

attention to the proper rearing of the youth of our land! Let us have children with strong, well-developed bodies and alert, carefully-trained minds! Let us turn our attention to this great problem of laying a solid foundation for the Canada of the future. There are in this vast Dominion thousands of these people from other lands and they are multiplying at a very rapid rate. Comparatively few assimilative forces are at work. We are at that critical period which comes in the life of every nation when fundamental principles of nation-building must be carefully outlined and as carefully adhered to. "The future of our country to a very great extent, if not wholly, depends upon the next ten years in our elementary schools". If the children of these new comers—the new Canadians in the truest sense of the term—are not given a proper education in the English language and are not properly introduced to a knowledge of the best in Canadian life during the next decade, we cannot expect to lay solidly the foundation of future strength and greatness. The School Fair will play a very important part in this great national work.

Book Reviews

Defence and Foreign Affairs, by Z. A. Lash. 86 pages. Price 50 cents. The Macmillan Co. of Canada, Ltd. In this interesting little book Mr. Lash outlines a plan for the reorganisation of the British Empire which, he believes, will bring unity and strength to the Empire, while making the minimum change in its constitution. He would create an Imperial Council representing Great Britain, the Dominions, and India, which would have control of foreign affairs, the Imperial Army and the Royal Navy. The present Imperial Parliament would continue to be the general legislative body for the Empire, and its authority would be limited only with regard to foreign affairs and defence. The Dominion Parliaments would still control local Dominion affairs, and even local Dominion armies and navies in times of peace. This new Imperial Council would be small in size, would have both executive and legislative power, and, Mr. Lash hopes, would not be run on party lines. As in other schemes of empire reorganisation the most difficult matter is that of finance. Mr. Lash's Imperial Council would have the power to levy taxes on the different parts of the Empire, and, presumably, to levy military and naval forces, at least on Great Britain. This new plan is put forward as an alternative to that advocated by Mr. Curtis, and is a very useful contribution to the discussion of an exceedingly difficult problem.

C. M. J.

Commerce and Industry, by J. Russel Smith; published by Henry Holt & Co., New York. 596 pages. This commercial geography is based on the author's larger volume *Industrial and Commercial Geography*; and like the former it is in many respects an excellent book. There are two ways of treating commercial geography, one focuses the geography around the region, the other around the product. The present volume endeavours to combine the two, and does it with conspicuous success. Unfortunately it devotes an inordinate amount of space to the United States, even for an American text—about half of the volume being devoted to that country, while Canada is discussed in about seven pages. Nevertheless there are so many fresh ways of dealing with geographical topics that it can be recommended to Canadian teachers.

G. A. C.