

fyng, therefore, that we find contingents of British public men—parliamentarians, publicists, economists, and financial agents—touring over Canada, and taking careful account of our resources and possibilities. Such facts are very pleasing to Canada, for it signifies a vast contribution towards the stability of Canadian trade with the home land, and a greater revelation of the part Canada will play in filling the British workman's dinner-pail. In the end, even John Burns, M.P., may be better disposed to the Canadian preference. The future attitude of Mr. Bryce and Mr. Morley may be watched with interest.

The Rhodes Scholarships

RECENT advices from Oxford University announce the arrival and appointment among the various colleges of the city of the first contingent of students to secure Rhodes scholarships. To the number of seven hundred, it is said, they came from all parts of the British Empire, from the United States, and from Germany. Look upon it, however we may, the idea underlying this educational project is unique, and quite characteristic of the distinguished man whose bounty these fortunate students will enjoy; yet we question whether the object aimed at will be greatly furthered.

With all due regard for the optimism of Cecil Rhodes, and his praiseworthy ambition for future coalescence of the English-speaking and other Teutonic races in a perpetual alliance, or world federation, we doubt greatly whether the expenditure of his vast wealth upon this quixotic educational experiment will bring about the result in the manner designed.

In the first place let us see what he expects: Oxford is a place of classical culture. A youth, fresh from academic courses and with a superfluity of necessary cash, furnished by his bequest, is to go to Oxford and spend a few years in some course of studies, largely intermixed with social amenities and athletics, and eventually "graduates." After this he is expected to enter public life and preach a doctrine of human brotherhood. He is to cut a wide

swath in public opinion, and create a focus of national fusion by means of a general co-operation with fellow-students he has met during his course and associated with in a friendly way. Superficially this looks all right. Practically, we firmly believe, and frankly prophesy it will accomplish nothing of value to the issues aimed at. The very nature of the scheme must show that. And wherefore?

The first difficulty lies in the selection of the candidates. The ideal student has been well outlined for this—so well, that we know that he must be a paragon in most qualities. He must be a general favorite through physical strength and mental acuteness—two things that are rarely known to co-operate very long together. He must be so popular with his fellows that they will elect him spontaneously for the job. Within the bounds of human nature the trouble will begin just there. Those who are best acquainted with student life are well aware that the presentation of so munificent an income, and such opportunities to spend it, will, in spite of all precautions, in a majority of cases end but one way—the impairment of moral habits, and the assumption of snobbery, so great as to unfit the future publicist from counting for much in the wider humanitarianism he is destined to secure. There will be comparatively few statesmen arise out of the arena of the Rhodes scholarship, and if the collegians are to retain their best individuality during the process of Pan-Teutonic affiliations for culture, an entirely new atmosphere will have to be created in classic Oxford. At present the Rhodes scholar may be expected to associate with the patrician sons of the British nobility, to do the same things in the same way, and imbibe the same sentiments of ethical relationships.

Except those who have entered Oxford for the attainment of real classical knowledge, the education given at that great university is of no great value. Latin and Greek are useful as collaterals, but there are other forms of culture equally valuable and much more practical. From the educational standpoint, the Oxford experiment will probably be of small results. The