

Quill and Quire (May, 1975)

THE CANADIAN ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICS AND PUBLIC AFFAIRS, 1973, John Saywell, University of Toronto Press, \$30.00 ISBN 0 8020 2154 9, 363 p.

Unlike books of purely topical interest the 1973 *Canadian Annual Review* will probably be read more ten years from now than it is today. After all those people who are interested in the economy of Prince Edward Island or the manoeuvring of Saskatchewan political parties will be familiar with developments in 1973. Others are unlikely to find such subjects interesting

reading unless their fondness for nostalgia has reached abnormal proportions.

On the other hand, in ten years students, scholars and writers will use the *Review* to jog their memories, furnish ideas, and generally provide an overview of a particular period in Canadian history. They will likely discover that 1973 unlike 1968 or 1970 was a very dull year indeed. There were no new directions or personalities to write about, no great crises to analyse. The highlight of the *Review* is probably the article by Jean-Charles Bonenfant on the Quebec election where the Liberals won an overwhelming victory but the Parti Quebecois became the official opposition on a platform of independence for Quebec. The article by John Saywell and Paul Stevens is also a readable, comprehensive and accurate account of political developments at the federal level during the year. Other articles contain little more information than the year-end summary available in most newspapers. This is certainly not the most interesting volume in a series which has appeared annually since 1960 but then 1973 was not a vintage year for politics and public affairs. Gary Levy