

# MAY ALTER THE UNION JACK.

## Irish Free State May Also Lead to Change in Royal Coat of Arms.

London, Dec. 28 (by mail).—The question has been raised whether the designs of the Union Jack and Royal Coat of Arms of Great Britain will have to be altered when Ireland becomes a Free State within the empire. The Union Jack has the cross of St. Patrick superimposed upon the crosses of St. George and St. Andrew, and the Royal Coat of Arms has the Irish harp in one of its corners.

At the College of Arms it was stated that certain modifications were under consideration and that if any action were taken it would be done by the King in Council. No parliamentary action will be necessary.

Heraldry experts say that alterations in arms are very expensive. Some years ago there was a demand from Irish quarters that the blue ground of the golden harp on the royal standard should be changed to green. It was then estimated that the alteration would cost at least £2,000,000. To remove all reference to Ireland from the present Union Jack and Royal Arms would be vastly more expensive.

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