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Englemere, Ascot,  
Berks.

May 19, 1911.

Dear Sir:-

I am sorry your letter of the 7th April has been so long without an answer, but it came while I was away from home and since my return I have had so much to do that I have only now been able to deal with it.

I sympathize with your desire to see one day set aside in which Great Britain, the United States, Canada and the other Dominions should celebrate their common ideals, but I fear it would be difficult to fix on a suitable date. You suggest that May 30th should be the date and that it should be taken as Empire Day. In this I cannot concur. May 24th is the anniversary of the birth of the late Queen Victoria during whose reign the Empire assumed its present proportions. May 30th represents nothing to the British Empire. It is only a day fixed on by the Americans on which to decorate the graves of those who fell in their Civil War. May 24th has been fixed on by Statute as Empire Day in some of the British Colonies and could, therefore only be altered by statute. For these reasons I fear I cannot support your proposals.

Yours very truly,

Roberts,

*Field Marshall*

J. W. Hamilton Esq.

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

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