

obtaining the information they require from the chief office.

The official correspondence with the Department of the Interior in regard to matters of policy is also of a voluminous nature. In an article of this sort, however, it is only possible to mention, in a general way, some of the matters to which the High Commissioner devotes personal attention, or which he supervises. Many others might be alluded to, but enough has perhaps been said to show that his days are not idle. Then there are the social duties which appertain to the office. The representative of Canada is invited officially to many functions, and at public dinners and at other gatherings he is frequently asked to make speeches. Several times in the course of every year he is asked to give lectures or addresses on Canada, and naturally every opportunity of the kind, for giving publicity to the country and its resources and capabilities, is gladly availed of.

One of the privileges the High Commissioner enjoys is that of meeting a good many Canadians who annually visit the United Kingdom and Europe. In that way he meets many friends, and makes many new acquaintances by means of letters of introduction, which are continually presented to him. At the same time, Canadians are able in the High Commissioner's office to see the leading newspapers of the Dominion, which are kept on file, to have their letters received and forwarded to them wherever they may be, and to have the privilege of using the excellent library of reference that is kept in the office, and which is also continually consulted by the Press and the legal and mercantile community. They also obtain, through the medium of the High Commissioner, permission to visit many of the sights of London, for which tickets are necessary, and in the case of those who go to the Continent, passports and other facilities are frequently placed at their disposal. The work of the office is fairly summarized each year in the three Annual Reports made by the High Commissioner to the Government. One deals with the general work of the Department; a second with the import trade of the

United Kingdom, so far as it concerns Canada, with suggestions relating to the existing trade and to its expansion; and a third about emigration; but as they are rarely referred to, either in Parliament, or in the Press, it is a fair assumption that they are not as widely read as, with all due deference, they might be, in view of the useful information they are believed to contain. It will be readily understood that a portion of the work is of a more or less confidential nature, which cannot be made public in its entirety. There can be no question, however, that the importance of the office grows year by year, and that the Department is becoming increasingly useful to the Dominion.

The High Commissioner is recognized as the *doyen* of the Colonial Representatives in the United Kingdom. He has frequent consultations with his colleagues on matters which affect the Colonies as a whole, and meetings in one or other of the Colonial Government Offices are of frequent occurrence. The seven provinces of Australasia are each represented by an Agent-General, and both the Cape and Natal have similar officials, so that what may be deemed the Colonial *Corps Diplomatique* is rather numerous. Probably, when Australasia is confederated, there will be a High Commissioner as in the case of Canada, and it is to be hoped that such an event is not very far off. In the future, South Africa will probably also have a High Commissioner. Be, however, this as it may, the representatives of the Colonies occupy a position in the United Kingdom which was never dreamt of twenty years ago. In any public assembly they receive a cordial welcome as representing the outlying parts of the Empire, and are always listened to with respect and attention whenever they are called upon to speak. If any form of closer connection between the Colonies and the Mother Country should come to pass, it will be owing in no slight degree to the preliminary work that has been done by the Colonial Representatives in London in general, and by successive High Commissioners of Canada in particular.

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