

Ilton, did do excellent work in this direction during 1897-8, while Lord Meath followed up the definite Ontario creation of Empire Day in 1899 with his well-known advocacy in England. But to Canada belongs the honour and to Senator Ross the obvious credit, of initiative and of detailed, specific official action.

The first outlines of what is now known as "Empire Day" are to be found in a volume of patriotic recitations published by the Hon. Geo. W. Ross in 1893, and dedicated to the teachers of Canada. The object of this volume was to direct the attention of teachers to the importance of cultivating a spirit of patriotism in their pupils by exercises of a patriotic character, and by the recitation of selections in poetry and prose calculated to stir up feelings of loyalty and devotion to their country and Empire.

As there were two statutory holidays—the Queen's Birthday and Dominion Day—specially set apart in recognition of our duty to honour the reigning Sovereign and the founding of our new Dominion, Mr. Ross, then Minister of Education in Ontario, evidently thought that these days might be used to direct the special attention of the school population to the reasons why they should love their country and cultivate those qualities which make for good citizenship. And, as the volume was intended to show how these holidays could be most effectually used for patriotic purposes, Mr. Ross, on page 3, opened up the subject with "A Talk With Teachers" regarding the Queen's Birthday, as follows:—

A TALK WITH TEACHERS.

The Queen's Birthday.

A national holiday, while the occasion for recreation and pleasure-seeking, should be used by the teacher for impressing upon the minds of his pupils such facts and circumstances as would foster a national spirit. The birthday of her Majesty the Queen furnishes an excellent