

pire Day" was established, and in my humble opinion no wiser move was ever made by our Board of Education.

It might not be out of place to inquire why something of this kind had not been attempted before. It was thought unnecessary for several reasons. 1st—A large proportion of our people have come from other parts of the British Empire. 2nd—Those who have come to us from other countries have sought refuge from tyranny under our flag, or are the descendants of a conquered people admitted without restriction to all the privileges of full citizenship. 3rd—We have been so firmly convinced that we have the freest country under the sun that we did not think it necessary to proclaim the fact to all and sundry.

Under such circumstances it might be asked why "Empire Day" is necessary now. My answer is: 1st—The tide of foreign immigration is beginning to set strongly in our direction. 2nd—We have been heretofore so afraid of "spread-eagleism" that many of our young people know absolutely nothing of the glorious achievements by which our Empire has been won. 3rd—The persistent and extravagant praise of their country and her institutions by our neighbors to the South needs some counter action to prevent our young people being deceived thereby. 4th—The acts of Paul Kruger and his allies have consolidated the British Empire, and made us an integral part of it, rather than remain a colony, or set up national housekeeping for ourselves. 5th—To know the truth about our Empire, and what our flag represents is enough to inspire one with an undying love of the one, and a readiness to shed one's blood in defence of the other. 6th—Lessons learned in early life cling to one with the greatest tenacity, and have the most influence in moulding the character.

We are indebted to Mrs. Fessenden, an Ontario lady, for the idea of "Empire Day." May it be an enduring monument to her memory from generation to generation. She noticed what an absorbing interest her little granddaughter took in the proceedings of an Historical Society, to which she had been elected out of courtesy to her grandmother. Through correspondence Mrs. Fessenden impressed her views upon the Minister of Education for Ontario, and Empire Day was established in the schools of that province in 1898. The matter was discussed at the meeting of the Canadian National Educational Association, in Halifax, in 1899. Shortly after the meeting of that body the Council of Public Instruction of Nova Scotia established an Empire Day for the schools of that province.

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