

THE FLAG OF LANCASTER

The Exposition to celebrate the tercentennial founding of Jamestown, Virginia, having called out responses from many Pennsylvania cities, the question of city flags became at once an interesting feature. The fact that a number of them had no municipal flag, our own among the number, at once suggested the advisability of selecting one. The question met with a hearty response in both branches of Council, and a special committee was at once appointed to take the matter into consideration. The committee consisted of Mayor J. P. McCaskey, Dr. S. T. Davis and Mr. John C. Dinan, the presiding officers of Select and Common Councils. The outcome of their deliberations and suggestions resulted in the selection and adoption of the flag shown in the accompanying cut. The explanatory article which goes with it was prepared by Mayor McCaskey, who was the chairman of the committee.

Statement From Mayor McCaskey.

The nation has its flag and its coat of arms; the State its flag and coat of arms; and the city falls into line with its distinctive emblems. Lancaster, we think, is old enough, and has done enough, and has reputation and individuality enough, to justify the adoption of a flag that shall be her own in the sisterhood of cities in State and nation.

An inquiry from Colonel James H. Lambert, executive officer of the Pennsylvania Commission of the Jamestown Exposition, with a letter



LANCASTER CITY'S FLAG.

from Hon. Frank B. McClain, Speaker of the Pennsylvania House of Representatives, and member from the city of Lancaster, first directed our attention to the matter of a municipal flag.

Colonel Lambert wished to dress the front of the Pennsylvania building on the Exposition grounds with flags in variety, national, State and municipal, three by five feet in size, projecting from the windows on staffs securely fastened to the window sills. He found that but few of our cities have such flags. His request has set a number of them to work and the flags will soon be forthcoming.

Lancaster is a historic name of unusual interest, and we did not have far to go for the suggestion of an appropriate design. This fine old name comes down to us from the conquest and occupation of Britain by the Romans, two thousand years ago. "Lancaster," the original noun form of the word, which shows the derivation and meaning at a glance—"the Lan camp" or "the Camp at Lan"—soon changed into the ordinary adjective form, "Lancasteria," which was used for hundreds of years, and is the better word, though its meaning is not so promptly evident.

Our first thought, therefore, was to use this old and interesting Latin name, and to adopt with some necessary modification and changes the beautiful coat of arms of our mother-city of England. Mr. F. R. Diffenderfer, who is an authority in these matters, suggested that the devices upon the shield should speak more directly for the county and the State. Accordingly, we put on the plough, the bar of Penn, and the sheaves. Mr. B. C. Atlee suggested that the Conestoga wagon originated in the Conestoga re-

gion, and belongs to Lancaster county as the only one thing that is really "our own." The committee approved, and put the wagon in place of the plough. Mr. S. M. Sener named the proper colors on the bar from the Penn coat of arms, and they were made right. Mr. Fred. P. Mentzer put into artistic form any suggestions made to him, and prepared the final sketch for the Horstman Company. And Mr. G. W. Killian was photographer for the committee.

Color, which is wanting in the above engraving, adds spirit and life to the picture. The body of the flag, as approved by the committee, is a rich blue; the lettering is black; the petals are crimson in light and shade; the top and outline of the shield are gold; the wagon is touched in on a light blue background; the sheaves of wheat are on the same blue ground; and between these two sections of the shield is the black bar edged with gold, showing its three silver globes. A natural red rose with its green leaves is thrown under the circle. It was needed and there seemed no better place for it. The possibilities of this design in shading and color effects are a challenge to those who excel in embroidery and fine needlework or have skill in the use of colors with the brush.

The centre presents a white field of circular form, with its legend in old English letters between dotted lines, bosses representing the red rose, and the dates 1730 and 1907, the years when the town was laid out and when the flag was adopted. The minor circle contains "the red rose of Lancaster" with petals much conventionalized, as is the way of artist-folk in things of this kind, two circles of five petals each, with ornate shield resting upon the heart of the rose. This is repro-

duced from the coat of arms of Lancaster, with substitution of the upper petal for the crown, and omission of one or two minor details. Instead of the lilies and the lion on the shield we have therefore very appropriately the Conestoga wagon representing Transportation, the bar and globes which are the distinguishing feature of the Penn coat of arms, and the sheaves of wheat representing Agriculture. The three balls from the Penn arms may suggest the "pawn shop," as some one has said, but they are upon the coat of arms of each of the counties of the State of Delaware, of our neighboring county of Chester, and many other places. William Penn may have thought of them as spheres in ideal form, representing Faith, Hope and Charity or Virtue, Liberty and Independence.

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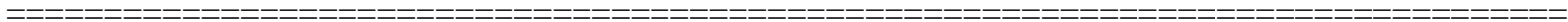
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