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## NOTE ON THE HOPE DIAMOND

For the second time in less than ten years, the Hope Diamond has been shown at the Canadian National Exhibition, in Toronto, Canada. The largest blue diamond in the world, the Hope was closely examined by Mr. Dean S. M. Field, F.G.A., Director of the Gem. Lab. Research Division of H. Forth & Company Limited, Toronto.

Mr. Field describes the Hope Diamond as follows :

It is quite unlike the glass replicas commonly displayed by jewellers and in museums. The shape is more oval than anything else, one side being slightly shorter than the other, indicating that it may have been cut from a larger pear-shape stone. The colour is slate grey-blue and bears no resemblance whatsoever to a sapphire. The only other gems that might resemble it in colour are the blue-grey spinels from Ceylon.

The diamond was measured in the vaults of the Imperial Bank of Canada's Head Office, and the dimensions were found to be approximately : length, 25 mm ; width, 22 mm ; depth, 14 mm. No flaws nor inclusions were visible under a ten-power glass, but several of the facets were not quite symmetrical in relation to the others.

Rather surprisingly, Mr. Field found that the diamond had a faceted girdle, a feature not supposed to have been developed when the Hope Diamond was cut in its present form.

The culet is small in relation to the size of the stone, which is shallow and appears to be much heavier than it really is. Nevertheless, the brilliancy is good for a coloured diamond, and the cutting, generally, is much more modern than one might expect in such an old stone.

The diamond is now owned by Mr. Harry Winston, well-known New York diamond broker, who acquired it from the estate of the late Evelyn Walsh MacLean, of Washington.