

# A Great Enterprise and its im-

UNDER the Editorship of Sir Donald Mackenzie Wallace, the Encyclopædia Britannica has been brought absolutely up-to-date in respect of all subjects, and the recently completed work in 35 large quarto volumes is to-day offered direct by the publishers, "The Times," London, to the people of New Zealand, at less than half the catalogue price (already in force in the United Kingdom, and very shortly to be in force in this country), and upon a system of instalments so favourable that working men, earning wages of only 25/- a week, have been enabled to secure the invaluable possession for themselves and their children.

This bare statement of the situation with which the following pages have to deal sums up an enterprise that is full of interest at every turn, that has a hundred claims upon the reader's attention. The history of the book itself, which, throughout the period of more than 130 years since the appearance in Edinburgh of the first edition in three volumes, has won and consolidated for itself a supreme position, would make an interesting chapter itself. Interest, again, attaches to every one among the names of the two thousand contributors who have collaborated to make the great work what it is—from the Editor-in-Chief, whose unrivalled knowledge of men and affairs in every quarter of the globe has been gained from the widest experience in positions the most favorable for observation, through the long roll of celebrated men whose names are familiar the world over, to the man whose intimate acquaintance with some novel process in manufacture, some method in contemporary commerce, or some rapidly rising locality, has qualified him to become a contributor to a book which stands as the highest authority, the final court of appeal, in all subjects.

## 2000 of the most distinguished Men of the Day

The great national library of reading and reference has always been famous for the distinction of its contributors, but at no period of its history has the Encyclopædia Britannica so brilliantly represented the best thought of its time. The Editor himself has said "The combination of 'The Times' with the Encyclopædia Britannica enabled the editors to appeal with special force to the most eminent experts on all subjects." Catholic readers will be interested to know that among those who lent their special knowledge to the task of bringing the work up to date were his Eminence Cardinal Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, and his Eminence the late Cardinal Vaughan, Archbishop of Westminster. Wherever we look we find the highest authority. The author of the articles bringing the subject of ship-building down to the development of the submarine boat, is the Director of Naval Construction to the Admiralty, Mr. Philip Watts himself, who was for six years Naval Architect for Armstrong, Whitworth, and Co., until he was called to succeed Sir George White at the Admiralty. The author of article on canals is the engineer of the Manchester Ship Canal, Mr. E. Leader Williams; the builder of the Eddystone Lighthouse writes on lighthouses, Mr. W. Tregarthen Douglas, consulting engineer to the Governments of New South Wales, Victoria, Western Australia, etc. The Hon. William Peckham Reeves, Agent-General for the Colony, brings the history of New Zealand down to the latest date, Mr. T. A. Coshlan, Government Statistician, whose report on the decline of the birthrate every one has been quoting, supplies the statistical portion of the articles on Australia; the biography of Cecil

Rhodes is by Lady Lugard (Miss Flora Shaw); Sir Frederick Lugard and Sir Harry Johnston write upon those portions of Central Africa which they have won for the Empire; Field-Marshal Sir Evelyn Wood describes the Egyptian Army, of which he was the first British Sirdar; Admiral Sir Evelyn Blyde and Sir J. C. R. Colomb are among the naval experts who contribute their special knowledge. Among the men of science who have helped to make the book are Lord Kelvin, whom some hold to be the greatest student of Physics since Newton; Lord Rayleigh, the discoverer of Argon; Sir William Crookes the inventor of the Crookes tubes used in the discovery of the X-rays; Professor Dewar, who has liquefied the air and was the first to obtain solid hydrogen; Sir Archibald Geikie, the great geologist. Mr. Marion Crawford writes on contemporary Rome, and among other men and women of letters who contribute, are Mrs. Humphry Ward, "John Oliver Hobbes," Mr. Andrew Lang, Mr. John Morley, Mr. Austin Dobson, Sir Leslie Stephen, and Mr. Swinburne. Dr. Nansen and Sir Martin Conway are among the travellers who give their experiences. Mr. James Bryce, Mr. J. E. C. Bodley (who was chosen to write the official history of the Coronation), Sir Spencer Walpole are among those who contribute articles dealing with recent history, worthily carrying on the great traditions set in the articles on former epochs by Freeman, Gardiner, Seeley, Fyffe. The author of the article dealing with the latest theories of Economics is Professor Hewins, who was lately called away from his professorial duties by Mr. Chamberlain to devote his expert knowledge to investigations on the burning subject of fiscal reform. The Departmental Editor for Sports and Games is Mr. A. E. T. Watson, famous under his nom-de-plume of "Rapier," and as Editor of the Badminton Library. . . The list might be continued through many pages, and yet the roll of distinguished contributors would not be exhausted.

## The Most UP-TO-DATE Book in Existence

The Encyclopædia Britannica is to-day the most up-to-date of all encyclopædias. No other, great or small, can compare with it in this respect.

But it is not merely because it does include all the latest facts, figures, and developments that the Encyclopædia Britannica strikes the reader as being so exceptionally up-to-date. The conviction is even more strikingly brought home to him when he notices the great length at which recent history and the latest developments are treated.

This fulness in the treatment of contemporary life, this extreme degree of recency, is one of the most important among the exceptional characteristics which place the Encyclopædia Britannica beyond comparison.

It has been computed that more than a quarter of its total space is occupied exclusively with the history, the personalities, the discoveries, and the ad-