

## The Book World

THE NEW CANADIAN

*Rev. R. G. MacBeth, M.A.*

CANADA is nearly as large as the whole of continental Europe but has a population of less than two persons to the square mile. Most of the Old World countries average some four or five hundred persons to the square mile, and when we put these two facts together we can safely surmise that millions from the older continents will yet find homes in Canada. Their coming from some parts of Europe and Asia will be fraught with elements of danger, and the present situation, as well as the outlook, leads Dr. J. T. M. Anderson, of Regina, to write a strong and important book under the title, "The Education of the New Canadian." Dr. Anderson is well qualified to enter the sphere of authorship on this highly interesting subject. He has wide education and large experience as a school-teacher and inspector in Saskatchewan in recent years, and so approved himself as a man of light and leading in regard to the children of the alien that Premier Martin, who is also Minister of Education in Saskatchewan, recently called Dr. Anderson to a new office in the department with special relation to the problem of education in alien communities.

Dr. Anderson's book should be widely read. There will, no doubt, be some check on immigration from alien countries for the next few years, but even so, there are enough foreigners in Canada now to keep us busy assimilating for half a generation to come. Dr. Anderson does not look for much change in the adults amongst them, because even our own

ancestors lived very much as they had been accustomed to in the homelands from which they came to Canada in years gone by. We all remember settlements where the people spoke Gaelic down to the second generation after leaving Scotland. So it is not surprising that people from southern or northern Europe or elsewhere show little tendency to become Canadians in the first generation. The hope for the future lies with the children, through education and religious influence. Dr. Anderson is writing in regard to the influence of the school rightly directed.

Western Canada holds the largest percentage of foreign-born peoples in the Dominion, as only the larger cities in the East have any great number. In the Middle West they are scattered on farms, and there are at present, for instance, some 25,000 Austrians in that region. Dr. Anderson clearly intimates more than once in his book that all over Canada there is a danger from political partisans who are ready "to prostitute our Canadian ideals of citizenship in order to gain temporary political advantage." The present writer heard a well-authenticated case of a man who canvassed the two ends of a large foreign community some miles apart and said unashamedly that he had started to canvass for one party at so much a day but that the other party offered him twice the amount, and so he changed over and began at the other end. One can readily see the danger in such a situation. A few such com-