

in for modern history, and won both the Gladstone prize for historical essay and the Brassey studentship of one hundred pounds sterling for use in research work in colonial history. In that connection, Mr. Martin has specialised on the history of the Canadian West and of Lord Selkirk, examining documents both in the old land and in the Canadian archives, where he has been for some years assistant to Dr. Doughty. Mr. Martin is a young man. Twenty-seven years of age and full of enthusiasm, he is the right sort of man to tackle the historical problems of the West with a free hand, realising that a country which changes with such lightning rapidity is a big field for the cool calm work of the historian.

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The Son of a Pedagogue

A PEDAGOGUE son of a pedagogue is about as uncommon an occurrence anywhere as a preacher's son in a pulpit. Mr. F. J. Birchard is an example. He is the son of a man who has the distinction of having written one of the driest books in the world—the High School Algebra, both past and present. Birchard's Algebra has been the intellectual despair and stimulus of thousands of Canadian youth. It probably gave young Frederick James Birchard as many scholastic thrills as he has ever got since it was written in Brantford, in the days when his father was mathematical preceptor in the homely old white brick Collegiate Institute there. The young man took mathematics in large doses when he matriculated and went to Toronto University, besides a liberal infusion of science, English and history; graduating in 1901 in chemistry and physics. Mr. Birchard taught these subjects in St. Andrew's College for two years before going to Leipzig, where he went in for original research in physiological chemistry. This is a very abstruse and highly modern subject. Mr. Birchard has chosen it for a life work; and if he should live as many years as the binomial theorem invented by his father is able to compute, he would never be able to find out all there is to know about it. The career of Mr. Birchard is noteworthy. In this commercial age intellectual pursuits attract few young Canadians. A few years ago Canadian colleges turned out hundreds of chaps who spent their lives in academics.

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An Educational Itinerant

ANOTHER young Canadian who has had a career varied almost to a point of romance is Mr. W. A. Kirkwood, of Brampton, Ont. Mr. Kirkwood was for a whole year instructor in English at the International College at Smyrna, Turkey. He escaped a few years before the recent theatrical episodes, and before he had succeeded in teaching Abdul Hamid the manners of an Englishman. Mr. Kirkwood was born at Rockside, Township of Caledon, in Peel County; educated at Brampton High School; graduated at Toronto University in 1895; taught in Walkerton High School and at Ridley College, St. Catharines—from which quiet town he went to Turkey. After Smyrna he went to Athens, where he put in a year at the British School of Archaeology. Then he came back to Canada and became classical master at St. Andrew's College, Toronto, after which he studied at Chicago University and at Harvard, of which he is both an A. M. and a Ph. D. He was recently made lecturer in classics at Trinity College, Toronto.

REFLECTIONS

CANADA'S delegates to the Imperial Defence Conference seem to be having a rather serious time. The proceedings of the meetings have been kept secret, but the cable correspondents have been fairly well posted as to the general trend of the discussion. The despatches though brief have been fairly illuminating. It will be found later, in all probability, that these despatches are also fairly correct.

With regard to the Canadian army and its relation to Imperial Organisation there seems to be a little room for a difference of opinion. Every person is agreed that the British army should be controlled from London, the Canadian army from Ottawa, and the other colonial forces from the various colonial capitals. In this respect colonial autonomy is triumphant. No doubt there are a number of people in Great Britain who believe the best interests of the Empire would be served by placing all the forces of the Empire under a central control which would be authoritative both in time of peace and in time of war. This body of opinion is not, however, sufficiently large to exert any great influence. The British representatives to the present congress seem to have agreed with the representatives of the Dominions-Over-Seas that in the matter of land forces local authority should have full control in time of peace. They have also agreed apparently that in time of war the colonial military contributions shall be a matter of mutual arrangement.

Colonial autonomy in military matters is not inconsistent with a somewhat uniform Imperial army organisation. At present the Canadian army is trained along British lines and when modifications

in the ordinary British system of training are made, these modifications are more or less closely followed in Canada. If Lord Kitchener should be appointed as Special Military Organiser of the forces throughout the Empire, he would no doubt carry the work of unification farther than it has been carried. He would make suggestions to the London authorities, to the Canadian authorities, to the Australian heads of the army and so on, which would probably bring all these forces into a general system based upon principles which are applicable throughout the Empire, with local modifications.



MILITARY questions have been in the process of settlement for about forty years; naval questions are much newer. It has long been customary for the Dominions to have their own land armies while none of them have yet developed colonial navies. Now, the time has come in the development of these Dominions when the naval situation must be faced. It has been looming large on the horizon for some years, but it was only recently that it got high enough to give the people pause. There were so many other problems demanding the attention of the colonial governments that they felt justified in placing the naval question at the bottom of the agenda.

Canada showed some signs of taking an interest in naval matters when she took over the naval shipyards and dry-docks at Esquimalt. Newfoundland made a beginning ten years ago when she began the formation of a naval reserve, which now amounts to one thousand trained men. Australia and some of the other colonies have been making direct contributions to the British navy. Now the hour has arrived for a much larger and more responsible development. Canada and Australia propose to have navies of their own. It is this proposal which has given rise to the present Imperial Defence Conference.



IF Canada builds a fleet, shall it be under the control, in time of peace, of Canadian admirals or British admirals? That is the great question, and the one which has been disturbing the Imperial Defence Conference. There are arguments for and against.

It may even be that this question will work its way into politics and that the political parties may take opposite sides. The Liberals will certainly maintain that the Canadian navy shall be directed always from Ottawa, except that in time of war the vessels may pass if the people so decide, under the control of a central defence committee. The Conservatives may maintain that the fleet shall be an integral portion of the Imperial fleet and shall at all times be subject to Imperial direction; in other words, it shall be our direct contribution to the defence of an Empire which is one and indivisible. If the British Admiralty takes the latter view, the Conservative party may feel inclined to agree.

Aside from this speculation as to the attitude the parties may take, the question is one which Canadians should seriously consider. A Canadian-built, Canadian-manned and Canadian-controlled fleet would be a national pride. If it were officered by British, rather than Imperial officers, and were to be at the beck and call of the British Admiralty, would such circumstances be consistent with our national pride? Those who feel the thrill of nationality most keenly will probably answer, no. On the other hand, there are many who will reply in the affirmative. They have every confidence that the British authorities know what is best in the interests of the Empire and of Canada, and they also believe that a Canadian fleet under British control would be a more efficient fighting instrument than if it were in the inexperienced hands of Canadian statesmen.



THOSE who talk as if Canada had already made up her mind, are misrepresenting the country. The people will consider this question on its merits when the opportunity offers. No one can say that Canada will do so-and-so in naval matters. Canada has fought hard for autonomy for three-quarters of a century, yet it may be that for the sake of Imperial advantage, she is willing to compromise on the naval question. It may be that autonomy in naval matters is inconsistent with primary naval principles. If this can be proven, it is hardly likely that Canada would object to the sacrifice of dignity involved.

Again, no one need fear any permanent difference of opinion on this subject between Canada and the London authorities. There will be exchanges of opinion as well as annual conferences, there will be multitudes of dispatches and editorials, but in the end a