

## HOUSE FLAGS

### The New Zealand Shipping Company Limited



The original house flag adopted by The New Zealand Shipping Company in its sailing ship days was a red St. George's Cross on a white field with the initials 'N.Z.S.Co.' in blue letters in each quarter. However, the Company's early steamships carried a significant amount of sail, which meant that their funnels were often hidden from sight, especially when the vessels were approaching head on. It was, therefore, the custom for these steamships to fly a red, white and blue pennant above the house flag. By the time that the steamships had replaced the sailing ships and had discarded the use of sail, the custom of flying the pennant, or "Steam Cornet" as it was known, had become so firmly established that it was adopted as an integral part of the Company's house flag.

### Federal Steam Navigation Company Limited

The origin of the Federal Steam Navigation Company's house flag dates back to 1824 when the "Sir Edward Paget", one of Money Wigram's clippers, was anchored off Spithead flying the St. George's Cross at the Main. That was, and still is, the flag flown by an Admiral, and so a naval pinnace was sent by an H.M. frigate to investigate. There being no Admiral on board, the Master was censured and ordered to haul down his flag, but, thinking that his masthead looked bare, he rehoisted the flag after a blue pocket handkerchief had been sewn on the middle of the cross. These markings were adopted as the Company's house flag and were also painted on each side of the funnel, which was otherwise red with a black top.

