

PREFACE

I REGRETFULLY realize that this is a scolding, preaching, fault-finding sort of book, only mildly constructive. And Canada is not used to having her institutions libelled in book form. In Great Britain, on the other hand, every week or so, some unlicensed crank writes a volume on how to run the Empire, which, of course, no one ever takes seriously. The patronage and encouragement of this sort of thing by Hyde Park speaks volumes for the patriotism of British publishers! However, the precedent is now set in Canada, for better or for worse.

There seems to be, somewhere, an unwritten law to the effect that no man shall write a book on any subject upon which he is not a recognised authority. This rule, of course, is frequently and painfully violated. It is going to be flagrantly transgressed in this case. Much of what appears in the following pages has doubtless been said before, and probably much more effectively than I am able to say it. The whole contents are merely random reflections on leading political and social questions of the day. If I have any apology to offer for inflicting these upon the public in book form, it is, that I have perhaps enjoyed somewhat exceptional opportunities, in the course of a wildly varied career, of observing many of these problems from more than one angle.