

C. 1870—the blue ensign, defaced by the Canadian coat of arms, was designated for use on Canadian government vessels.

D. 1892—the red ensign with the Canadian coat of arms in the fly was authorized for use by merchant vessels registered in Canada. This was confirmed in the Canada Shipping Act, 1934.

E. 1911—the union jack was officially declared to be the proper flag to be flown officially on land in Canada.

F. 1911—the white ensign was designated to be flown at the stern and the blue ensign with the Canadian coat of arms in the fly to be flown at the jack staff of all vessels of the Royal Canadian Navy.

G. 1924—the red ensign with the Canadian coat of arms in the fly was authorized to be flown “over all premises owned or occupied by the Canadian government abroad.”

H. 1924—the present coat of arms was substituted for the old Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick quarterings for use on the fly of all Canadian flags.

Practical difficulties resulting from the lack of a recognized Canadian flag together with the growth of national feeling which accompanied and followed the world war resulted in a post-war expansion of the campaign for a Canadian flag. Various organizations and many individuals made representations to the government and efforts were made to rally public opinion. As a result, in 1925, a committee of civil servants was appointed to consider designs for a national flag. This committee was selected on a purely functional basis but it was later disbanded because of its non-representative character.

Since 1925 there have been a number of resolutions introduced in the House of Commons all of which had as their purpose the creation of a distinctive Canadian flag. Thus on the 25th of May, 1931, and on the 6th of February, 1933, Mr. McIntosh introduced the following motion, “That, in the opinion of this house, a special committee be appointed for the purpose of considering the advisability of adopting a Canadian flag, representing Canada as a whole, and in which the British flag shall occupy the position of honour, thus symbolizing the dominion as an equality partner in the commonwealth of British nations”. The motion of 1931 was never put to a vote and the motion of 1933 was withdrawn. On the 19th of February, 1934, the following resolution was introduced by Mr. Dickie, “that in the opinion of this house, a national flag representing the Dominion of Canada should be adopted.” This resolution was disposed of by a successful motion to adjourn. On the 23rd of January, 1935, Mr. Dickie again moved “that in the opinion of this house, a national flag representing the Dominion of Canada should be adopted; and that in any design for a Canadian flag the union jack must be conspicuous.” This motion was withdrawn without a vote.

In 1938 Mr. McIntosh presented another motion which was never voted on.

The next step to have a distinctive Canadian flag was the resolution setting up this committee, during the present session of parliament.

The reasons for having a distinctive Canadian flag have been discussed in the House of Commons prior to the setting up of this committee. The government suggests to the committee that, in addition to the natural desire of having something symbolic of our national heritage and aspirations, there are other reasons and these it offers for the committee's consideration.

The committee may find it advantageous to draw up brief, detailed specifications for the ideal Canadian flag. These might provide that it be:

1. Easily recognizable, not like any other.
2. Visible at a distance.
3. Characteristic in structure and appropriate.