

Commonwealth Scholarships

THE Commonwealth Education Conference held at Oxford in July 1959 worked out the details of a Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Plan. The Plan envisages that, in due course, 1,000 scholars will be studying under its auspices in different parts of the Commonwealth. Canada undertook to place 250 students from other parts of the Commonwealth in Canadian universities, at a cost of \$1 million a year.

The Commonwealth Scholarship Plan does not duplicate the technical assistance arrangements under which Canada has endeavoured to provide trainees from other countries with the knowledge and special techniques necessary for economic development. Under the Commonwealth Plan, Canada will train people of more general skills and aptitudes whose contribution will range over many fields. Scholarships will be available in the humanities and social sciences, as well as in the natural sciences. Thus these educational exchanges will make the cultures and institutions of all Commonwealth countries better known in other parts of the Commonwealth, and will, therefore, deepen the ties that hold the Commonwealth together by increasing mutual understanding and mutual respect.

Awards Mainly Postgraduate

Under the Plan, awards will normally be made at the postgraduate level for a period of two years, although undergraduate awards are not ruled out. The awards are to be made to persons of high intellectual promise, who may be expected to make a significant contribution to life in their own countries on their return from study overseas. In each Commonwealth country, and in most of the United Kingdom colonies, an agency has been appointed to nominate scholars for awards offered by other countries and to select scholars from nominations submitted by other countries.

The Plan came into operation in a number of countries for the opening of the academic year 1960-61. In Canada a Commonwealth Scholarship and Fellowship Committee was appointed in December 1959 to guide the operation of the plan here. The Chairman of the Committee is Dr. G. F. Curtis, Dean of Law, University of British Columbia, and other members represent universities throughout Canada. Special advisory committees in the various academic fields assist the main committee in assessing the qualifications of candidates. The Committee makes the final selections of candidates for Canadian Commonwealth awards and nominates candidates for awards offered by other Commonwealth countries.

Canadian awards cover the transportation costs, tuition fees and living expenses of the scholars while they are in Canada. Married scholars whose wives accompany them will receive a marriage allowance.

For the first year of operation of the Plan, Canada offered approximately 100