

TOPICS OF THE DAY AT HOME.

OUR CANADIAN FLAG.

To the Editor of THE YOUNG CANADIAN :

SIR: An article in your first issue under the above heading says "One thing we stand in need of, and that is a 'flag, and distinctive heraldic bearings of our own.'" We have both. Our flag is the same as that of all our sister colonies, the British ensign, blue or red, with the badge or arms of the Colony in the fly; and, except as to the badge or arms in the fly, no change can be or ought to be thought of. Your learned contributor's proposal is open to precisely the same objection as he raises to the bearing now in use, only in a less degree: and moreover it contravenes a rigid canon of blazonry, never, I believe, disregarded in English heraldry. I agree in the opinion that the arms of Canada are not altogether suitable to be borne in a flag: it would be an advantage if its use in that way should be discontinued and a simple badge substituted, such as the maple leaf or sprig of three maple leaves, or perhaps a beaver. This would be no change of any existing insignia, it would be merely the use of a badge only instead of a complete achievement, which is quite in accordance with heraldic usage as far as flags are concerned.

But the flag is one thing and an armorial achievement is another. Any change in the existing armorial bearings, so far as they are of authority, should be deprecated, for the arms officially granted and recorded—of the four original Provinces are compositions in the very best Victorian heraldry, with regard to which I venture to join issue with Sir Daniel Wilson and to maintain that they are pre-eminently distinctive in significance, historical and emblematical. With the exception of Manitoba, there cannot be so much said for the newer quarterings, of which perhaps none have been properly authorized; that of Prince Edward Island is well conceived, but in different, and inferior, order of heraldry from the others; the British Columbian would be suitable for a military badge but is quite out of place on a shield of arms. For the last two Provinces and for the future new Provinces, proper bearings should be assigned, at least if there is considered to be any necessity for adding a quarter for every new Province. It may be borne in mind that the Great Seal of Canada bears only the four original authorized quarterings. But as each Province must have its own Seal, there should be a suitable heraldic (Victorian) device borne upon it.

The composition which passes current as the Arms of Canada, in which seven quarters are marshalled, has never been authorised, and it is hoped that it never will be in its present form. An instance of the same seven quarters properly marshalled occurs in the heraldic decoration of the new Board of Trade building in Toronto; this is the work of one of the architects of that building, who although an American, is an accomplished herald.

The charges borne for Prince Edward Island are understood by very few and are seldom correctly represented; they are a clump of three small maple trees, emblematic of the Province, consisting of three counties, under the shade of a great oak tree emblematic of British power: motto "Parva sub ingenti."

Yours, Etc.,

E. M. CHADWICK.

TOPICS OF THE DAY ABROAD.

THE JAMAICA SHOP WINDOWS.

BY CUBA.



AT Kingston, on the most important of the islands of the West Indian group which, like ourselves, belong to our own good Queen, an Exhibition is now being held at which Canada is occupying an honorable position, the Canadian Court being the largest of all. The Government of Jamaica, the Land of Wood and Water, has spent a great deal of labour and money upon it, to make it attractive to exhibitors and visitors, and the result must be the advancement of international manufactures, and an increased exchange of international commodities. Our Government has appointed Mr. Adam Brown, M.P., as Honorary Commissioner to represent us, and many Canadians have killed two birds with one stone by enjoying a trip to Jamaica's genial climate, and an opportunity of learning something of her productions and requirements.

No surer way of extending our trade. What is trade? Everybody knows that Jamaica has sugar, coffee, spices, bananas, oranges, cocoa, far more than she could use even if every man, woman and child on the Island had the sweetest tooth in the world. We have flour and barley, more than we could eat even if we had all the year round the appetite of the Montreal Winter Carnival. We say to Jamaica "Give us your spare sugar and we shall give you our spare barley and pork." That is trade. And just as our shopmen make their windows brightly laden with their wares to tempt us as we go by, so it is a good thing for countries to put their best foot forward now and then to let the world see what they have to trade with.

On this occasion we have sent to the great shop windows of the Jamaica Exhibition samples of what we can make,—of what we have to trade with, from over three hundred factories. Of these everything from a needle to an anchor. For the Jamaica kitchen we have sent stoves and washing machines, baskets, matches, soap, starch; for the larder we have sent hams, soups, butter, cheese (how the Jamaica mice will smack their tiny lips!), flour, apples, canned salmon, oysters, lobsters, meats, baking powders, spices, condensed milk, and wooden ware; for the West Indian merchant we have sent safes, electro goods, iron, copper, boats, carriages, refrigerators, paper, cottons, leather, harness, agricultural implements, lamps, wall papers, marbles, drugs, furniture, paints, hats; for the young West Indians we have shown them our pianos, organs, hammocks, boats, canoes, bicycles; and we hope they will enjoy them all as much as Young Canadians do.

The Hon. Mr. Foster, our Minister of Finance, has just returned from those interesting islands, where he paid an official visit of inspection and conference. He visited many of them, even those that belong to France, Denmark, Spain, and Sweden. They are not all British, although most of them are. Mr. Foster found a cordial welcome from them all; spoke with their leading men; had interviews with the Governments; and made a formal proposal of trade which is to be laid before their Legislative Bodies. Very soon we shall hear of the result.