

Brush Up on Flag Lore

SURPRISING IGNORANCE SHOWN CONCERNING FACTS ABOUT NATIONAL EMBLEM.

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IN connection with the ever-familiar use of the flag and its tremendous display on holiday occasions, it is a curious commentary on the inability of the average person to take in or to observe common facts carefully to note that in all sorts of commercial illustration, and even in more ambitious art displays, not excluding stained glass and cartoons, the representation of the Stars and Stripes in the matter of color, number and location is generally wrong. In so far as the thing illustrated does not reveal the official arrangement of stars and stripes the thing depicted becomes a mere piece of supposedly patriotic bunting.

Indeed, one of the most enterprising of advertisers on one occasion in sprinkling miniature reproductions of the flag through an otherwise superbly appointed page revealed a flag that lacked several stripes, while another offender added several more than the official regulation calls for. In both cases these caricatures were the "only kind" the firm making the prints had on hand.

Moreover, Davenport at one time perpetrated a flag that had nearly 30 red and white stripes instead of the ortho-

dox 13; and yet our artists condescendingly tell us they see things that the common person doesn't. So they do; but correct vision is not always to the boastful nor accurate drawing to the artistic. And yet it is all so simple, and what with flags galore and costing but a penny, it would seem that there would be none so poor but might be set straight.

Will a rhyme like the "thirty days hath September" help? Why not let the ear correct the offending eye? Here's a go:

Four reds against the Union lie,
Three whites;
Six stripes the rest share equally
By rights.
And red begins and ends the field
In row;
To other schemes you must not yield,
Just so!

Something ought to be done surely, else the symbolism of the 13 original states and all the meaning and history of the flag will be lost. The Stars and Stripes is not a mere piece of colored bunting, but an arrangement that has meaning in every stripe, in every star. And, in view of the President's proclamation as to the coming celebration of Flag Day, June 14, we had better brush up on our flag lore!