

## Editorial Efforts

### EMPIRE DAY

WHEN you read these lines Empire Day will have come and gone. As far back as our memory goes, May 24th has been an institution in Canada. For was not this doggerel continually in the mouth of every schoolboy as Spring followed the long, cold Winter,—

The twenty-fourth of May  
Is the Queen's Birthday ;  
If you don't give us a holiday  
We'll all run away.

We looked forward to the Queen's Birthday with eagerness. The 24th of May was a useful guide for three things at least. The thrifty housewife must have her spring house-cleaning accomplished by that date or be disgraced ; every bit of planting must have been done in the kitchen garden ; it was a convenient date upon which to doff the heavy winter ones, and don the airy-fairy summer ones. It was a day of Caletumpian processions, and races and sports in Canadian towns and villages. Once we remember seeing a baloon ascension and parachute drop as a most wonderful attraction. Soon after daybreak enthusiastic youth fired their gunpowder tribute to the Queen, and the countryside was awakened by the reverberations of the reports.

Victoria the Good reigned sixty-four years, and the Queen's Birthday became so woven into the life of the Dominion, that when she passed away it was impossible to separate it from the warp and woof, and so Canada has continued to honour her birthday as Victoria Day. It is still the great holiday of the springtime. Educationists, however, felt that the school-children should have something more than the joys of a holiday, so they proposed exercises, with an Empire flavour, to be held in the schools on May 23rd, and this day has become known as Empire Day. Empire Day to honour the greatest Empire the world has ever seen, Victoria Day to honour the long and beneficent reign of one of the greatest monarchs of that realm, this is Canada's privilege. When we were boys Queen Victoria meant everything to us, the Empire little or nothing. *To-day* the Empire means everything. It's component parts are being cemented by the sacrificial blood of their sons upon the battlefield. The leading men of the Motherland and of the Dominions beyond the seas sit around the Empire's Council Board. What a unique opportunity hangs before the British Empire just now. Here's to Empire Day—three rousing cheers !

O. C. J. W.