

tion into different lines of industries and businesses and report to the minister thereon. They have visited the exhibitions, the factories and the producing centres in order to get that information. After having passed through a drill of a year and a half or two years in that way, they are going to foreign or outside fields. One of them, a graduate of McGill, will be the commissioner at Omsk; another will take up a position in another district; and a third, a university graduate and a clever young man, is now studying the Italian language in connection with his drill in Canada, and I design him to undertake in Italy the work of getting that same information and of standing as our trade commissioner there.

This year, in response to an appeal from British Columbia, whose lumber interests were somewhat disorganized and confused, I asked the British Columbia people to pick out for me the man who they thought would be best suited for the work of travelling over the world in the interest primarily of Canadian lumber, with reference particularly to the western coast. They gave me their man, a university graduate, a very clever young man who had had training in forestry work in British Columbia. He is now making a tour of the world, commencing with the United Kingdom, and visiting France, Belgium—such part of it as is left—Russia, South Africa, India, China, Australia, New Zealand, and the South American continent. He is on the latter part of his travels, and his reports, full of information and of suggestions, have been published in the Weekly Bulletin; and, when they have been finished, they will be collated in a pamphlet or volume by themselves. Not only has he been looking into the matter of lumber conditions and possibilities, but he has also had an eye to general trade conditions, and his reports have embodied that side of the ques-

tion as well as the lumber side.”—Hansard.

Among his other plans are, in the first place, the sending of a special trade commission to the United Kingdom, France and Italy. He proposes to select four or five business men as honorary commissioners, their expenses to be paid by the Government. They will have a secretary, and experts in different lines will be attached to the commission. They will inquire on the ground as to the prospects and opportunities for Canadian trade in the countries visited, and will prepare an exhaustive report on the subject.

In the second place, the department will establish a bureau of commercial information. This is evidently intended to be a visualized summary of Canada's trade, actual and potential. Johnny Canuck is to be accounted a commercial drummer, and this new institution will be his sample room. If the plans materialize, the new bureau will be one of the most wonderful and instructive institutions to be found in the world.

In the third place it is proposed to bring together the men with ideas about what really should be done about trade after the war. There will be a big convention at which the trade commission spoken of above will report, the trade commissioners will submit the best of their information, and the best men of the country will say their say as to the prospects and opportunities of the main industries, and the best way of taking advantage of those opportunities and realizing those prospects.

All this will mean that the Department of Trade and Commerce will need more people,—more good people. Sir George Foster, though one of the most economical administrators that ever headed a public department, recognizes this necessity, for he has warned Parliament that he will ask for more money than be-