

portant personage. He is not, as in the other provinces, a mere verifier of documents and protester of bills, possessed of a seal and a signature, but is a member of a separate branch of the legal profession. Certain deeds must be signed before a notary, such as deeds of mortgage or hypothec, deeds of donation, marriage contracts, etc. The original deed signed by the parties is retained by the notary, and remains in his office until his death, when it is transferred to the public archives. What are known as "authentic copies" may be issued by the notary, certified by him under his seal of office, and these copies are admitted to proof in court and are sufficient for the purpose of registration in the province.

JOHN D. FALCONBRIDGE.

#### *CANADA'S FEDERAL SYSTEM.*

A new book, on Canada's Federal System, by Mr. A. H. F. Lefroy, K.C. (referred to in our review columns), aims at explaining it thoroughly, not only in its constitution, but also in its working, as illustrated by the decided cases, by the records of the Department of Justice at Ottawa, and by discussions before the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council. Mr. Lefroy has carried out his intention excellently well, and the result of his labours will find a ready welcome in many quarters.

Federalism is a subject which is much to the fore at the present time, not only by reason of the interest excited in connection with the proposed change in the government of Ireland, but, also, in connection with the movement, ever growing stronger, for the application of the federal principle to the affairs of England, Scotland, and Wales, while in the far background is the dream of the Imperial Federationists.

A federal constitution, therefore, of which nearly half a century of experience has proved the merit, and which is applied to a country of such divided interests, such an expanding population, and so large a territory as is this Dominion, is well worthy of study at the present time. Moreover, a work like this on the