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13 June, 1911.]

CELEBRATION OF KING'S BIRTHDAY.

[8th Day.

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Sir JOSEPH WARD: I beg to move "That in the opinion of the Imperial Conference it is desirable that Empire Day or Victoria Day should be celebrated on the Monarch's birthday throughout the British Empire."

The CHAIRMAN: "Celebrated in the Dominions."

Sir JOSEPH WARD: In the Old Country too.

The CHAIRMAN: We have no official celebration of Empire Day here.

Mr. MALAN: No; but the King's birthday.

The CHAIRMAN: Empire Day has never been adopted by the Imperial Government; flags are not flown on public buildings on that day.

Sir JOSEPH WARD: I think we ought to suggest they should do it.

The CHAIRMAN: I think you had better let us celebrate our King's birthday.

Sir JOSEPH WARD: Then I will say, "throughout the self-governing Dominions."

The CHAIRMAN: We will see what Sir Wilfrid Laurier says to that.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: For my part, I stick to the 24th May.

Sir JOSEPH WARD: Then you need not alter it. I think you will find it inconvenient to have the King's birthday on the 3rd June and Empire Day on the 24th May in any case.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I am quite willing to say Victoria Day or Empire Day, but now you want to substitute the 3rd June instead of the 24th May, and I feel then that we must suppress the 24th May.

Sir JOSEPH WARD: We cannot continue the 24th May in New Zealand and the 3rd June also in New Zealand. I very much doubt whether the people in our country would have two holidays so close together.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: I agree with you, but I understand we can celebrate the King's birthday not as a legal holiday. You never observed the 9th November as the late King's birthday.

Sir JOSEPH WARD: Yes; always.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: In what respect—as a legal holiday?

Sir JOSEPH WARD: Yes.

Sir WILFRID LAURIER: It was not so with us.

General BOTHA: There is another way out, Mr. Harcourt, if you leave Empire Day entirely out.

The CHAIRMAN: This is really a domestic matter for the Dominions, and I do not take part in it, because officially we do not celebrate Empire Day here.