

For instance, the Department of Commerce, at McGill University, proposes to provide special courses in the Commerce of the Far East, and it allows its candidates for Ph.D. to spend a year away from McGill in connection with the studies for the doctorate. Under the kind of scheme that I envisage, the McGill graduate would come to Shanghai, or Osaka, or Hong Kong, for that year; and would place himself under the direction of an institution, probably the Department of Commerce of the University in one of those places. That institution would not keep him in Hong Kong or Shanghai or Osaka unless material conditions which he wished to study were confined to those places, but would send him out to do field work in commerce by travelling throughout the area in which he was especially interested, with the cooperation of the consular commercial offices, and such firms as might be induced to take an interest in the scheme. Similarly a graduate of, let us say, Hong Kong, having taken at least his bachelor's degree, possibly his M.A. might go to Canada or the United States or France, and pursue a similar course of investigation and study. This scheme would apply of course not only to economic studies, but to political and social and anthropological investigations, and there would be provisions for the coordination of such studies so as to build up a co-related and articulated body of knowledge in those fields in which knowledge is felt to be most urgently required. It would be necessary, of course, to secure that the institutions concerned provided an adequate preliminary college training up to the standard of the bachelor's degree, but this requirement is no doubt easily met throughout the whole system.

To put this scheme into effect I would suggest that what is required is first a preliminary survey of the institutions and their resources, and the selection of a limited number of such institutions for the preliminary application of the scheme. In order to reduce the cost of financing such a scheme, I would suggest that the large shipping companies be approached and an attempt made to secure from them, and from the railway companies, special transportation privileges for research fellows and such professors as would come under the scheme. I have no doubt that if the shipping companies and railway companies wished to do so, they could very easily provide transport facilities at low cost, or at no cost, for the comparatively small number of people who would thus be travelling. It might also be necessary to make provision for guest houses at the institutions concerned, in view of the great difficulty that housing presents in some parts of the East, and also in order to secure that the institutions have the benefit of rather intimate contact with the visiting members from other centers.

I forbear to go into greater details at this stage but simply lay down the general lines of the suggestion that there should be a kind of union of universities and of learned institutions along the track that I have indicated, with provision for free or very cheap travel, for interchange of research fellows and teachers and information. I am convinced that if such an interchange become really active it would do very much to bring about the state of international mindedness which we desire.

Yours truly,

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