

in certain quarters towards the preservation of this venerable body. It would appear to be of value as a home pension for past services, and should it be possible as is suggested, to eject some twenty of its present numbers for lack of the necessary \$4,000 qualification in real property and fill their seats with time servers from the Liberal ranks the utility and continuance of that body will both have been established and the Drummond County Railway may yet carry bicycles free of charge.

VICTORIA DAY

During the past month some progress has been made towards the establishment of this holiday. The project was one of the many by which the Diamond Jubilee should be commemorated and of all these many, few appealed more readily to the sentiments of all classes of our people. It was that the 24th of May, now observed as Queen's Birthday should be by statute declared a holiday forever under the name of "Victoria Day." Though a very simple matter many reasons crop up in its support. Its position in our seasons when nature's call is loudest to keep holiday in leafy shade or on the waters. Its fitness, too, for Queen's Plate contests whether they be under saddle or 'neath clouds of canvas. Children and labourers, staid merchants and gamey sports all and every one unite in joyous outburst on this the only holiday between New Year's and Dominion Day. Easter of course does intervene but Easter belongs not to that class of secular day and so cannot be counted in. The project has been well handled. Broached in Canada in October last by a rising barrister of Milton West, Geo. E. McCraney, Esq., B.A., LL.B., it has been well endorsed on all sides. The leading papers of the land have recognized and aided in the movement, promises of Ministerial support have been obtained from the Premier and other members of the cabinet and at last on 3rd of May a bill was launched in the Upper Chamber by Senator Macdonald of British Columbia. Some opposition was met and not a few arguments adduced against it but so ably were these met that in due course it was sent down to the Lower House. Here it now awaits its turn in the great mass of business pressing upon the Commons and its friends are fearful lest the obstructionist tactics of the Conservative Opposition or the dilatory conduct of the Liberal Government (according to the vantage point of the beholder) prevent its further progress for the session.

Amongst the many items of interest cropping up anent the measure, appears the fact that Canada stands foremost in the Empire in her loyal celebration and observance of the Queen's Birthday, that the 4th of June, the Birthday of King George III. was observed by a parade of the militia throughout the reigns and in preference to the natal days of the two succeeding sovereigns, and that this practice was continued in the present reign until about 1850. In the early forties the city of London, (London West, Ontario) began to keep the 24th but that the militia parade was not changed in date till 1855. In 1850, however, a precedent was established under the then Liberal Government of adjourning on the 24th of May, a fit and proper mark of respect to the Sovereign. Since then the day has been regularly observed.

In Australia in later years it has, too, been duly celebrated, though no reports of a Victoria Day movement in that quarter are as yet to hand.

In England at the instance of the editor of the *Bromley Herald*, Sir John Lubbock, the acknowledged champion of public holidays, has written several articles on the subject as well as brought it to the notice of the Imperial House of Commons where the Secretary of State promised to give the matter his serious consideration.

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THE DIAMOND JUBILEE.

1837—1897.

Although the historians of to-morrow will turn to the records kept by the men of to-day for the materials for their work, it is certain that they will understand what our age has written better far than we can hope to do. We are but piece-workers (as they will be) and only God, the great Architect, can know the whole design. Dying even as we build we see but the few bricks committed to our care and it is but seldom that we win breathing space to look forward or backward even if we would.

We have such a breathing space now, however, and that which we may see is surely startling enough if we will but look at it. Of the children of that great Empire whose speech and people have overrun the whole world, we stand possessed of the fairest heritage of them all, in a climate whose very breath is hardihood of soul, wide-stretched, an ocean at our either hand, and no men save of our own blood and our own speech for neighbors or rivals. Behind the nation to which it is our pride to belong lie to-day sixty of the most prosperous years that ever she has known. years so still in their prosperity that some forgetting that stillness might mean strength, deluded themselves with the idea that Britain slept. Then were heard cries of ill omen and of alarm and of the isolation of England; and we saw the gathering of the Flying Squadron and now we see the meeting of the mightiest fleet the world has ever known. an Armada to strike terror into continents, let alone countries, and we behold and she beholds such a thronging of the mother's wandering sons at her knee as will teach the world once and forever what is the power of England.

The cry of the isolation of England finds its answer in the Federation of Britain. Such, in fact, has been the effect that in England herself the thought of world wide Empire has forced into use the words *Britain* and *British* where formerly *England* and *English* alone were heard.

Behind us as a colony lies half a century of growth and struggle. The early years of our Queen were with us years of unrest and the first year one of rebellion. The popular cause, however, speedily triumphed, and though the name of Durham was added to the little list of Canadian martyrs, his work stands fast forever. Representative government with all its responsibilities and privileges was but the first of many great advances and advantages, and as the forests disappeared and the pioneers were laid to rest a nation was founded upon their bones. Farther fields have been explored, fresh resources developed, a few industries established, and best of a best-of-all a hardy race has risen, taught both to know and to fear the law.

In 1837 French Canadian and U. E. Loyalist families were bearing the heat and burden of the day: in 1897 their more fortunate children stand ready to gather in the harvest. Both by sea and by land is it being gathered, and on both are ample means of carriage and that with comfort. The progress on all sides has been remarkable, province added to province, a rapidly increased and increasing population, new avenues of industry and wealth appearing on all sides of the march of triumph, intellectual and moral progress well in touch with each material advance and in spite of many and some of them great troubles, Canada is thus found ready and waiting to take hearty part in the celebration of the Diamond Jubilee of our Queen. Her loyalty, too, unquestioned and ever fervent in the past has this year surpassed itself in the brilliancy of its expression, and in Jubilee keeping we have ample grounds to be proud of our Queen, proud of our empire, proud of our races, proud of our country, yea, and proud of ourselves.

Of the Jubilee itself and of its many details, and especially of the Canadian details, so much has been said that any further remark from *THE REVIEW* may be thought unnecessary, but of the tremendous effusion of Jubilee