

are: that all legal restrictions of the power of Dominion Parliaments to regulate merchant shipping should be removed; and that in the interest of Imperial unity, the Dominions should give free and unrestricted entry into their territories to all educated British Indian subjects. In connection with this last suggestion, the right of India to representation at the Imperial Conference is strongly urged.

As regards constitutional developments of a more positive character, Dr. Keith preserves an attitude of critical aloofness. Certainly he does not expect or desire the speedy realization of a federal executive responsible to a federal parliament. The possibilities of Imperial Conferences are subjected to a searching analysis with the conclusion that there is very little that they can usefully undertake. The precedent set by Sir Robert Borden in having a member of his Cabinet permanently resident in London is approved; but it is a practice which the other Dominions may not readily follow; first, "because of the reluctance of any Dominion to imitate another;" secondly, because the prolonged absence of a minister from home might prove an embarrassment, particularly in Australia and New Zealand, where parties are often very evenly balanced.

Dr. Keith believes in the Empire and its destiny. He does not believe in forcing the pace. "The attainment of true organic unity for so great an Empire and so diverse elements, scattered widely in space, is a task far exceeding that of any federation yet accomplished, and it may well be that the form which ultimately will be evolved will be one which has no existing parallel."

#### "I POSE."

*Stella Benson. Macmillan Co., Toronto, 1916, \$1.25.*

One might paraphrase "Hedda Gabler's" "girl with the irritating hair," and call this "the book with the irritating style." It has many other qualities, many of them good. It is clever, it is amusing, it has originality, and when the author allows the pose to slip, it is genuinely moving. But one would welcome more breathing-space between its self-conscious clevernesses.

The story itself is restful in its total abstinence from probability; no one can feel bound to criticize it from the point of view of verisimilitude. It blends farce and sheer romance; and the characters in it are for the most part entertaining caricatures, showing only an occasional tendency to serious characterization. A penniless hero, sent on an errand across the ocean by the acquaintance of a night; a suffragette of incendiary intentions, with whom he blamelessly elopes, for the safety of England; their adventures with an earthquake: behold the principal materials of the tale. The mocking touch with which they are handled is not incompatible with occasional strokes of hard sincerity; for instance, the writer's insistence