

A FLAG FOR EUROPE

WE are heading towards a European integration, whether as a union, a federation, or a confederation, remains to be seen. The movement has become strong enough for the need of a flag to be felt. There are already one or two proposals afield. The present note aims at describing a third.

Among the conditions such a flag should fulfil, the following may be suggested: (a) it should be so devised that it fits Europe, the whole of Europe, and nothing but Europe; (b) its symbolism should be clear, if not at first sight, after an easy explanation; (c) it should express both the unity and the variety of our Continent, and, in particular, bring out the importance of the score or so of nations that compose it.

Such are the considerations which have prompted the following design. On a blue background, the European nations that were fully sovereign in 1938 will be represented each by a golden star on the spot occupied by its capital city on the map. Strasbourg will also be represented by a slightly bigger golden star. The stars to be eight-pointed suggesting the eight chief directions of the compass.

The grouping will thus be natural, as dictated by geography; and it will form a 'constellation' the peculiar shape of which will easily engrave itself on the mind in association with the idea of Europe. No outline of coasts or frontiers should be added. The cities in their natural positions will suggest the national entities without unduly stressing the physical borders which separate them. The general effect should be attractive to the eye.

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