

national anthem.

15. The Flag of Canada

Pope was consistently conservative in all matters of forms and insignia. He was unprepared to admit any innovation. He told some of his correspondents in 1918 that the Canadian Coat of Arms - the simple shield containing the crests of the four original provinces of Confederation, established in 1868, - was the proper Arms of Canada - "neither more nor less"; and that any crest or supporters, crowns, maple leaves or other additions to the shield is "wrong".*

He was horrified at any proposal for a national flag of Canada to take the place of the Union Jack. Such proposals had been made for many years, throughout Canada. The mercantile marine Red Ensign with the Canadian Coat of Arms in the fly was in widespread use as a national flag; it had been justified by J.S. Ewart, whose nationalism as expressed in his public speeches and his "Kingdom Papers" had many followers; it had been endorsed by leading newspapers in Vancouver, Winnipeg, Toronto, and Montreal, and it was being adopted across the land. All this was anathema to traditionalist Pope; it seemed to him heretical. He campaigned against it; he wrote a pamphlet of his own, "The Flag of Canada", upholding the Union Jack. He wrote vehemently numerous letters on the subject. After 1911 he was able to back up his contention by an official despatch from the Colonial Office and the King's Private Secretary to the Governor General of Canada and his Ministers, asserting that "the Union Jack is the National Flag of Canada as of all other parts

* Pope must have been affronted by the fully-embellished bronze coat-of-arms on the pedestal of the statue of Queen Victoria on Parliament Hill, unveiled by the Duke of Cornwall and ~~Germany~~ (later George V) on September 21, 1901.
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