

# THE PAPER WITH SNAP IN IT!



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ONE of the best known and most popular figures in Canadian circles in London is Lieut.-Col. J. Obed Smith, Commissioner for Emigration for the Dominion Government.

Col. Smith, or "J.O.," as he is to his familiars, is one of the best types of civil servants. He is suave, gracious, disinterested, and a slave to duty. His motto is the same as that of the Prince of Wales "I serve." A guide, philosopher and friend to every intending emigrant, he takes as much pains to give correct information of the right sort to a domestic servant or a farm labourer, as he does to supply a business man or a financial magnate with the "latest figures."

Col. Smith has been through the mill. He knows by actual experience all the conditions, as well as the hardships, which make for or mar success. He went out to Canada as a youth in 1881, and until he got his feet firmly rooted did "any old thing," and "every old thing," as so many other notable Canadians have done.

Ten years later he was a barrister of the Manitoba Courts. He was for a time accountant of the Legislative Assembly for that Province, afterward becoming Chief Clerk in the Railway Department, and later right-of-way solicitor. As Deputy Railway Commissioner, Deputy Provincial and Commissioner, and Deputy Attorney-General, he served an apprenticeship which gave him an exceptional insight into the affairs of the province.

In 1901 he entered the Dominion public service as commissioner for Immigration at Winnipeg, and during his term of office 800,000 settlers—more than twice as many as the Canadian army—were established in the west.

In 1908 Col. Smith was made assistant superintendent of emigration for Great Britain and Ireland, and for the continent of Europe, with his office in London. Up to the outbreak of war no less than 1,250,000 settlers have, under his direction and jurisdiction, crossed the Atlantic to found homes on

## The Commissioner for Emigration.



Photo by]

[Haines.

**Beaver Gallery: No. 7, Lt.-Col. J. Obed Smith, F.R.C.S.**

the broad and fertile land of Canada's fair domain.

During the war he has been special representative of the Western Canadian Press Association, and besides contributing articles to London magazines, was never able, from lack of time to meet the demand by Western Canadian and American newspapers for articles on the war.

He is an advertising and publicity expert whose reputation in Fleet Street is established. He is also a Fellow of the Royal Geographical Society, Society of Arts, etc., and sits on the Strand Division bench as Justice of the Peace for the County of London. He is a Life Governor of three hospitals. In Masonic circles he is well-known as a founder and treasurer of Canada Lodge, and represents over here several Grand Lodges in Canada, while he is also a member of the Grand Lodge of England.

With a comprehensive experience in moving large bodies of men and women it is no wonder that during the war the government instinctively turned towards Lieut.-Col. Smith, when the question of repatriating soldiers' dependent families became acute. It is largely owing to Col. Smith's knowledge, good judgment and sound sense that the arrangements made have been so successful, and it is particularly gratifying to know that nearly 22,000 women and children were booked to Canada during the most serious period of the submarine menace, without the loss of a single life. Now that this horrible menace has been removed, the work of repatriation is to be accelerated and Col. Smith and his staff are working night and day to send home women and children, if not "first," as quickly as they can, and those in doubt on any point may feel free to write to him.

Col. Smith holds a commission for taking affidavits in all the courts in all the Provinces in Canada, and is a Special Commissioner on the Dominion Lands Act to receive applications for patents for homesteads and pre-emptions.