

Empire Day.

The Public Schools of Ontario will on May 23rd next celebrate "Empire Day" for the first time. "Empire Day" is the name which has been given to the school day immediately preceding the 24th of May, and which will be annually devoted by the school children to exercises calculated to stimulate their interest in and their love of the great Empire of which this country forms a part. The selection of Empire Day is the result of a suggestion made by Hon. Geo. W. Ross, Minister of Education, in a paper read before the Dominion Educational Association last year. The educationists cordially approved of the idea and recommended its adoption.

The Minister of Education is sending to Public School inspectors for their guidance the following circular dealing with the subject:—

"At a meeting of the Dominion Educational Association, held at Halifax, Nova Scotia, in August 1898, the following resolution was unanimously adopted:—

"Resolved, that the association recommends that the school day immediately preceding the 24th of May be set apart as Empire Day, and that the Education Department in the Provinces and Territories be respectfully requested to arrange for such exercises in their respective schools as will tend to the increase of a sound patriotic feeling."

"The Council of Public Instruction for the Province of Nova Scotia and the Protestant section of the Council of Public Instruction for Quebec have already acted on the recommendation above stated, and the Education Department of Ontario, on the 1st day of March, 1899, adopted the following minute:—

"The school day immediately preceding the 24th of May shall be devoted specially to the study of the history of Canada in its relation to the British Empire, and to such other exercises as might tend to increase the interest of the pupils in the history of their own country and strengthen their attachment to the Empire to which they belong—such day to be known as Empire Day."

"According to the minute quoted above, Empire Day this year falls on Tuesday, May 23rd. It is not necessary that I should specify in detail how the day should be observed. The outline given below might be taken generally as a guide to teachers and trustees:—

"Part of the forenoon might be occupied with a familiar talk by the teacher on the British Empire, its extent and resources; the relation of Canada to the Empire; the unity of the Empire and its advantages; the privileges which, as British subjects, we enjoy; the extent of Canada and its resources; reading from Canadian and British authors by the teacher; interesting historical incidents in connection with our own country. The aim of the teacher in all his references to Canada and the Empire should be to make Canadian patriotism intelligent, comprehensive and strong."

"The afternoon, commencing at 2:30 o'clock, might be occupied with patriotic recitations, songs, readings by the pupils and speeches by trustees, clergymen and such other persons as may be available. The trustees and public generally should be invited to be present at these exercises. During the day the British flag or Canadian ensign should be hoisted over the school building. Will you kindly inform the teachers of your inspectorial district of the action of the department and of the purposes of Empire Day as herein set forth?"

G. W. Ross.



J. L. BROUGHTON, Winnipeg, D. D. elect.

The Blue Jacket Song.

BY REV. JNO. KINGSTON, R.N.

"Bear a hand," all ye Englishmen true,
And heartily join in the toast
To our gallant defenders in blue,
The men of whom justly we boast.

Oh! the merry blue-jacket,
With his fun and his racket,
The merry blue-jacket for me!
Oh! the merry blue-jacket,
With his fun and his racket,

Sometimes at "salt horse" he may grumble
And sulk when his leave is curtailed,
Yet out of his hammock he'll tumble
To die when the flag is assailed.

We are proud of our soldiers in red;
We value our soldiers in green;
And everything good must be said
Of amphibious Joe, the Marine.

Yes, we'll honor these men of the sea,
So loyal, so childlike, so brave,
For we feel that wherever they be,
Old England will ride on the wave.

Canada to Her Counselors.

(Apropos of the Anglo-American Commission.)

This Northern clime may bite, but still it breeds
A race of men with brain and sinew, such
That never yet
Has Southern power, with all its might, prevailed
When pitted 'gainst it,
At least, 'twas so when we were led by men
Who knew their country's temper, and were true
Unto their charge.

But still there dwell among you not a few
(Most loyal men at heart, and well intentioned)
Who ever seek for favors, cap in hand,
When dealing with my neighbor to the South.

Unto the South let me this tribute pay:
That she is served by sons who know her needs,
And with eyes single to the country's good,
Have made her what she is,
But, like all mankind, they do most respect
Those who respect themselves.

Now, to my head-men let me speak again—
I blame ye not for that which ye have done;
Ye did but try,
With simple faith,
To get by favor what she would not give.

Now, lay this rule of guidance to your souls:—
NO FAVORS ASK,
And it must follow, sure as any fate,
YE CANNOT BE DENIED.

Another truth sink deep within your minds:—
Time is your servant true:
The South doth covet much which ye now hold,
And in due time, perforce, must pay the price.

These things I tell ye now, though never doubting
That in your hearts ye will to serve me well;
But yet my word to you must ever be,
Respect yourselves,

AND ME.

H. H. GODFREY.

Toronto, March 31st.