

the year he must show proficiency in these studies, or be rejected. At the commencement of his final year of study he is compelled to pass a very strict medical examination into his physical fitness and health, and at the end to his other examinations is added one of some severity in the art of riding, an accomplishment of absolute necessity in India. This examination in riding has more than once proved a stumbling block to the intellectually astute but physically timid natives of Bengal. One of the chief agitators against the British rule in India to-day passed among the first ten into the ranks of the Indian civil service, but failed to qualify in his riding test. Owing to the good class of man brought forward by these advantages, there is in the Indian civil service a very high level of esprit de corps. It contains, and has contained, very few failures, very few who do not give their best efforts to understanding and to solving the difficult problems presented to them.

The organisation of the Colonial Office is less satisfactory. The Ministry at home chooses its staff in the same way as does the India Office. Thus the men in London who control India and the colonies may never have seen either, may know none of their citizens save such as have come to England to toady to them, and may be utterly out of sympathy with their thoughts, feelings and aspirations. This is not so dangerous in the case of India, for between the political Minister, who has probably never been in India, and his staff of functionaries, usually in the same condition, is the India Council. This is not so in the Colonial Office, in which the whole administration may be utterly ignorant of the real feelings and desires of the colonies; indeed, in the old days the clerks were encouraged not to know anything about the colonies, lest it should prejudice their judgment; and though this spirit no longer holds, the number of Colonial Office officials who have any first hand knowledge of the colonies under their control is not large.<sup>1</sup>

Less satisfactory also is the class of men sent out to East, West and Central Africa, and the traditions of the service. In the first place, owing to the less advanced state of the colonies, the salaries

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<sup>1</sup>This state of things is rapidly improving. In African matters a Committee of the Chambers of Commerce of Liverpool, Manchester and London has since 1906 been used by the Colonial Office as an unofficial advisory council. The visit of Sir Charles Lucas to Australasia in 1909 broke the Downing Street tradition, and attempts are being made to arrange a system of transferring men from the Colonial Office to temporary appointments in the Colonies.