

## Reviews

*New Zealand Atlas*. Edited by Ian Wards. Government Printer, Wellington, 1976. xv, 292 pp. N.Z. price: \$33.

THIS is an impressive but disappointing volume. It is more than an atlas, with one-quarter of its space devoted to photographs and one-third to text. The Government Printer has printed, bound and published the volume with great care and attention to detail. The double page maps open completely flat; the photographs are striking; the maps informative and, in one case, beautiful.

The first section consists of six 'sectional maps' at 1:1,000,000 scale showing elevation, settlements, roads, rivers and lakes. Although clear and legible, the yellow tones used for elevation are garish and unattractive and the blue shading for icefields and glaciers (not shown on Ruapehu) makes the core of the Southern Alps look like a chain of lakes surrounded by higher country. Each sectional map is accompanied by a brief descriptive text. Maps of the main urban centres (scale 1:125,000) are followed by thematic maps with associated texts of the whole country. These cover a conventional range of topics — discovery, historical settlement, population, landforms (the most beautiful map in the volume), climate, geology, soils, land classification and use, fishing, mineral resources, manufacturing, transport and communications, and tourist resources. The last is a singularly uninformative and unattractive perspective diagram, better suited to a tourist pamphlet than a serious work. The main body of the atlas ends with sections on Antarctica, the Pacific Islands, fifty-two pages of photographs, gazetteers and index.

The second atlas of its *genre* published by the Government Printer, this volume invites comparison with *A Descriptive Atlas of New Zealand*, published in 1959. It is a more lavish production but not greatly different in concept or content. The new atlas has more colour maps but fewer maps in total. When comparing the two atlases one is struck by the elegance and delicacy of many maps in the older volume. The new atlas uses much stronger colours which are sometimes visually clearer but often lack the logic of older colour conventions. For example, the map of 'Vegetation *circa* 1840' gives a visual impression of Canterbury's short tussock (aqua green) being a much heavier cover than the forests of Westland (yellow), or the tall tussock of Otago and Southland (pale pink).

The new maps of towns are less detailed than those in the old atlas, having omitted many streets and replaced contours with hill shading. Why not have contours as well? The Shell Road Map booklet using annotated airphoto mosaics of the main cities is much more informative.

The texts of both atlases are authoritative though some contributions in the new volume read like government annual reports — factual and uncritical state-

ments of bland government publicity which allow, as Curnow says, 'no murderers mooring in our Golden Bay'. The Anglo-Maori Wars are overlooked in seven lines; the social tensions of a multiracial society are wished away with comments on encouraging equality of opportunity and how 'exceptionally intelligent' the Maori were. Haven't claims of differential intelligence between racial groups been thoroughly discredited?

A considerable number of minor errors, omissions and puzzles can be found. Jamaica, fourteen years after independence, is shown as a colony of the United Kingdom (p. 47). Does New Zealand really import cork from Fiji (p. 181)? (Fiji's export statistics do not list it.) North America is not a country (p. 173). The important Fijian town of Ba is omitted in favour of a neighbouring village (Nailaga) and the old towns of Navua and Levuka are missing from a map which mis-spells Qamea and Qoma (p. 193). Mis-spellings (e.g. of Samamea and Sataoa) occur in the Western Samoa map (p. 193) and much less information is conveyed on this map than on its 1959 equivalent. The 'Patterns of Settlement' map implies that 45,413 'Polynesians' entered New Zealand between 1950 and 1971, but this is the number of 'Pacific Islanders' (other than Fijians) resident in New Zealand in 1971 and not the number of migrants. About 15,000 of the 45,413 were born in New Zealand and therefore are not migrants. Furthermore, some of the 45,413 arrived before 1950. Finally this map emphasizes these Polynesians but we are told later they make up only 'four to five per cent' of total immigrants in the post-war period (p. 62). Apart from recording 4,500 refugee migrants and 7,738 Dutch migrants the map makes no mention of the much larger numbers who have migrated from the United Kingdom since 1945. This type of carelessness should have been edited out. Other examples occur in the maps. There is no consistency in the definition of 'main commercial areas' in the maps of urban areas. Tauranga is shown as having a bigger 'main commercial area' than Wellington or Dunedin, while that of Hamilton is larger than Auckland's. On the map of 'land use' (p. 143) considerable areas of scrub are shown as 'exotic forests' apparently because (according to the map of 'forests' on pp. 106-7) the land is 'held for planting'. More care should have been taken to ensure logical consistency in mapping categories, and in the level of generalization used in different maps. Comparison of the 'contemporary forest cover' and 'land use' maps shows many examples of inconsistency between what should be identical boundaries. And why are the Chatham Islands shown on some of the thematic maps but not on others?

What market is the atlas aimed at? Too costly for a text book, its map scales are too small for a truly authoritative national atlas as 'on small-scale maps such as these, considerable generalisations need to be tolerated in order to make a useful pattern' (p. 133). Its style is that of a good coffee table volume to grace the waiting-rooms of overseas embassies. It purports to offer 'an inventory of New Zealand the land, New Zealanders the people'. It is not sufficiently detailed (in scale, or content) to provide an inventory. For example, only one map, 'land use', deals directly with farming. No maps show regional production, distribution of livestock or crops, land tenure, size of holdings, topdressing, location and type of dairy factories. The excellent text on farming by P. R. Stephens cries out for cartographic illustration. The modest *Atlas of New Zealand Geography* by Linge and Frazer portrayed the farming economy much better ten years ago, and used only black and white maps to do so. Perhaps this is the basic flaw in the atlas — too much gloss and not enough data. And inci-

dentially, 'New Zealanders, the people' are represented in the photographs by only fourteen human figures — nine in Antarctica, one underground, and four on a Japanese ship.

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*The Search for Security in the Pacific, 1901-14.* By Neville Meaney. Sydney University Press, 1976. 306 pp. Australian price: \$18.

THIS WORK by a senior lecturer in history at the University of Sydney has another title which perhaps indicates its content a little more specifically: the title given above is the one which appears on the spine of the book and in heavy black print on the title-page but we learn of the very special, if not absolutely exclusive, Australian interest of this book from the secondary name, *A History of Australian Defence and Foreign Policy 1901-23: Volume I*. Most Australian historians have neglected the field of foreign policy or have relegated it to a paragraph or two in a concluding chapter dealing with events from about 1938 onwards. Of course, it is a matter of constitutional history and fact that in the years under review in Meaney's two volumes Australia did not have a foreign policy simply because it was still part of the one undivided British Empire wherein the powers to deal with international relations and crises were concentrated in the Foreign Office in London. Nevertheless, as Dr. Meaney is at pains to point out, the Australian Commonwealth leaders were so conscious of the geo-political situation and its very different meanings for men in London and Sydney that they were in process of evolving their own foreign strategy, with some particular reference to defence needs, long before the outbreak of the First World War.

Dr. Meaney is to be congratulated on his deep-probing research and his careful analysis of the diplomatic interests and defence programmes of the Australian politicians who were concerned with the security of their land in its Asian-Pacific context. He has uncovered the origins of certain ideas and policies and has shown clearly that many problems which were crucially important in and after the Second World War were considered very seriously in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries by such men as Edmund Barton, Alfred Deakin, J. C. Watson, Andrew Fisher, W. M. Hughes, G. F. Pearce, and Joseph Cook. He takes his analysis of early Australian nationalism and of proposals to cope with the rise of Japan, especially after that country's defeat of Russia in 1905, very much further than any of his predecessors in this field. Possibly, he goes too far in arguing that 'It is in the study of trade, immigration and most especially defence and foreign policy that the true character of Australian nationalism can be discerned.' What came from the minority of informed leaders did not necessarily represent what the people or the nation was thinking. Nevertheless, Meaney does show that there was a growing realization of the conflict between imperial loyalties and Australian needs: one could not support wholeheartedly the ideal of 'One Empire, one navy, one flag' at the same time that one was insisting upon the special defence requirements of an island in the south-west Pacific.