

than the limited and closely-packed square miles of the Mother Country. Still it is and must be of the utmost value to study on what lines advanced British democracy has gone forward; how far Labour, when placed in power, has risen to its responsibilities; how far State action and Government expenditure have been fruitful, as compared with private enterprise. The old nation can learn much from the young peoples of the Empire, and it must be confessed that the overseas democracies have a keener and stronger appreciation of the meaning and value of the Empire than the majority of home-bred citizens. In his concluding chapter, Sir Charles Wade gives his views as to the future relationship between the Mother Country and the King's Dominions beyond the seas. The subject is far too large and too controversial to be treated in a few lines of Preface, but when he pleads for two things, 'a wider knowledge and a closer sympathy', he is not merely uttering amiable platitudes with which all can agree. Wider knowledge and closer sympathy are the *sine qua non* of a permanently United Empire. Constitutional reconstruction is at the best a hazardous enterprise, and in any case no constitutional or political readjustments will avail unless the men and women of the Empire know, like, and trust each other, and wish to go hand in hand through the centuries. This bed-rock of Empire can only be secured by wider knowledge and closer sympathy; the busy millions of our crowded island must be brought to appreciate it; they must be given to understand that it is not an easy task for an old people and young peoples to fit into each others' ways of life and to comprehend each others' points of view. This constitutes the value of such a book as Sir Charles Wade has written, and I earnestly hope that it will be widely read and studied.

C. P. LUCAS.

June, 1919.