

24322

Zealand, India and the smaller colonies, having one day in common, is compelling enough to justify the fullest support of all. For the united power of these nations is so vast that such a day would unquestionably have a powerful influence on world peace and in the reduction of excessive expenditures on armies and navies everywhere.

It is not a question of multiplying days of commemoration, for if the Irish have March 17th and Catholics generally Columbus Day, why not a day for the English-speaking people as a whole and especially since it is to commemorate the peace of the English-speaking world?

I do not claim that such a day would prevent war, but I do feel that with every observance a world war would be rendered just that much more difficult. Nor do I advocate this day for the greater glory alone of the parent stocks of the English speaking races, but for the general benefit of all the inhabitants of these two mighty empires regardless of race or faith, which under the providence of God are giving civil and religious liberty to one-third of the world's area and population. The German, the Scandinavian, the Italian and others should feel that the closer the union of the widely scattered English-speaking peoples, none of which are actuated by further lust of territory, will have the

2

24323

greatest possible influence on world peace, and in that way benefit their respective native countries. Therefore every resident of the six nations not of native birth but loyal to their best interest, should join in favor of this day, for it will in time mean much to the country of his birth with relation to reduction in war expenses and conscription.

A second thought in connection with this plan is to either give a holiday on the preceding Friday afternoon to all public school pupils or to have special exercises in the afternoon. Our country and Greater Britain are receiving every decade millions of aliens who with their children would receive from this holiday a broader idea of what the English-speaking peoples stand for.

The commemoration has been approved by those quoted below and by many whom I am not at liberty to mention.

It has been suggested that World Peace Day, May 17th, would be a suitable day, but it has been decided that the English-speaking nations in view of their great history and the important event we will soon celebrate should have a separate day for themselves.

UNITED STATES.

James B. Forgan, Esq., President First National Bank, Chicago: "The plan is a very good one and I hope it may be inaugurated."

3

W. L. Mackenzie King Papers

Volume 27

PUBLIC ARCHIVES PUBLIQUES
CANADA