

corresponding to their special status within the British Empire as "free communities, independent as regards all their own affairs, and partners in those which concern the Empire at large." Moreover, just as, in attaining to that position, they have silently worked changes, far-reaching but incapable of precise definition, in the Constitution of the Empire, so that the written law inaccurately represents the actual situation, in a similar way they have taken a place within the Family of Nations, which is none the less real for being hard to reconcile with precedent. Furthermore, they will certainly consolidate the positions which they have won, both within the Empire and within the Family of Nations. An advance in one sphere will entail an advance in the other. For instance, they may well acquire a limited right of legation or limited treaty-making power. But from this time onward the relationship between Great Britain and the self-governing Dominions of the British Empire is not likely to correspond exactly to any relationship hitherto recognized in International Law unless the British Empire should turn into a Federal State."

### THE ARMS OF CANADA.

(See *Frontispiece*).

Armorial bearings owe their existence to the need of providing men with some mark of identification. They originated in the Middle Ages, when few men could read, but when all were trained to distinguish such symbols at a glance. Under these circumstances, the arms of the sovereign became generally identified with the arms of the nation, were emblazoned on shields and were later often incorporated into the national flag. In the case of England, the royal standard bears the Coat of Arms of the Sovereign, while the Union Jack or national flag is composed of the combination of the red cross of St. George on a white field, borne as their banner by the English from the time of the second Crusade, the white cross of St. Andrew on a blue field (Scotland), added in 1707, and the white cross of St. Patrick on a red field (Ireland), added in 1801.

Until 1921, the question of the Arms of Canada remained in an unsatisfactory position. In this country the Royal Arms, in their English form, have always been freely used. Soon after Confederation, when a Great Seal was required, a design approved by Royal Warrant of 26 May, 1868, displayed the arms of the four confederated provinces—Ontario, Quebec, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. This design, though not used for the Great Seal, was gradually adopted as the Arms of Canada. As the number of provinces increased, it became a common practice to add their arms to the original design. This resulted in overloading the shield with a multiplicity of detail, and a Committee, appointed to submit proposals, recommended the adoption of a coat of arms which has been approved by the Government and duly authorized, on November 21, 1921, by the King.

Three considerations were kept in view in determining the "achievement of arms," i.e., the combination of arms, crest, supporters, and motto, which has now been authorized. These were: first, that Canadians stand to their King in as close a relation as do any of his subjects elsewhere; secondly, that Canada, an integral part of the British Empire, has emerged from the war a member of the League of Nations; and lastly, that Canada was founded by the men of four different races—French, English, Scottish and Irish—and that Canadians inherit the language, laws, literature and arms of all four mother countries.