Review of Reviews

Federal Flag adopted as the National Flag by the Commonwealth Government.
THE FEDERAL FLAG COMPETITION.

FOUR "REVIEW OF REVIEWS" COMPETITORS SUCCESSFUL.

What is the flag of Australia? The design on the cover of the present issue "élève answer"—for it has been chosen from over 50,000 others by the five expert judges, and recommended to the Government for adoption as the Commonwealth flag.

The staff of workers, under the superintendence of Mr. J. S. Blackham, of the Melbourne "Herald," were occupied for some weeks in cataloguing and arranging the exhibits in the Melbourne Exhibition Building.

"You have set us a pretty tolerable task!" said one of the judges as they walked into the Exhibition, and some hundreds of square yards of coloured designs blazed on their view. And even when the caricatures had been separated from the serious sketches; the day-dreams—and, in some cases, the nightmares—from the practical plans; the impossibles, in short, from the impossibly, it was still difficult to choose the most suitable.

Several important matters had to be considered. Due regard had to be paid to history, heraldry, bizzarery, distinctiveness, utility, and cost of making up in bunting. It was apparent, though the judges, that a Commonwealth flag, to be representative, should contain the Union Jack, to stand for Great Britain, the Southern Cross for the continent, and some symbol to signify the unity of the six States. When these designs which would have served for kindergarten objects-I mean, decorations for a Chinese pagoda, or patterns for cheap linens—had been turned aside, it was found that a large percentage of the remainder contained the Union Jack, the Southern Cross, and suggestions of the States in various forms.

But a very large section of the competitors had made originality their chief aim, and a cheerful disregard of the elementary rules of bizzarry and heraldry in the arrangement of their symbols put them out of court. The Union Jack could have but one place on a flag, yet it appeared in the centre, and at all the corners in turn, occasionally it was multiplied, and sections placed in each of the four corners, whilst, in other instances, it was set in a plain or ornamental border.

In spite of Mark Twain's ridicule, there is more in the Southern Cross than meets the eye, and, apparently, the competitors found this out, for
only a minority managed to place the stars in the proper position, or to draw them correctly. Some totally ignored the fact that the stars are but the points of the Cross, and boldly ruled in Roman or Greek crosses according to fancy.

The greatest scope for originality, of course, lay in the representation of the Commonwealth, and some excellent suggestions had to be turned aside, as impracticable in a flag. Triangles and circles, however cleverly interwoven, would puzzle the shipmaster, who would require one of Sam Weller’s magnifying glasses to decipher them; whilst rainbow combinations are strictly prohibited. One competitor conceived the idea of an Australian-wheel, on the lines of the Manx-wheel; but the six clenched fists for a hub, and the half-doen muscular arms for spokes, rather robbed the wheel of its gracefulness. On the fly of another design appeared six hands, a circle of index fingers pointing towards the centre, where

Mr. W. Stevens, Auckland, N.Z.

Miss Annie Dorrington, Perth, W.A.
THE WINNING PAIR OF DESIGNS.

THE JUDGES AND OFFICIALS.
First Row: Mr. J. S. Blackham, Capt. Clare, Mr. G. Stewart, Lieut. Thompson.
Second Row: Capt. Edie, Capt. Mitchell, Capt. Evans, M.H.A.
these were sufficiently alike to warrant the judges in dividing the prize money between their originators.

It was mentioned in a previous number that designs had been received by us from all parts of the world, and a curious proof of this was the fact that four of the five successful designers had sent their flags to the "Review of Reviews," one coming from Sydney, one from Perth, one from Auckland, and one from Prahran. The fifth prize-sharer was a Melbourne man, who sent his design direct to the Government.

This was supplied by various forms, such as by coloured bars, shields, devices, stars, figures, letters, animals, etc., introduced in various colours, forms, and positions on the several designs.

It was apparent that a Commonwealth flag, to be representative, should contain:

The Union Jack on a blue or red ground; a six-pointed "star," representing the six federated States of Australia immediately under the Union Jack, and pointing direct to the centre of St. George's Cross, and so a site to occupy the major portion of one quarter of the flag; the Southern Cross in the sky, as being indicative of the sentiment of the Australian nation.

Harvey and Selfe, photo.

Some designs sent in through the "Review of Reviews" awaiting arrangement. The portrait given is of Mr. J. S. Blackham, who superintended the classification and arrangement of the flags.

When the judges had completed their task, the Flag Exhibition was thrown open to the public on September 3, the Countess of Hopetoun and Mr. Barton, the Prime Minister, performing the opening ceremony.

Mr. Barton read the following report from the judges:

Sir,—Attracted by the loyalty and sentiment of the Australian people, as represented by the 39,000 designs of a national flag (the great majority of which contained the Union Jack and Southern Cross), it was felt that the only additional emblem required was one representing the Federation of the six States.

Such a combination should be easily distinguished as a signal of distress, as original in character, and should be acceptable to the home authorities, as they have already given their sanction to the Southern Cross being shown in some of the State flags, such as New Zealand, Victoria, etc., and exception could not be taken to the one star under the "Jack." Many designs somewhat similar were rejected as not being in accord with heraldry borders round the Union Jack, contrary to the heraldry and blazonry of flags, crosses, coloured stars, stars too small to be seen at a distance, and otherwise faulty in design.

In conclusion, we may state that our task was no easy one, but our desire was to give to the people of our new-born nation a symbol that would be enduring.
ORIGINAL, BUT IMPOSSIBLE!

The above design comprises a distorted Union Jack for background, a map of Australia, New Zealand, and Tasmania, edged with green silk, water-colour drawings of the Australian coat of arms, the English, Scotch, Irish, and Welsh emblems, and gelatine photographs of four steamships. The designer evidently forgot that the Australian flag might also have to "brave a thousand years the bottle and that breeze."
Commonwealth of Australia Gazette.

PUBLISHED BY AUTHORITY.

No. 8.] FRIDAY, 20TH FEBRUARY. [1908.

PROCLAMATION.

Australia to wh.

By His Excellency the Right Honorable Holman, Baron Tyas, Knight Commander of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George, Governor-General and Commander-in-Chief of the Commonwealth of Australia.

WHEREAS by the Commonwealth of Australia Constitution Act, it was enacted under the provisions of the Constitution Act that the Governor-General might appoint such number of members of the Privy Council as he thought fit, and also from time to time by Proclamation of Gibralter, appoint the Governor-General in Council.

NOW therefore I, the said Holman, Baron Tyas, in virtue of the power conferred by the said Act, do by the said Proclamation further appoint the said Parliament until the thirty-first day of March, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, and do by the said Proclamation further appoint the said Parliament until the thirty-first day of March, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, and

GIVEN under my hand and the Great Seal of the Commonwealth of Australia, this twenty-third day of January, One thousand nine hundred and thirty-two, in the year of our Lord One thousand nine hundred and three, and in the third year of His Majesty's reign.

By His Excellency's Command.

ALFRED DEAN.

God Save the King.

Commonwealth of Australia,

Department of External Affairs,

Melbourne, 11th February, 1932.

His Excellency the Governor-General desires that the following be sent to the legislative branch of the Governor-General for the Commonwealth of Australia:

The Governor-General further directs the publication of the following copy of a " handful of sweets" dispute which has been removed from the High Commissioner's Office.

EDMUND PARSONS,
Prime Minister.

[Note:--"

Commonwealth of Australia.

Melbourne.

Mr. Raim,

With reference to your telegram of the 5th of October, I have the honour to transmit to Your Lordship a copy of the drawings of the Flags of the Commonwealth and the Flag of the Governor-General as they will appear in the Australian Flag Book.

2. The State Flags should be given to each by State Governors or State Governments. In the case of Members of Parliament, the Commonwealth Flag above should be used, but perhaps, as a means of recognition, provincial symbols might be allowed to continue to fly their State flags until the passing of a Commonwealth Navigation Act.

I have the honour to be,

Your Lordship's obedient humble servant,

(Signed) OSBORN.

Governor-General, His Excellency Fred Tyas, K.C.G.G., E.C., A.M.,
DESCRIPTION OF THE AUSTRALIAN COMMONWEALTH FLAGS.

The Ensign is the British Blue Ensign, and the Meretant Flag is the British Red Ensign, consisting of a blue and red flag respectively, with the Union Jack occupying the upper quarter next the staff, differentiated by — A six-pointed white star in the lower quarter next the staff, and five white stars in the form of the Southern Cross in the "Fly," or half of the flag further from the staff.

The aforementioned dimensions should be observed —

Flags can be made up of the following number of "Breadths" via., 22, 20, 18, 16, 14, 12, 10, 8, 6, 5, 4, and 3. A "Breadth" signifies a breadth of banding, i.e., 9 inches. The length of a flag is always twice the width at the "Hoot," A C D. Thus, a flag of 14 Breadths measures 31 feet in length by 10 feet 6 inches in width.

The Union Jack occupies one-fourth of flag; the diagonals of Union Jack form the centre and dividing lines of the combined Crosses of St. Andrew and St. Patrick.

The broad white of St. Andrew's Cross is uppermost in the first and third quarters next A C of "Hoot," and the red of St. Patrick's Cross (together with the narrow white border to same) is uppermost in the second and fourth quarters next "Fly." The Crosses are arranged as in diagram.

DESCRIPTION AND PROPORTIONS OF CROSSES.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>In Fractions of Total Breadth &quot;Hoot&quot;</th>
<th>In Fractions of Total Width &quot;Hoot&quot;</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St. George's Cross and white borders</td>
<td>$\frac{11}{16}$</td>
<td>$\frac{11}{16}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Andrew's Cross</td>
<td>$\frac{11}{16}$</td>
<td>$\frac{11}{16}$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Patrick's Cross and white border</td>
<td>$\frac{11}{16}$</td>
<td>$\frac{11}{16}$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The six States of the Commonwealth are represented by a large white star, as in diagram.

DESCRIPTION AND PROPORTIONS OF STAR.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position of Centre</th>
<th>Outer Diameter</th>
<th>Inner Diameter</th>
<th>Number of Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Commonwealth Stars</td>
<td>In Fractions of Width of Union Jack</td>
<td>In Fractions of Outer Diameter</td>
<td>In Fractions of Inner Diameter</td>
<td>Number of Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The Southern Cross is represented by five white stars, as arranged as in diagram.

DESCRIPTION AND PROPORTIONS OF STARS.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Position of Centre</th>
<th>Other Diameter</th>
<th>Inner Diameter</th>
<th>Number of Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>In Fractions of Width at &quot;Fly&quot;</td>
<td>In Fractions of Outer Diameter</td>
<td>In Fractions of Inner Diameter</td>
<td>Number of Points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Alpha Cross&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ from bottom edge</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Beta Cross&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ from middle line at right angles to a point C, always centre of &quot;Fly&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Gamma Cross&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ from middle line at top edge</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Delta Cross&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ from middle line at right angles to a point A, always centre of &quot;Fly&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>&quot;Epsilon Cross&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$ from middle line at right angles to a point B, always centre of &quot;Fly&quot;</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>$\frac{1}{2}$</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS,
MELBOURNE.