

course largely thro' Haldane's
 influence, to a position (good now & very
 promising for the future) in the Board of
 Trade. For the present he keeps on a
 small part of his work at the London school,
 but he will soon have to drop that. He is
 to take charge of certain new work in
 the way of foreign investigation &
 commercial reports. I was dining in town
 recently with Bonar Law (Chamberlain's
 able lieutenant & Parly. Sec. to the Board
 of Trade in the last govt.) & he told me
 that he should not be surprised if they
 received rapid promotion, as his very
 great ability was recognised by men of all
 parties. But this ^{reference to Law} please regard as
 confidential.

But the examⁿ period is drawing
 back & I must attend to my official duties.
 Yours always
 W. J. Ashley.