

ment the flexible system of precedents and conventions which make up the customary law of the British Constitution. Then he contends that in indicating the classes of subjects upon which the Dominion or provinces respectively might legislate, the framers of our fundamental statute purposely used vague general language, and overlapping descriptions, in order to leave to time and experience a more exact definition of the federal and provincial areas.

And again, the same self-restraint is shewn in the absence of any attempt to fetter the freedom of our legislatures by fundamental imitations such as abound in the United States Federal and State Constitutions; and which, as Mr. Dicey has pointed out, the very inflexibility of a written Constitution tempts legislators to place among Constitutional articles.

The fathers of Confederation resisted the temptation of enshrining their own individual ideas, or those of their own generation, in the provisions of the British North America Act. They evidently appreciated the wisdom expressed by other legislators, more than 2,000 years before, in the famous clause of the XII Tables of Rome—"The final decision of the people shall be law." In all this too, as Mr. Lefroy has clearly demonstrated, they were faithfully fulfilling the promise expressed in the preamble of the Federation Act—to federally unite us into one Dominion under the Crown, with a Constitution similar in principle to that of the United Kingdom.

The general plan of "Canada's Federal System," as Mr. Lefroy explains in his preface, is to set out, explain, and illustrate all such general principles of construction of the provisions of the British North America Act as are derivable from the authorities, and then to discuss, *seriatim*, the various law-making powers of the Dominion parliament, and the provincial legislatures in the light of these principles, concluding with a discussion of the provisions of the Act relating to the public property of the Dominion and the provinces respectively.

Of the work as a whole we can truly say that it is a most valuable addition to the literature on the subject discussed, and