite emblem of the land of the old *courreur de bois*, and of the trappers of the great fur companies who laid the foundation of the North-West, and carried their enterprise beyond the Rocky Mountains. It would, moreover, present a distinctive flag, pleasing to the eye, and expressive in its emblematic heraldry. If a better can be suggested, let Young Canada try its hand, and devise a flag significant and acceptable to all. It involves no slight on the Imperial flag of the Empire that for a thousand years has floated in triumph by sea and land. We have already a Canadian flag, but one lacking all character; suggestive of no distinctive national or historical significance; and in no way calculated to awaken Canadian sympathies if it met our eyes in other lands. If we are to have a flag at all, let us have one that shall symbolise this Young Dominion; even as the Red Cross and the Leopards of England, the Ruddy Lion and the Thistle of Scotland, the Harp and the Trefoil of Ireland mark the distinctive individuality of those older members of the British Empire, "The Mother of Nations."

TOPICS OF THE DAY ABROAD.

GETTING READY FOR THE WORLD'S FAIR OF 1892.

BY PROF. THOMAS SHAW, AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH.

One of the greatest Exhibitions that the world has ever seen will be held in Chicago in 1892. It is of the utmost importance that Canada be creditably represented there. In some respects at least this preparation cannot be made in a single season, and should therefore be begun without delay.

That we possess a country wonderfully rich, in what is good in many of the lines of live stock, is well-known to our southern neighbors of the western country, but this is not known generally throughout the great Republic, nor is it known as it should be throughout the world. It may not be generally known amongst our own people that this country, especially the Province of Ontario, possesses more valuable stock than any other country of equal size on the North American Continent. We find evidence of this from two sources: First, the chief purchasers of our pure bred stock are Americans from the West, and second, our stockmen almost invariably win, when showing against Americans, on their own ground.

For nearly fifty years past our breeders have been visited in autumn or in winter by American purchasers, who have readily bought up their products and paid them good prices for the same. This has happened as regularly as the migrations of our forest birds to the sunny south, and it is going on even now, though not quite to the same extent as formerly in some lines of production. It applies to nearly all the breeds of cattle which we have, as the Shorthorn, the Hereford, the Aberdeen Poll, the Galloway, the Devon, the Ayrshire, and the Jersey. The Holstein is perhaps the only bovine race which has come to Canada through the United States. It applies likewise to the Clydesdale, the Shire, the Cleveland Bay, and to other breeds of horses. The same is true of sheep. A very large proportion of the foundation blood of the Lincoln, Leicester, Cotswold, Southdown, Shropshire Down and Oxford Down breeds of the West were taken there from Ontario. Likewise much of the blood of the Berkshire, the Yorkshire, and the Essex breeds of Swine, have been furnished by our people.

That our farmers have been successful in American showings is beyond dispute. The only animal ever bred on this continent which was victorious in the living and dead meat classes at the Chicago Fat Stock Show, was reared at Bow Park, near Brantford. In the Autumn of 1889, the Shorthorn herd from the same place, had a triumphant march throughout the Western States, although competing against all breeds. The Southdown sheep from Woodside did not allow a single prize to go to American competitors at the recent show in Detroit. The Leicesters from Shakespeare have never been beaten on American soil, and the Berkshires from Edmonton are taken over in considerable numbers every autumn to win prizes for American competitors, when showing against their own countrymen.

In view then of the excellence of our animals, and of the importance to our farmers of a continuance of our trade in pure bred stock with the people of that country, it is of the utmost importance that we should be creditably represented there in all the lines of live stock production in which we excel. Our stockmen won great laurels in 1876 at Philadelphia, and they should not do less but more at Chicago in 1892.