

## Primary and Rural School Department.

### "EMPIRE DAY" IN THE PRIMARY GRADES.

(Special to the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW).

Loyalty and love of country cannot be developed in the minds of little children by mere words. A lecture on patriotism will avail little; an appeal to the eye as well as to the ear, together with some suitable work for the busy fingers, will produce an impression much more lasting.

The making of paper flags is, perhaps, one of the best exercises that can be suggested. Though this work requires a little time on the part of the teacher for preparation of materials, yet, if carefully planned for, it can easily be carried out, and it is a profitable as well as pleasing occupation for the children. If considered too great an undertaking for the whole school, the older scholars may take this work, while the younger ones make paper chains of red, white and blue for the decoration of the schoolroom.

A few sheets of blue papers, such as is used for posters, can be had at trifling cost from any printing office, also a sheet or two of red paper, and the same quantity of white. Cut the blue paper into oblong pieces, about nine inches long and six and a half inches wide. Cut white strips, one inch wide and eleven inches long, also red strips of the same length, half an inch wide. Prepare some smooth flour paste, also swabs for applying it. The swab is easily and quickly made by wrapping a little piece of old cotton or muslin around a small stick about the size of a short pencil, tying the cloth on securely with coarse thread. Have sheets of heavy wrapping paper, or double sheets of newspaper, spread over the desks to keep them clean. Also have each child supplied with two pieces of old cotton for wiping paste off fingers and edges of paper. Small butter-plates, or doll's dishes, or even flat shells, may be used to hold the paste.

Before the work is begun, a short sketch of the history of our flag should be given by the teacher, with blackboard illustrations in colored chalk of the three separate crosses of which it is composed, St. Andrew's (Scotland) showing a diagonal white cross on blue field, St. Patrick's (Ireland) having a diagonal red cross on white field, and St. George's (England) also showing red on white, though

differently placed, *i. e.*, one bar being horizontal and the other vertical.

In a few simple words adapted to the understanding of the children, the story may be told of the three countries lying so close together, for many years warring against one another, each having its own flag and its own king, until, finally, they agreed to live together as friends, having the same king and the same flag. Then the question came as to which flag they should have; each country loved its own the best, and wanted it to be kept. At last they decided to keep all three, and, by uniting them, to make a fine "Union Jack" for all the British nation.

At this point in her story, the teacher may show how the three crosses were combined. On a blue field, as a background, place St. Andrew's cross; on it draw the narrower red cross of St. Patrick; across these draw wide horizontal and vertical white bars, and on them place the slightly narrower red cross of St. George.—Result, the Union Jack.

The children may now begin to make their paper flags. Paste first two white strips diagonally across the oblong blue paper, forming St. Andrew's cross. Paste two narrow red strips along the centre of these white ones, forming St. Patrick's cross. The next step is to paste a white strip through the middle of the flag lengthwise, and another white one across it at right angles, forming the white background for St. George's cross, which is completed by placing narrow red strips on these white ones.

After the ends of the long papers have been trimmed off with a pair of scissors, these flags should be put under some light weight until they are dry, when they may be fastened with small tacks to some slim sticks prepared for the purpose.

A valuable exercise for the children is the drawing of the complete flag on the blackboard with colored chalk. This may be done by even the smallest of the scholars. In this drawing the first cross to be outlined is that of St. George, as it appears continuous on top of the others, the diagonal lines being drawn from the corners to meet that cross.

A march round the room, or on the school grounds, to the music of some patriotic song, with the waving of small flags, serves as a very happy exercise for the early development of loyalty and patriotism.