

### The History of Empire Day.

Where in the King's Dominions was Empire Day first celebrated? It was first celebrated in Canada. Mrs. Fessenden of Hamilton, Ontario, did much to bring it about, so did Hon. Geo. W. Ross, late Minister of Education in Ontario, now Senator Ross; and to the influence of Lord Meath more is due than to any other single person in making it a real Empire Day throughout the King's Dominions.

Pamphlets and newspaper articles have been written to prove that Mrs. Fessenden or Mr. Ross originated the idea. But it cannot be said that Empire Day originated with them, although they did much to put the idea into practical shape. The simple and fairest way would be to regard it as the product of the experience and planning of many people working along similar lines. This opinion should have weight with those who would ascribe to one person the merit of originating the idea.

In the EDUCATIONAL REVIEW for June, 1890, there appeared a model lesson for the schools on the "Union Jack," from the pen of one of its editors, Dr. A. H. MacKay, now Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia. This lesson, illustrated with home-drawn figures, was expressly intended to aid instruction on the flag and the Empire, on flag days, the 24th of May and July 1st being mentioned. It is re-produced in this issue, just as it appeared in 1890, to show that it has the germ of Empire Day in it.

The REVIEW does not claim to have originated Empire Day, but it modestly puts forth the claim to have been one of the forces working in that direction. The merit of "discovering" Empire Day, as we have before said, belongs to no individual. It should be regarded as anonymous, or as being evolved from the thought and experience of many individuals, working in many ways and through many years.

### A New List of Plants.

Our readers will be pleased to learn that a new list of the plants of the Maritime Provinces has been in course of preparation for some months past. It was intended to publish this list early this summer and to send a free copy to each teacher in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick and Prince Edward Island. Owing to a press of work in the Government Printing Bureau at Ottawa, where the list will be published, it has been found necessary to

change this plan, and the work will probably not be completed until early next winter.

The list will give the common and scientific names of the ferns and flowering plants known to occur in the Maritime Provinces with notes on their distribution, places where they have been found, if not common, and the names of observers. The system of naming the plants will follow that adopted in the seventh Edition of Gray's Manual of Botany.

The editor of this annotated list is Professor John Macoun, the veteran botanist, who has been a most enthusiastic student of plants all his life, and who, since the organization of the Geological and Natural History Survey of Canada, has held the position of government botanist. He has explored every province of the Dominion, has studied the plants and their environment during years of unremitting intelligent work, and his name is known throughout the world as the highest authority on Canadian plants.

Professor Macoun is assisted in this work of preparing a new list of Maritime Province plants by Dr. A. H. MacKay of Nova Scotia, G. U. Hay of New Brunswick and L. W. Watson of Prince Edward Island, who, in addition to assistance in editing the list, will contribute a historical sketch of the botany of the provinces they represent.

It is important that every student of plants in these provinces should be diligent in collecting and studying the rarer plants and investigating sections not previously well known to plant-students, and in sending the results of their investigations to the above named committee of editors for these provinces. All such results should be in their hands before the middle of August.

The secretary of the Summer School of Science reports a larger number of applications for membership than in former years. Dr. D. W. Hamilton of the Fredericton Normal School staff will have charge of the department of agriculture and school gardening, made vacant by the removal of Dr. Andrews to Regina. Professor H. H. Hagerman, of the normal school staff, will be the instructor in drawing, Professor Barlow being unable to attend. The board of management have been fortunate in securing the services of such competent instructors as Professors Hamilton and Hagerman. Persons intending to attend the school should make early application to the secretary, J. D. Seaman, Charlottetown, P. E. I.