

WHAT DATE SHOULD THANKSGIVING DAY BE?

A GENERAL COMPLAINT THAT IT IS NOW TOO LATE IN THE SEASON.

MERCHANTS ALL OVER CANADA EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THE BEST DATE, AND THE OBJECTIONS TO THAT NOW IN VOGUE

THERE is a strong feeling among the merchants of Canada that our Thanksgiving Day is fixed too late in the season. For some years past, this opinion has been growing, partly because the weather has proved inclement, and partly because a date late in November seems to have become the rule.

On looking up the record for the past four years, it appears that the dates chosen have all been late in November. For instance, last Thanksgiving Day came on Thursday, Nov. 25, in 1896, it was on Nov. 26; in 1895, on Nov. 21, and, in 1894, on Nov. 22. There is a point in connection with the choice of date which deserves consideration. In fact, one firm—that of G. E. Smith & Co., Halifax—in writing us, make special reference to it. That is, the question of having the date identical with Thanksgiving Day in the United States. Certainly, if, as in 1894 and 1895, the Canadian Thanksgiving is fixed for so late a date as the third week in November, it might just as well be made the same as the United States day. This is not so much a matter of neighborliness as a question of convenience. There is a suspension of business in both countries on Thanksgiving, and it often proves convenient to have the day the same.

However, the general opinion seems to be that November is too late altogether. Climatic conditions are not the same in the two countries, and there appears to be no sound reason why the conditions in Canada and the wishes of the Canadian people should not alone determine the date chosen. A large number of merchants, in different parts of Canada, have expressed their views, and these are quoted below. It will be seen that, while they are not all agreed upon a fixed date, they are nearly all, with very few exceptions, of opinion that the latter part of November is too late.

HALF WAY BETWEEN TWO OTHER HOLIDAYS.

Guillet Bros., Cobourg, Ont.: We are strongly in favor of a change in the date of Thanksgiving Day. The complaint is general in and around Cobourg that, it has always been too late in the year. One month earlier, or the last Thursday in October, would be a far more suitable time. The weather is likely to be much better, and then the holiday would come about half way between Labor Day and Christmas.

A. R. Woodyatt & Co., Guelph, Ont.: We have no preference as to which month Thanksgiving Day should come in. It is all the same to us, but we would like to see it nearer the middle of the month, as the end and beginning of each month are always very busy seasons with us.

Brock & Paterson, St. John, N.B.: We are in favor of a change in the date of Thanksgiving Day, and consider the last Thursday in October a very suitable date.

A STRONG PROTEST AGAINST A LATE DATE.

A. E. Micks, of Micks & Cox, Peterborough, Ont.: Thanksgiving Day has been so very late that it always rained or was snowing and really was no use for outside sport. The only way to put in the day was to sit by a good warm stove and give thanks, or be thankful that you were not out in the cold. I would say about the last week in October, say Thursday, be appointed as Thanksgiving Day, and if you can so bring the matter before His Excellency to have it changed to that date, you will do a great deal for suffering

humanity, and place us all under an obligation. Thanking you for the interest you are taking in the matter.

T. N. Hobley, Barrie, Ont.: Very much in favor of a change of date. Everybody in this neighborhood laments the lateness of Thanksgiving Day. From about the middle to the last of October would do, while I think the last Thursday in October would be about right.

MAKING IT THE SAME AS IN THE STATES.

Geo. E. Smith & Co., Halifax, N.S.: We are not in favor of the change of the date. We think the last Thursday in November would be the best date. One of our principal reasons is that it conforms with the date set down by the American Government to be observed as Thanksgiving Day. We do not mean by this that the Canadians are supposed to follow the Americans in every particular, but, in the matter of Thanksgiving Day, it looks friendly for two nations, side by side, to observe the same day.

Hobbs Hardware Co., London, Ont.: Thanksgiving should be held directly after Manitoba's and the Northwest's harvests are gathered, say, about the end of October.

G. A. Richardson, Guelph, Ont.: Most decidedly favor a change of date. The last Thursday in October, or even earlier, would be suitable.

T. Drifill & Sons, Bradford, Ont.: We very heartily agree with John T. James, of Bridgeburg, in his letter in last issue, re date of Thanksgiving Day. His arguments are so clear and conclusive that we think it quite unnecessary to add anything further. There is just one thing we would suggest as a decided advantage. That is, to have the holiday on a Friday or Monday. This would be a great boon to thousands of our school teachers, who could go to their homes and have three day's rest and enjoyment, Friday, Saturday and Sunday, or Saturday, Sunday and Monday. Either of these days would suit the general public. We would very strongly urge the Monday (say the last Monday in October), as being the most suitable that could be selected. We will be very glad if you will press these views (if you concur in them), on the Government.

Kingan & Allen, Peterboro, Ont.: We think a change with reference to the date of Thanksgiving Day would be a decided advantage, and consider the last Thursday in October a convenient day to settle on.

G. R. Hannah, Shelburne, Ont.: Favors a change in regard to Thanksgiving Day, as the last of November is generally wet and disagreeable, and is heartily in favor of the last Thursday in October.

Pratt & Watkins, Hamilton, Ont.: Favor a change of date, and think the last Thursday in October would suit.

W. J. Harbottle, Cardinal, Ont.: Thinks a change should be made, and approves the last week in October.

Bryson, Graham & Co., Ottawa: Favor the last Monday in October as a date for Thanksgiving Day.

NOVEMBER A DISAGREEABLE MONTH.

J. Fennell & Son, Berlin, Ont.: Favor a change of date, and would recommend the middle of October at the latest. November is the most disagreeable month of the year, and the selection of the latter part of it as a Thanksgiving Day would seem to be done for