

2. Whatever may be the destiny of Canada, and that is for posterity to say, rather than for us just now, I am convinced that viewing the situation in the light of to-day, Canada's prosperity can, with greater certainty, be assured as a part of the British Empire, than in any other way. If circumstances require this opinion to be reversed as generations come and go, (and no one can tell what the future has in store for any nation), then let our successors govern themselves accordingly. Let us be governed by the conditions with which we are confronted.

As to the time most convenient for the celebration of such a day, from suggestions received and from a careful consideration of the whole question, I would respectfully advise that the school day immediately preceding the 24th of May be the day selected. This form of designating the day would overcome any difficulty that might arise when the 24th of May fell on Saturday, Sunday or Monday. The 24th of May is a statutory holiday and the schools are consequently closed. It is a day which all British subjects celebrate in a spirit of the deepest respect for Her Gracious Majesty, for her pre-eminence as "mother, wife and Queen," and of profoundest loyalty to their country because of the privileges which they as citizens enjoy. If the school day immediately preceding the 24th of May is set apart as "Empire Day," the exercises which may be designed for the afternoon of that day will have (at least during Her Majesty's reign) a depth of feeling which perhaps they might not have at any other season of the year: and even should the day be continued, (and I think it properly might be), after Her Majesty's demise, for this and the next generation or two, the recollection of Her illustrious reign will by reflection still quicken the pulse of the many hundreds of thousands of school children as they remember the greatness of the Empire over which she reigned so long.

The day preceding the 24th of May has other advantages. As a rule the season of the year is particularly favorable either for indoor or outdoor exercises. The rate-payers are less occupied in their varied pursuits than at any other season of the year; larger gatherings could be obtained at the various school houses than at any other season in the year; besides our annual examinations are a month or six weeks later, and the attention devoted to the exercises peculiar to this day would disturb the work of the school less than perhaps at any other season of the year.

I need not urge upon the Dominion Teachers' Association the desirability of taking action in this matter. The Association speaks for the whole Dominion. I think the voice of the people is in favor of a higher, a purer and a less selfish patriotism than perhaps we possess now, and nowhere can better motives be planted for an ideal national life than in the school room. There can be no future for Canada worthy of the traditions of the lands from which she has been stocked, or worthy of the opportunities for nationhood which now seem to be thrust upon her, unless we gird up our loins and with a resolute and studied purpose endeavor to develop a national spirit.

We are a young community, our educational advantages should make our patriotism broad and sympathetic. It is, therefore, in no narrow spirit, nor with a desire to exalt ourselves above our neighbors, nor to intrude upon the public in a blustering, arrogant manner, our love of