

4. Symbolic of the country and of its position as a sovereign state in the family of nations.
5. Lending itself to a variation for different purposes.

It may be that such specifications will enable the committee to classify and adjudicate on the hundreds of proposed designs which have been received.

The committee undoubtedly will make note of the fact that there are at present for Canada authorized national colours and a national emblem as provided for in the Royal Proclamation of the 21st of November, 1921.

About this Royal Proclamation, and about other technical matters in connection with it, I know that you will shortly derive a great deal of help from the research of Colonel Duguid who is to follow me in making a formal presentation to this committee.

No further stress need, at this moment, be placed on the importance of having certain symbols in our national life. All of us are aware of the great moral use made of national flags by the nations of the world. To this committee has been entrusted the noble responsibility of making a recommendation to parliament of a distinctive national flag for Canada. Our task is not easy but our opportunity is great.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Lambert): Gentlemen, I am sure we are grateful to the minister for the statement he has just given to us. Now, I shall call on Colonel Duguid to present an historical statement in connection with the flag, which he has prepared.

Colonel A. FORTESCUE DUGUID, D.S.O., Royal Canadian Artillery (Official Historian of Canadian Expeditionary Force 1914-1919) called:

Mr. MACNICOL: Mr. Chairman, could we know first what Colonel Duguid's credentials are?

The WITNESS: I am an officer of the Canadian army. I have been in the Canadian permanent force since 1914. I served overseas and in France from 1915 to 1918. I was appointed director of the historical section in 1921, and continued in that appointment until succeeded in October 1945 by an officer from overseas. I am now employed on completing the writing of the history of the Canadian forces in the war of 1914-1919.

The study of heraldry and history are traditional in my family. My father, who fifty years ago was a friend of the Lord Lyon King of Arms in Scotland, instructed me in Scottish heraldry. I have since learned more from my cousin who is the present Lord Lyon. Another cousin has written the history of the British Army. My knowledge of heraldry and of military history and symbolism has been made use of by the Government. I have designed army badges and flags now in use. I was on the committee for the award of Battle Honours for the war of 1914-1919 to be carried on the Colours of Canadian Regiments. I have a knowledge of army flags.

In 1926 I submitted a complete plan for the symbolical mural decoration of the Memorial Chamber in the Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, which, after acceptance by Privy Council on the recommendation of the Chief Architect, superseded the original design. I planned and supervised the execution of the symbolical decoration of the Book of Remembrance in the Memorial Chamber, and I turned its pages for the Governor General at the dedication ceremony.

Mr. MACNICOL: Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN (Hon. Mr. Lambert): Go ahead, please.

The WITNESS: I have been called on to appear before you to-day to place at your disposal any knowledge and experience I may possess as regards heraldry and symbolism in general and in particular the composition, design and use of official flags past and present and their historical relationships.