

*Use of the Canton:*

The canton is a means for conveying a secondary message or preconcerted signal, in expansion of the primary or main signal message transmitted by the flag as a whole.

Two or three centuries ago, when the marine flag of France was red, with gold fleurs-de-lis, the canton contained the arms of the port of registration.

In the middle of the 17th century, when the navies of England and Scotland were separate, the English flew a red flag with the cross of St. George in a canton, the Scottish warships flew a red flag, but with the saltire or cross of St. Andrew in the canton to differentiate. Today a British baronet may add to his arms a canton with white field and an emblem, a red right hand. Similarly baronets of Nova Scotia superimpose on their personal coat of arms a canton with the arms of Nova Scotia. This last is illustrated in a line cut of the arms of Weir of Blackwood, on page 7 of a booklet *Notes on the Arms of Nova Scotia* published in 1928. To-day an officer of the Order of St. John of Jerusalem may display, in a canton, the emblem of the Order,—a white maltese cross on a black field. No new or special warrant is necessary to legalize these additions or honourable augmentations.

These instances show that the canton carries an honourable augmentation, expressing highly esteemed association. Nothing in heraldry is interpreted in a derogatory sense: a canton implies not unwilling subservience, but loyal and friendly support or association.

*By Hon. Mr. Quinn:*

Q. Before you go on, I thought you might pursue that statement you made a moment ago. I would like to hear an explanation of it. You stated that Nova Scotia's claim to be the only province that has a distinctive flag is only a half truth. Would you explain what you mean by that? Is it not absolutely true, and does it not go back to 1625?—A. Yes, but what I said was this, and I stand by it, that the only reason that is true is because none of the other provinces have seen fit to exercise their right. That right would permit them to put their arms on cloth, and so they could have had a flag in Ontario 77 years ago.

Q. Could have but did not.—A. No. That is why I say it is a half-truth.

Q. But the fact remains that it is true that Nova Scotia is the only province which has a distinctive flag?—A. And the only reason why that is true is that the others did not see fit to put up flags. They had every right to put up flags. I will now give you a few words on the second item, the use of the circle.

*Use of the circle:*

The circle, disc or roundle placed on a flag provides a means of conveying a subsidiary message or preconcerted signal in expansion of the main or primary signal.

It is very widely employed on British flags. Centrally placed on the Union Jack, with the device of a British country, colony, dependency or province, it serves to make a distinguishing flag for the use of the King's representative in that place.

I would refer back to the third flag of the group already described and now before you which has the Star of Australia as a central device. That is the flag of the Governor General of Australia.

*By Mr. MacNicol:*

Q. May I ask here what is the flag of India which has the Star of India on the centre of the Union Jack?—A. Sir?