

# Canadian Pictorial

VOL. 5, No. 6

One Dollar  
a Year

MAY, 1910

142 St. Peter Street  
Montreal

PRICE 10 CENTS

## The Colors of Our Flag

What is the Blue on our flag, boys?  
The waves of the boundless sea,  
Where our vessels ride in their tameless pride,  
And the feet of the winds are free;  
From the sun and smiles of the coral isles  
To the ice of the South and North,  
With dauntless tread through tempests dread  
The guardian ships go forth.

What is the White on our flag, boys?  
The honor of our land,  
Which burns in our sight like a beacon light,  
And stands while the hills shall stand;  
Yea, dearer than fame is our land's great name,  
And we fight, wherever we be,  
For the mothers and wives that pray for the lives  
Of the brave hearts over the sea.

What is the Red on our flag, boys?  
The blood of our heroes slain  
On the burning sands in the wild, waste lands  
And the froth of the purple main.  
And it cries to God from the crimsoned sod,  
And the crest of the waves outrolled,  
That He send us men to fight again  
As our fathers fought of old.

We'll stand by the dear old flag, boys,  
Whatever be said or done,  
Though the shots come fast as we face the blast  
And the foe be ten to one;  
Though our only reward be the thrust of a sword,  
Or a bullet in heart or brain,  
What matters one gone, if the flag float on,  
And Britain be lord of the main!

—Frederick George Scott

## The Meaning of Empire Day

**A** DOZEN years ago there was no Empire Day; last year six and a half million children and as many adults took an active part in its celebration in various parts of the world. Canadians have the right to feel more directly interested in these celebrations than any other branch of the great Empire-family, for the idea was born in Canada. In 1898 Mrs. Clementina Fessenden, of Hamilton, Ontario, carried out a plan that she had had in mind for some time, and succeeded in persuading the School Board of her own city to celebrate as Empire Day May 23rd, or the last school day before Queen Victoria's birthday, May 24th. The same year the Dominion Teachers' Association heartily approved of the plan, and the School Boards of the towns and villages, as well as the cities, throughout Canada, set about observing the day in such a way as to make a very deep impression on the young Canadians taking part in it. But even the wide borders of Canada were not wide enough to keep the celebration within them. The idea spread to the Motherland, and the Earl of Meath, a notable worker for Empire, took it up with the enthusiasm for which he is renowned, and for seven years Empire Day has been a recognized institution in the United Kingdom and the Dominions of the King Overseas. In Great Britain it has secured the firm support of the Education Committees for no fewer than 38 counties, 137 boroughs, and 38 urban districts, having under their control some 17,820 schools and upwards of three and a half million scholars. The total number of schools within the Empire which have been officially reported to Lord Meath as keeping, or about to keep, Empire Day, amounts to 51,122, and the approximate number of scholars attending these schools is almost seven million.

A few years ago the Canadian Government issued a postage stamp bearing this inscription: "A vaster Empire than has been." This was no idle boast; it was literally true. The area

of the British Empire and its Protectorates to-day is, in round figures, twelve million square miles—more than one-fifth of the total land-surface of the world, and the population exceeds four hundred millions—more than one-fifth of the world's inhabitants. When Queen Victoria ascended the throne she ruled over only 8,329,000 square miles, and the territory remained about the same until after 1861. The tremendous increase in territory has been accomplished since then; that is, in fifty years the area of Britain's possessions has been increased fifty per cent.

But we as Britishers have more than mere material prosperity of which to be proud. We have a great and glorious history, and we have the record of a rule that is a synonym for liberty. Under the British flag thousands have found protection when there was no other human agency strong enough to shield them. The annals of our Army and Navy are filled with glorious achievements, the bare recital of which stirs the blood and stimulates the highest patriotism. And a true patriot is the noblest citizen of any country. This is what the Earl of Meath said in a ringing Empire Day message last year: "The greatness or the weakness of the State depends on the high or low average standard of the characters of the individuals who compose that State. The Empire Movement aims at raising this average standard. Will you who read these few lines join the movement, and endeavor so to live, and so to induce others to live, as to raise within the sphere of your influence the average standard of national character within the British Empire, remembering that the watchwords of the movement are 'Responsibility, Duty, Sympathy, and Self-Sacrifice'?"

This, then, is the meaning of Empire Day. It aims at a higher ideal of citizenship. It was not instituted to stimulate boastful pride, but to nurture a feeling of responsibility in the hearts of the young so that they may hear the call of Duty and see the nobility of Self-Sacrifice.