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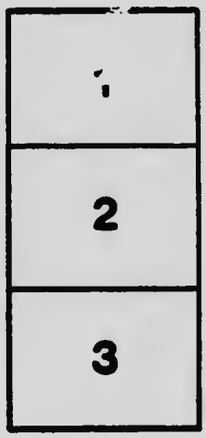

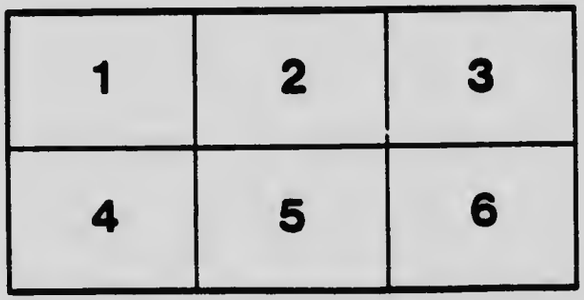

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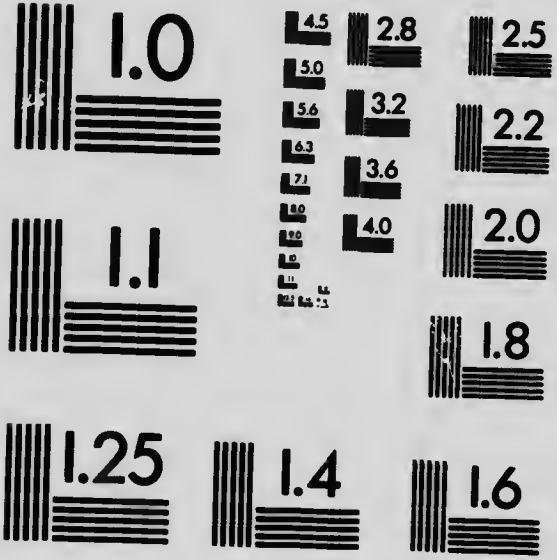


BOND CHOICE B

THE FLAG

A Concise Illustrated History

By

Charles P. Band & Emilie L. Stovel

THE MUSSON BOOK CO., LIMITED
Publishers . . TORONTO

BAND, CHARLES P.

Canadian Pamphlets

BAND. CHARLES P.

ERRATA

It was intended to have this book trimmed so that each illustration formed an actual flag.

The labour situation made this impossible. Rather than delay the edition it was published in its present form.

THE MUSSON BOOK CO., LIMITED
PUBLISHERS . TORONTO

PRINTED IN CANADA
FIRST EDITION, SEPT., 1917

"Ye mariners of England!
That guard our native seas,
Whose flag has braved a thousand years
The battle and the breeze.

. . . . . .

The meteor flag of England
Shall yet terrific burn,
Till danger's troubled night depart
And the star of Peace return."

—*Thomas Campbell.*

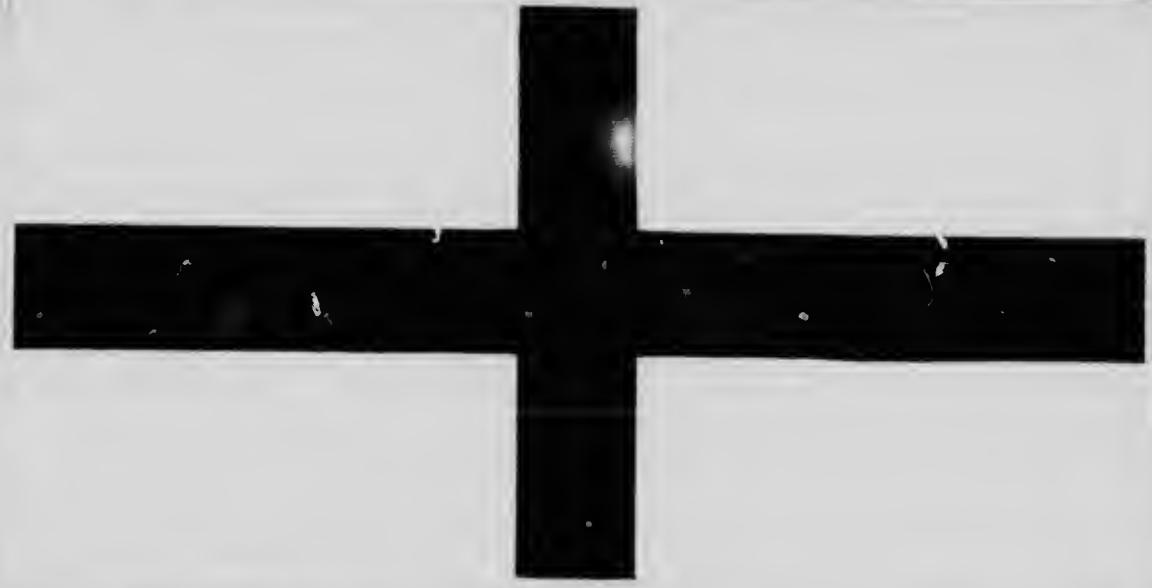
CONTENTS

· 1194 or 1274 -

English Jack
St. George's Cross

ENGLISH JACK—ST. GEORGE'S CROSS, 1194 or 1274

St. George has been the patron Saint, and his emblem, the national emblem of England for over six centuries. It is thought by some to have been used since 1194, after the third great Crusade, when the troops of Richard Cœur de Lion won a gallant victory near the grotto where the great Christian hero St. George, the legend says, "redeemed the king's daughter out of the jaws of a dreadful dragon." There is another tradition, "that



our wearied soldiers, at the siege of Antioch, suddenly saw a company of heavenly soldiers descend from the mountains to succor them, St. George being one of the leaders." His emblem, a Greek Cross of the national colour red, was, however, not generally accepted till 1274, in the reign of Edward I. Being worn on the surcoats, or jacques, of the soldiers, "it was from the raising of one of these upon a lance or staff at the bow of a ship (in order that the nationality of those on board might be made known) that a flag, bearing on it only a cross, came to be known as a jacque or jack."

- 987 -

Scotch Jack
St. Andrew's Cross

8

SCOTCH JACK—ST. ANDREW'S CROSS, 987

The same honour has been accorded St. Andrew in Scotland as St. George in England. According to tradition, the saint, deeming it far too great an honour to be crucified as was his Lord, gained from his persecutors the concession to this variation, namely, a saltire instead of a Latin cross. After his martyrdom his remains were preserved as relics, and a Greek monk, having been warned in a vision to carry these away in a

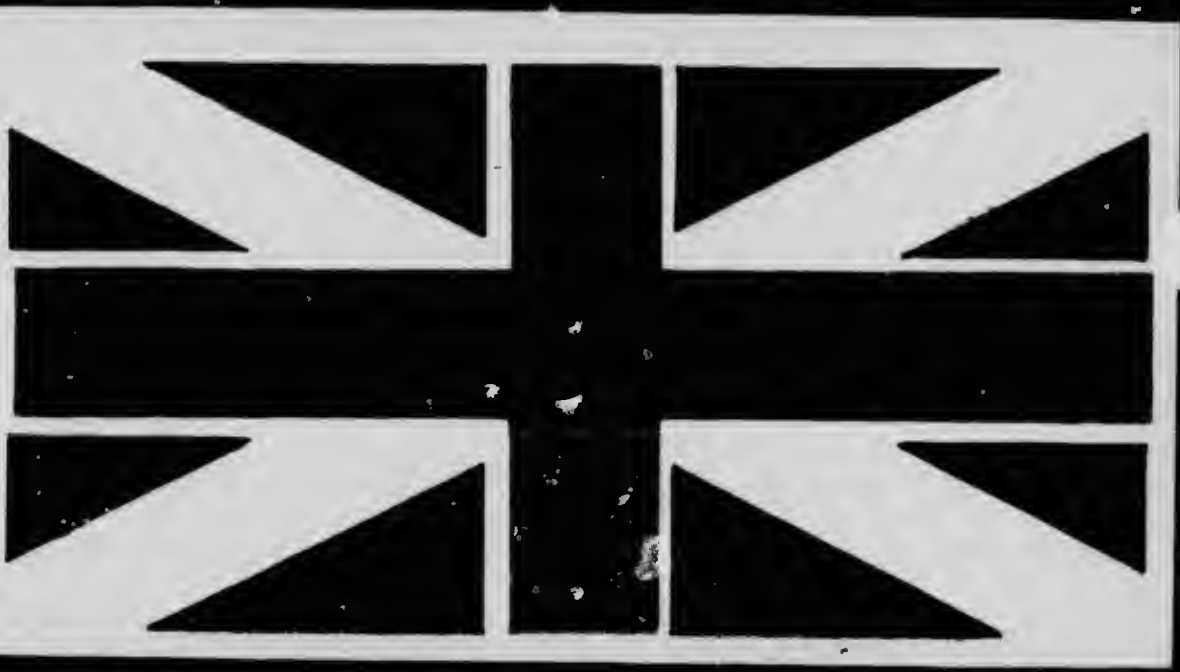
ship, was wrecked on the shores of Caledonia (Scotland), about A.D. 370. Here he was given land on which to build a church to enshrine the sacred relics. It was to this church, the legend says, after a great victory, that Achaius, King of the Scots, went barefoot and vowed to adopt the saint's cross as the national emblem, A.D. 987. The night before the battle he had been praying to God and St. Andrew when the cross of the martyr saint, formed in white clouds, appeared upon the background of blue sky.

- 1606 -

Union Jack of James I.

KING'S JACK, OR UNION FLAGGE, 1606

Known as the Union Jack of James I, and called also the "Additional Jack," being flown in addition to the St. George's by the English, and the St. Andrew's by the Scotch. It was devised in 1606 to indicate that the two thrones were united under the one sovereign, James I of England and VI of Scotland, although the two Parliaments remained separate. Some slight ill-feeling was caused by the placing of the St. George's Cross over the



St. Andrew's, but this was unjustifiable, as the heralds, in carrying out the order of the proclamation to unite the two Jacks, reduced the white field of St. George almost to a nullity, whereas the blue field of St. Andrew had all the remaining space.

- 1648 -

A Commonwealth Flag

A COMMONWEALTH FLAG, 1648

By the death of Charles I the union between England and Scotland was dissolved and a new flag was devised by the Council of State for the Commonwealth. It was ordered to take the place of the Union Flag of James I until, in 1651, Scotland being brought under the sway of the Commonwealth, the old Union was reverted to and Ireland represented by a golden harp placed in the centre. The order for the making of the new flag

was "the Armes of England and Ireland in two severall escotcheons in a Red Flagge within a compartment, or." In some flags the compartment, or (gold), is left out, and some are surrounded by a green wreath. Authorities differ concerning the flags in use at this time, but nearly all agree that the Ships of Parliament reverted to the simple Cross of St. George.

- 1654 -

Great Union of Cromwell

THE GREAT UNION, 1654

When Cromwell became Protector of the Commonwealth of England, Scotland and Ireland, in 1651, he decreed that there be a Standard for the Protectorate. After undergoing several modifications the form that it finally assumed was, a St. George's Cross in two quarters, a St. Andrew's in one, and Irish Harp in another. On a shield, in the centre, was placed his own coat-of-arms.

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James I.

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- 1660 -

Re - established

Union Jack of James I.

KING'S JACK, OR UNION FLAGGE

Re-established 1660

At the Restoration of Charles II, in 1660, this flag returned to places where it had been displayed before changes made by the Commonwealth, and the Irish Harp which had been imposed upon its centre was removed. This two-crossed Jack was never introduced into the national ensigns.

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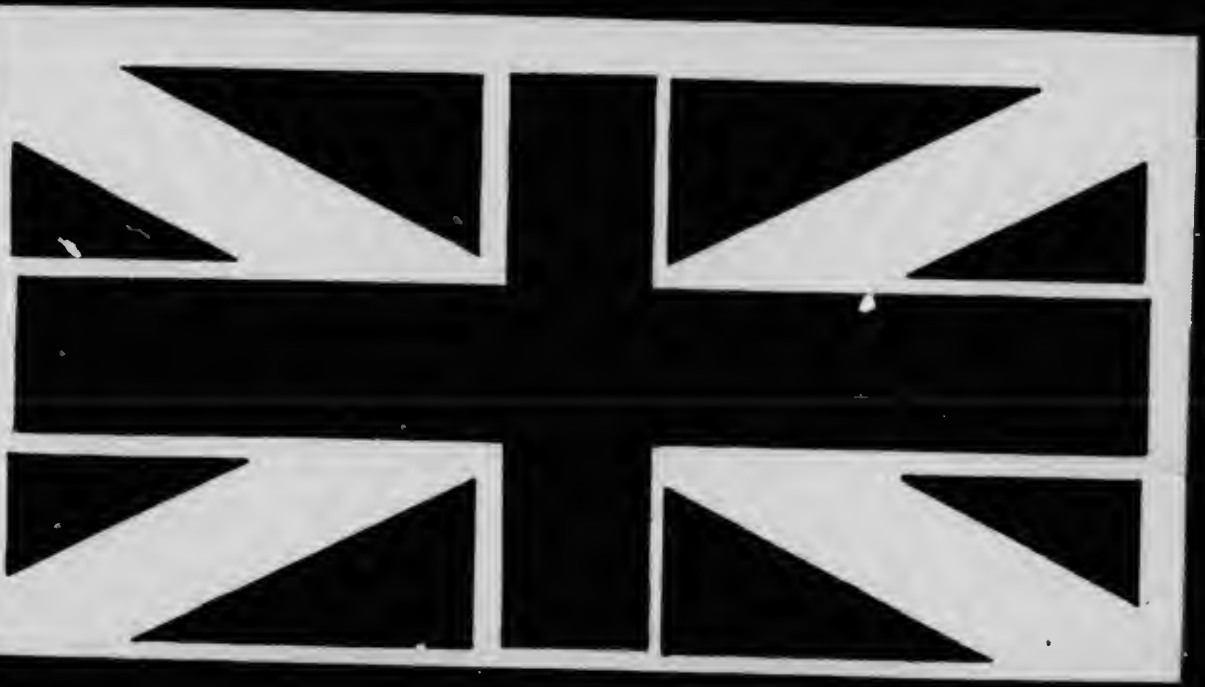

- 1707 -

Union Jack of Queen Anne

UNION JACK OF QUEEN ANNE, 1707

Created in 1707, and called the real Union Jack, as it enoted the union, not of the thrones only, but of the Parliaments of England and Scotland which heretofore had remained separate. The St. George's Cross, which in the first Union had had its field reduced to a mere margin, was in this to be shown with a broad white border. In the King James I flag the crosses were "joyned together according to the forme made by our heralds;" in the Queen Anne flag they are to be "con

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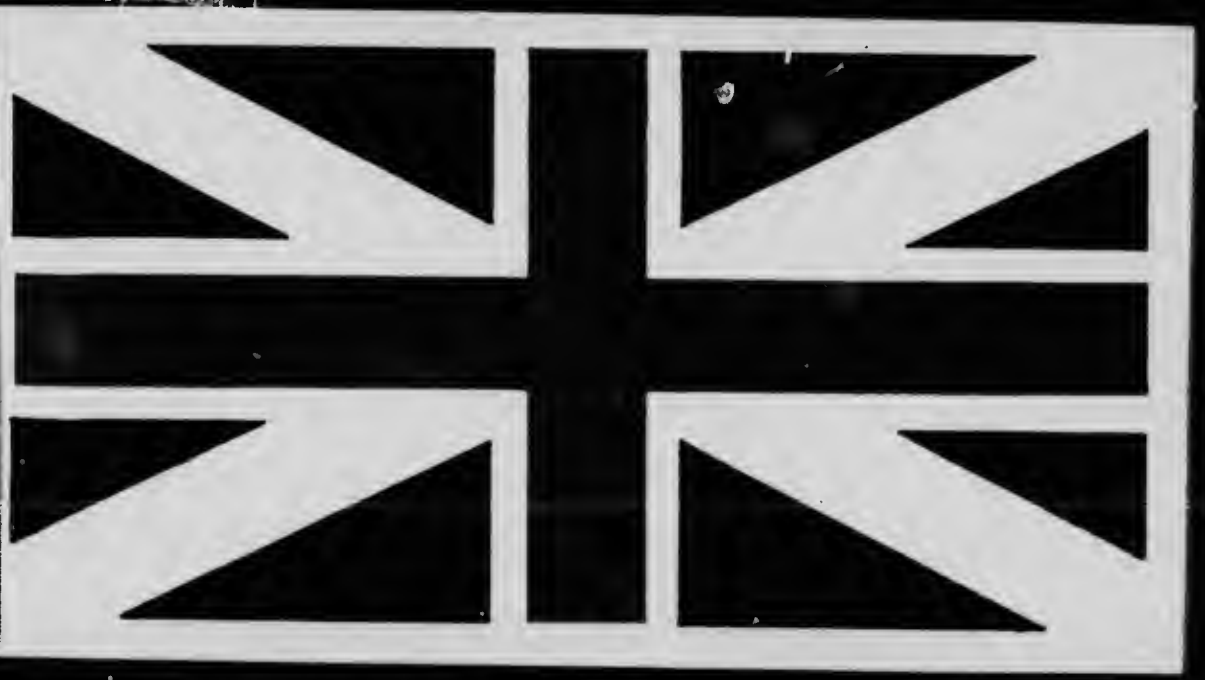

joyned in such manners as we should think fit," in accordance with the request of the Parliaments of the two Kingdoms. It has been suggested that "it was but due to its centuries of glorious service that evidence of the whole English Jack, its white field as well as its red cross, should be displayed in the new national emblem."

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- 1690 -

Irish Jack
St. Patrick's Cross

IRISH JACK—ST. PATRICK'S CROSS, 1690

St. Patrick was the Christian apostle of the Irish and became their patron saint. How the saltire cross became associated with the name of St. Patrick is not by any means clear. Legends date back to 411, but it has been suggested as most probable that the X-like form of the cross was derived from the sacred monogram ☧ on the Labarum of Constantine the Great where the X is the first letter of the Greek word for Christ. It was

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under this emperor that the Christians were rescued from persecution in Britain, and this symbolic meaning of the form might readily have been adopted in the early Churches, thus becoming associated with the Christian labours of St. Patrick in Ireland. It was finally adopted as the general national emblem, though not formally recognized until about 1690.

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- 1801 -

Union Jack of George III.

UNION JACK OF GEORGE III, 1801

King George III had reigned for 40 years before the Parliament of Ireland united with those of England and Scotland and became the Parliament of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland. It was not, therefore, until 1801 that the Irish Jack, the red cross of St. Patrick, was added to the two-crossed Jack which had flown for nearly 200 years. By Royal Proclamation, "the Union flag shall be azure, the crosses saltire of St. Andrew and St. Patrick, quarterly per saltire counter

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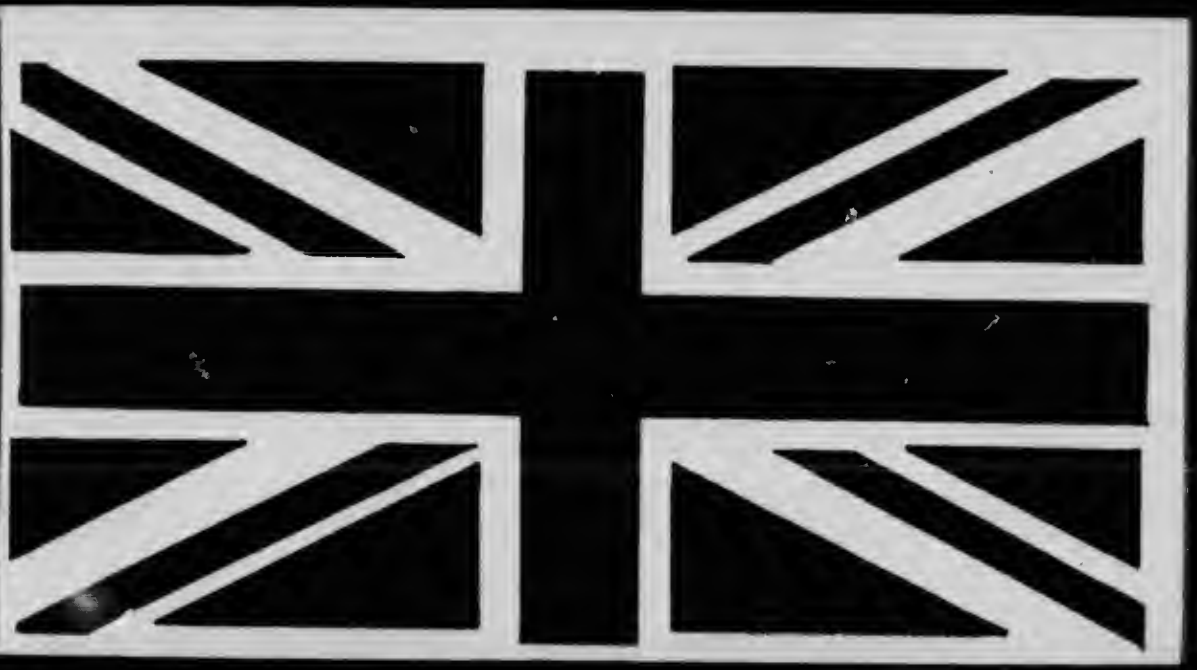

changed, argent and gules.''* St. Patrick's Cross being the same size and shape as St. Andrew's, the space allotted to the latter was equally divided, and the white edging necessary to separate the red from the blue, taken from the St. Patrick cross and not from the St. Andrew field. The broad white border around the St. George's Cross represented the white fields of both St. George and St. Patrick. This three-crossed Jack of George III is our Union Jack, which has remained unchanged for over 100 years.

*See explanatory illustration.

The Union Jack with the Arms of Canada (arms of the four original provinces) on a white escutcheon in the centre, surrounded by a wreath of maple leaves and surmounted by a crown, is the flag of our Governor-General. That of a Lieutenant-Governor bears no crown and has the arms of his own province only. Imperial sanction was given in 1870 to use maple leaves for the wreath instead of laurel, as in the other colonies.

In the heraldic and traditional interpretations of colour, red, white and blue are the emblems of courage, purity and truth, therefore the colouring, as well as the

design of the National Flag, is full of meaning. "Its value is priceless, for the national honour is enwrapped in its folds, and the history of centuries is figured in the symbolism of its devices. It represents to us all that Patriotism means. It is the Flag of Freedom and of the greatest Empire the world has ever known. Countless thousands have freely given their lives to preserve it from dishonour and defeat, and it rests with us now to keep the glorious record as unsullied as of old . . . . and to inscribe on its folds fresh records of duty nobly done."

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Construction of Union Jack of George III.

CONSTRUCTION OF UNION JACK OF GEORGE III*

Union Jack—with central section of St. George's Cross and border cut out to show St. Andrew's and St. Patrick's crosses "quarterly per saltire counter-changed,"† that is, the red saltire with white border placed below the diagonal dividing lines in the 1st and 3rd quarter and above them in the 2nd and 4th.

*See explanatory illustration next page.

†See proclamation in "Union Jack of George III."

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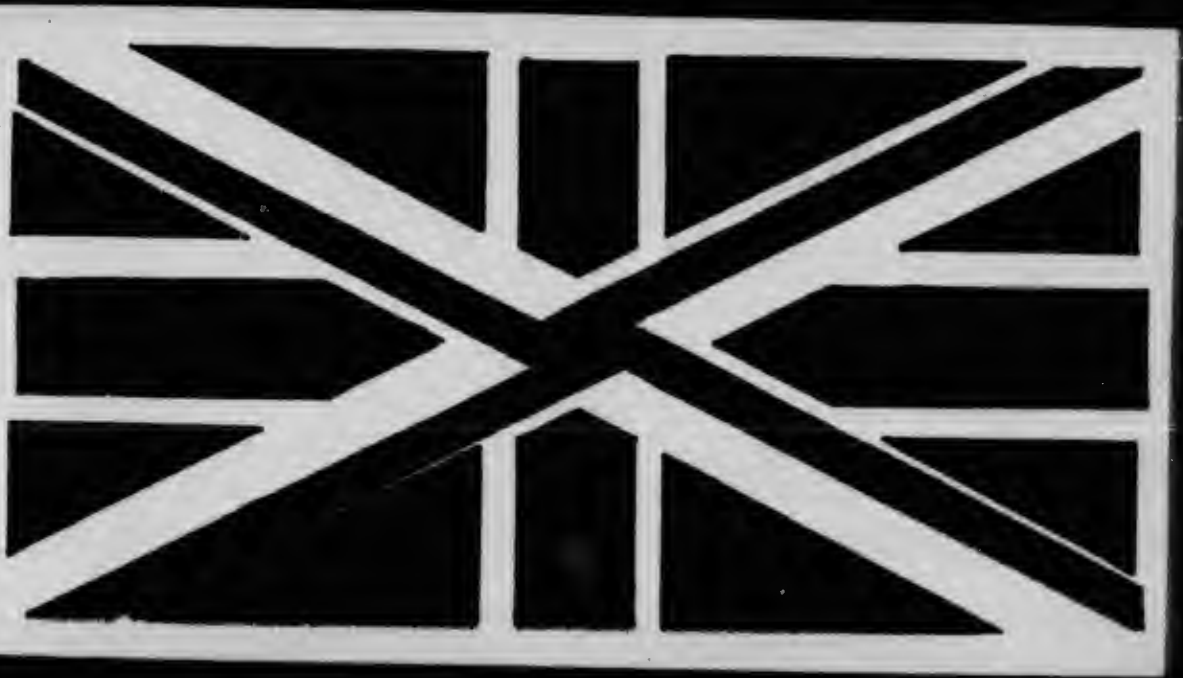

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Evolution of Canadian Union Ensign

EVOLUTION OF CANADIAN UNION ENSIGN

Origin of Ensigns

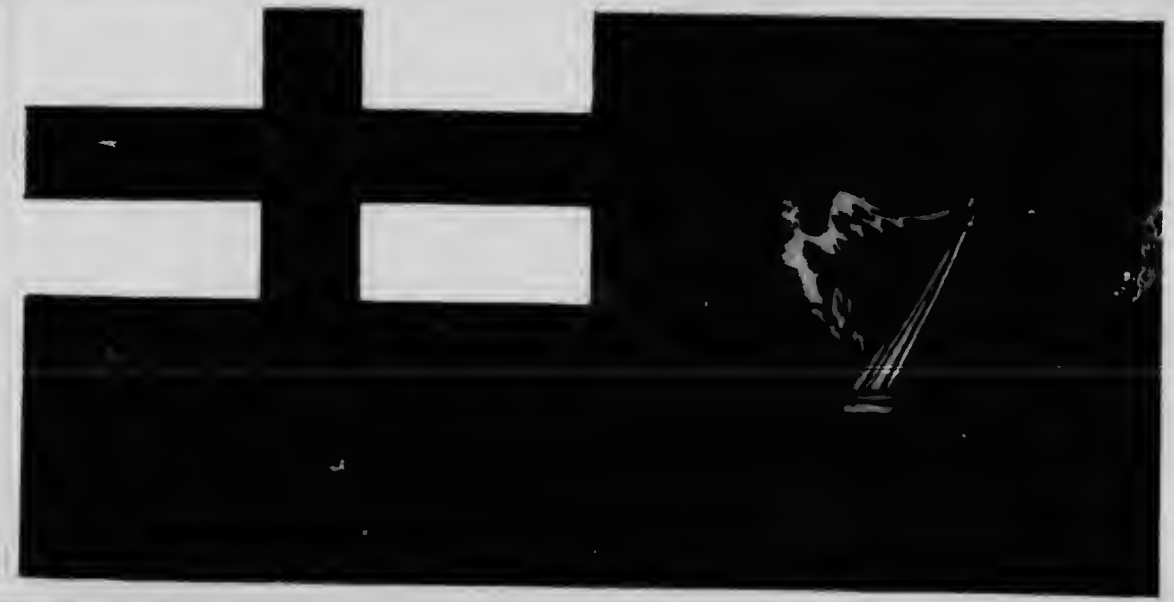
In the olden days, a flag in which was inserted a smaller flag bearing an emblem, crest or coat-of-arms, was called an ensign. During the reign of Charles I the fleet was divided into squadrons, the Admiral's bearing a red, the Vice-Admiral's a blue and the Rear-Admiral's a white flag. In these flags, in the upper quarter next the staff, a small flag bearing the emblem of England, the Cross of St. George, or St. George Jack, was placed by Cromwell in 1649. These were our first ensigns.

- 1649 -

Commonwealth Ensign

THE COMMONWEALTH ENSIGN, 1649

In 1649 Cromwell's Parliament created this ensign to replace the King's Standard at the stern of men-of-war. It had the St. George Jack in the first quarter and the Irish Harp in the fly. Scotland was not represented, the union with England being dissolved by the death of Charles I. Red being the colour of the Admirals of the highest rank and the typical colour of England, the red ensign was termed the paramount national ensign.



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- 1660 -

Ensign of Charles II.

ENSIGN OF CHARLES II, 1660

After the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, the Irish Harp was removed from the ensigns and the St. George Jack alone remained until replaced by the Union Jack of Queen Anne. The "Union Flagge" of James I having been used only in addition to the local national Jacks, was not introduced into the ensigns. In 1663 a proclamation issued by Charles II, confirming the position of the red ensign at the stern, not only of the ships of the Navy but of merchantmen (by whom it had been adopted), established this as the National Ensign.

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- 1707 -

Ensign of Queen Anne

ENSIGN OF QUEEN ANNE, 1707

The St. George Jack in the ensigns was replaced in 1707 by the Union Jack of Queen Anne. The Red Ensign had been flown at the stern of both men-of-war and merchantmen since the Restoration of Charles II in 1660, and was officially authorized by Queen Anne after the change had been made in it. The Union Jack was to be "used in all flags and ensigns both at sea and land."

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- 1801 -

Ensign of George III.

ENSIGN OF GEORGE III, 1801

When our Union Jack was created in 1801 it replaced that of Queen Anne in the ensigns. In 1864, after having been used in various ways for over 200 years, distinctive duties were allotted to each ensign.

- 1801 -

Red Ensign

The Red Ensign—to be used by all British merchantmen other than those permitted to fly the blue. It is said by one writer to have been authorized for use on land also, but there is no confirmation for this in Admiralty Regulations.

In the Red Ensign the Union in the upper quarter next the staff is to be "in length half the length of the flag, in width half the width of the flag."

- 1801 -

White Ensign

THE WHITE ENSIGN, 1801

To be used only by ships of the Royal Navy, or Yacht Clubs to which special license has been granted. This flag differs from the Red and Blue, having in addition to the Union Jack, a St. George Cross through the whole flag.

This cross is to be 2/15ths of the width of the flag; the Union to occupy the upper quarter next the staff, as in the other ensigns, but leaving the Cross of St. George intact.

- 1801 -

Blue Ensign

THE BLUE ENSIGN, 1801

To be used by merchantmen commanded by officers of the Royal Naval Reserve or those on the retired list of the Royal Navy (under certain regulations), the Public Service other than the Royal Navy, Colonial Government vessels and warships, and yacht clubs to which special license has been granted. In all of these flags, except that used by the Royal Naval Reserve, a seal or badge is inserted in the fly.

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In the Blue Ensign the Union in the upper quarter next the staff is to be "in length half the length of the flag, and in width half the width of the flag."

- 1865 -

Canadian Blue Ensign

THE BLUE ENSIGN WITH THE ARMS OF CANADA IN THE FLY, 1868

In 1865,* or shortly after, the privilege of using the Blue Ensign, with the Arms of Canada in the fly, was given to the fishery protection cruisers of Canada and all other vessels owned by the Government. The arms are of the four original provinces only, Ontario, Quebec, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia.

*The Colonial Defence Act of 1865 provided for the use of the Blue Ensign with the badge of the Colony in the fly, by certain colonial vessels, but the arms of Canada were not granted by Royal Warrant until 1868.

- 1892 -

Canadian Union Ensign

author as claimed this privilege for the plain red ensign, is also unconfirmed by Admiralty Regulations. "This flag symbolizes and expresses Canadian constitutional position, for the Union Jack in one quarter indicates our political origin and present affiliation, and declares inviolate fidelity to King and Empire, while the Canadian Arms in the fly gives recognition of independent national life."

Regulations for the Making of the Flag

CANADIAN UNION ENSIGN, 1892

The Red Ensign with the Arms of Canada in the Fly

In 1892, to distinguish Canadian from other British merchantmen, the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty issued a warrant permitting the Arms of Canada (the four original provinces only) to be inserted in the fly of the Red Ensign, thus forming the Canadian Union Ensign. One writer claims that this restriction to its being used only afloat has been modified, and its use on land authorized, but this assertion, made by the same

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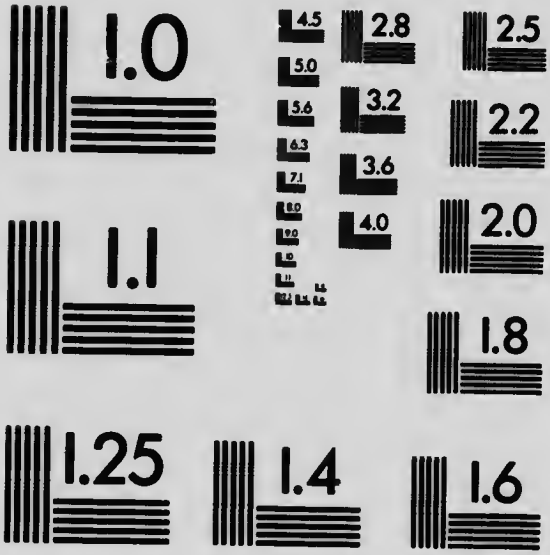


"That the utmost care should be exercised in the making of our flag is beyond all question. It is the record of our history, the emblem of the British nation; to display one incorrect in form is to do dishonor to it, to our history and to our nationality. No patriot would do this intentionally, and yet some may do it ignorantly."

The following regulations for the making of the flag issued by the Admiralty should therefore be studied, and care taken to see that it be correctly hoisted with the broad white of St. Andrew uppermost next the staff.

According to the received rules of strict heraldry, a cross should be given one-third and a saltire one-fifth of the width of the flag. Taking the Cross of St. George and its two borders as one cross, and the Crosses of St. Andrew and St. Patrick (these two having been each allotted half the space of a saltire) and its border as one saltire, the Admiralty regulations comply with the rules of heraldry.

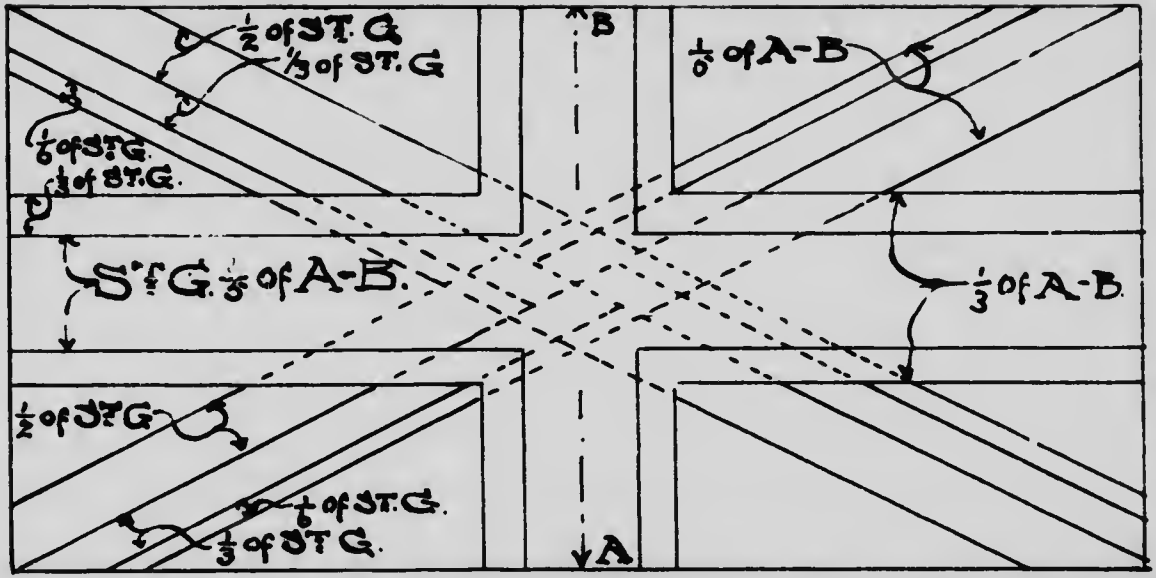
Sizes of crosses generally used, according to Admiralty Regulations:—

One Combined Cross

Red Cross of St. George, 1/5 of width	3/15
Upper white border, 1/3 of 3/15	1/15
Lower white border, 1/3 of 3/15	1/15
	5/15=1/3

One Combined Saltire

Broad white of St. Andrew, 1/2 of 3/15	3/30
Red of St. Patrick, 1/3 of 3/15=1/15 or 2/30....	3/30
White border of St. Patrick, 1/6 of 3/15=1/30....	
	6/30=1/5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Measurements for making crosses of the Union Jack, whether square or oblong, in which latter case the length to be twice as great as the width:—

Red Cross of St. George	1/5 of width of flag
White borders, St. George	1/3 of red of St. George
Broad white of St. Andrew	1/2 of red of St. George
Red Cross of St. Patrick	1/3 of red of St. George
White border to St. Patrick	1/6 of red of St. George

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