

CANADIANS INTO COLONIAL OFFICE

Star: July 13/23.
Duke of Devonshire Tells House of Lords of Experiment

INTEREST IN EMPIRE

Keen Inquiry to Get Right Men to Handle Native Races

LONDON, July 13. — (Canadian Press Cable).—In the House of Lords yesterday Earl Grey asked whether it was true that the Colonial Office recently made arrangements to consider applications from graduates of Canadian universities for appointments to the British Colonial service for duty in tropical Africa and elsewhere, and whether representatives of the Colonial Office had recently been to Canada to confer with the Canadian authorities in the matter.

The Duke of Devonshire, Secretary for the Colonies, replied that this was a subject which was of considerable interest to himself and his predecessor and that a certain amount of satisfactory progress had been made. Viscount Milner, when Secretary of State for the Colonies, he said, in consequence of certain trustworthy information which had come from private sources, learned that Canada had determined to make a move in the direction indicated.

It was felt then, he continued, that the interests of Canadians in other parts of the Empire had to a very large extent been quickened by the war and that, if effective machinery were established, giving accurate information to the universities and other bodies in Canada and also if the means were provided for considering suitable applications, a certain number of graduates might be willing to enter the service of the Colonial Office. It was, of course, necessary that full consideration be given the matter. The Colonial Office had it under consideration and it was recognized that it was essential that the universities which participated in the scheme should be kept posted regarding the nature of suitable openings in the Colonial service, with the conditions of service, pay, etc.

VISITED CANADA.

The second consideration, he said, was a matter of great importance, in view of the necessity that any one recommended for duty among native races should be carefully selected and arrangements provided that the Secretary of State might have full information regarding the candidates who might be brought forward.

In order to bring the matter to a more definite conclusion, Viscount Milner, he said, had sent his private secretary on a tour of Canada, where he got in close touch with the universities.

As a result officers had been appointed at each university. Each university had a selection board, and there was a central committee at Ottawa, consisting of experienced men who dealt with the names sent to them from the universities before making final recommendations to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. It would seem, he went on, that the candidates were put through a careful examination by two separate bodies, before a final decision was made. Necessarily, this was still in an experimental stage, but he was glad to say that they had two satisfactory results so far. Two graduates had availed themselves of the opportunity to enter the Colonial Service. One was placed as a medical officer in the Gold Coast while another was sent to Mauritius as an agricultural representative.

He felt quite certain that the scheme would be a success and that it would not only be a benefit to the Colonial Service but there would be a clearer understanding in Canada of the needs, opportunities and resources of the Empire. It would give Canadians a novel and interesting opening for administrative work as well as rich opportunities for research work in fields otherwise inaccessible to them. He was glad to say that the Colonial Office was working in close connection with the Canadian authorities. No large influx of Canadians was anticipated. Probably five or six men would be picked annually. He stated that he had no apprehension that the openings given the men so selected would in any way compete with those given to the men of the Old Country. He hoped the scheme would prove a great success, he concluded.