

upon to bear the consequences of their rulers' decisions, have a common and imperative duty to perform — that of studying *now* all the aspects of that vital problem.

In order to help in this preparatory work, the leading spirit of the *Round Table*, Mr. LIONEL CURTIS, has published, under the title '*The Problem of the Commonwealth*', a compendium of the larger work¹. Within its comparatively short compass, it is the most forceful and complete exposition of the Imperialist thesis, and, better still, the sincerest and most practical, that has come in the past twenty years under the eye of the present writer. That valuable work is even marked with a logical trend of reasoning, a lucid order of composition and argument, rarely to be found in Anglo-Saxon productions. The inspiration and the form are equally good. The book ought to be in the hands of all those Canadians who look to the future of our national life beyond the petty intrigues of party and the dirty manipulations of politicians.

Independence or Partnership, the only alternative

In the very first pages of the short preface, the problem is laid down in its amplest form: "The main contention is this, "that Dominion electorates must, in the not distant future, assume "control of foreign affairs, yet cannot do so without deciding irre- "vocably whether they are to keep or to renounce their status as "citizens of the British Commonwealth. In plain words, the issue, "as seen by the writer, is whether the Dominions are to become inde- "pendent republics, or whether this world-wide Commonwealth "is destined to stand more closely united as the noblest of all "political achievements. If in truth these are the issues, no greater "have ever been raised by events for conscious decision." (p. vii).

Later on, Mr. CURTIS states that "those are the real alterna- tives" (p. 154), that "*there is no middle way*" (pp. 210 and 215), that a choice must be made "at once" (p. 209); — all of which he proves conclusively, with a plethora of evidence.

¹ London and Toronto, same publishers.

In the numerous quotations hereafter made, the italics, unless otherwise indicated, have been used by the present writer, merely to emphasise certain passages. Reference to the pages of the book is invariably indicated.