

REVIEW OF RECENT LITERATURE
ON THE SUBJECT OF
THE RELATIONS OF CANADA TO
THE EMPIRE

Democracy and Empire. By A. E. Duchesne. (Royal Colonial Institute Monographs.) Toronto: Oxford University Press, 1916. Pp. viii, 120.

Cleon's famous remark that "a democracy cannot govern an empire" has done duty on many an examination paper. In attempting a serious enquiry into its truth Mr. Duchesne has furnished students of the Empire and its problems with more valuable and detailed information on the dependencies of the crown than, we believe, can be found anywhere in the same compass. For the excellence of these later chapters and the graphical appendices one can well forgive a slightly youthful Toryism in the earlier part and the use of "proletariate" on page 9 and "proletarian" on page 19.

Mr. Duchesne might also have gone to Thucydides for the conception, on which he does well to insist, that democracy must mean the whole people and not the People, for the speech of Athenagoras (VI. 39) makes the first announcement of this political wisdom.

Of course, Mr. Duchesne's finding is that history on the whole bears Cleon out, with reservation in the case of France, where Democracy has certainly done better than Empire. This is due partly to common citizenship between the more advanced colonies and the mother country, and partly to the fact that "the average Frenchman, not being a prospective colonist himself, has very little interest in colonial matters, which are therefore left to experts". This latter reason reminds one of the passive virtue which Aristotle and Mommsen find in undeveloped democracy. Mr. Duchesne emphasizes the necessity of trusting the "man on the spot", and it surely remains the wisdom of democracy