

THE thirty-seventh annual report of the School for the Blind, Halifax, shows a steady growth of this deserving institution, which is so successfully managed by Supt. Dr. C. F. Fraser. The number of blind persons under instruction during the past year was 168, 97 males and 71 females.

IN the book recently published, "Chapters in Rural Progress," by President Butterfield, of the Massachusetts Agricultural College, the author points to the rapid growth of agricultural education in a Canadian province: "Ontario presents a good illustration of how a new agriculture can be created, in a dozen years, by co-operating methods of agricultural education. Her provincial department of agriculture, her experiment stations, her agricultural college, her various forms of extension work, and her various societies of agriculturists have all worked together with an unusual degree of harmony for the deliberate purpose of inducing Canadian agriculturists to produce the things that will bring the most profit. The results have been most astonishing and most gratifying."

THE *Canadian Magazine* for May, referring to the increasing number of teachers who travel, especially to the Canadian west, says: "The more Canadian teachers see of their own land and the Mother country, the better and broader will be the instruction given youthful Canadians. It is quite true that the imaginative mind may 'voyage in an atlas,' as Stevenson says; but how much better when that imaginative mind, accompanied by its body, travels in regions remote. Every mile which our teachers can travel on a holiday tour means brighter days in the Canadian schoolroom and a wider outlook for the next generation."

"WHAT Shall a Boy do with His Vacation?" is the title of a booklet recently issued by the Grand Trunk Railway. The plan is to establish boys' camps in the wilderness, where the youngsters could live under canvas and get a genuine bit of simple life, with plenty of fishing, swimming, rowing and other outdoor sports, while instruction in woodcraft and in nature studies makes the camps veritable schools of the wilds, such as would rejoice the hearts of advocates of the simple life. A postal card to J. Quinian, D. P. A., Bonaventure Station, Montreal, will secure a copy of the pamphlet without cost.

Portrait of Dr. G. R. Parkin.

No more suitable portrait for the Empire Day number of the REVIEW could be selected than that of Dr. Parkin, which we take pleasure in presenting to our readers.

It is twenty years since Dr. Parkin was selected as commissioner to Canada and Australia to arouse public sentiment in favour of Imperial Federation, a mission for which he was by nature and talents eminently fitted. For years previous to his appointment to this exalted position, he had been an advocate with voice and pen of a more intimate union between the mother country and her dependencies. His intense energy and extraordinary capacity for work, his readiness as a writer and speaker, combined with a rare bonhomie, have ensured him an enthusiastic welcome in every portion of the Empire which he has visited, and where his name is now almost a household word on account of his speeches and writings.

During more recent years, his position as commissioner of the Rhodes Scholarship Trust has brought him in close touch with the schools and colleges of the English-speaking world, for which his previous training as a teacher, and a potent influence which he has always possessed in moulding the character of youth, has given him special qualifications.

No better illustration of Dr. Parkin's busy life can be given than the books on Canada and the Empire which he has written. These contributions are the output of a man intense and earnest in his convictions, quick to seize upon every salient point of a position or argument, and deriving his impressions from personal observation and contact with leading people throughout the Empire. His little book, "Round the Empire," has just been reprinted for the twentieth time, an evidence of the educative influence which it has exercised and continues to exercise.

A list of Dr. Parkin's works, in the order of their publication, is here given, chiefly to show what a man almost constantly engaged in an engrossing public life may accomplish: "Round the Empire" (Cassell & Co.); "The Problem of National Unity" (Macmillan); "The Great Dominion," Reprint of Articles written for the London *Times* (Macmillan); "Life of Edward Thring," Head Master of Uppingham, 2 vols. (Macmillan); "Life of Sir John A. Macdonald" (Morang & Co.)