

in the diplomatic service? I am not sure that there are any, but there may be one or two. And it seems to me that with agriculture being the important calling it is in this country, there are a lot of technical agriculturists who come out of agricultural colleges all across Canada each year; and it would seem to me that some greater effort ought to be made to see that some of those people go into the foreign service. I think it would be of tremendous value, in some of those under-developed countries, if we had top level diplomatic representatives there who had some knowledge of agriculture. It seems to me in many of those instances the development of agricultural prospects in those countries is among the things which our plans have most in mind. I wonder if anything has been done in connection with that matter in recent times?

The WITNESS: We do not give any preference to graduates of agricultural colleges. But I see no reason why they should not be successful if they were to apply and write the examination. Certainly, we have among our representatives young men who have come from farming communities. It is true there are not many graduates of agricultural colleges because, naturally, a graduate of an agriculture college tends to follow the profession of agriculture. But if we did have a candidate who did well in the examination and was a graduate of an agricultural college, I see no reason why that fact should debar him from being a member of the service.

Mr. JUTRAS: Can it be that the nature of the Civil Service examination for those particular jobs might have a bearing on the question?

The WITNESS: Naturally the examination is intended to test the suitability of the candidates for the Department of External Affairs and the questions are framed along the line of what is going on in the world, about current affairs. Agricultural specialists might have some difficulty in answering such questions unless they had read widely on those subjects.

Mr. GRAYDON: Is there not a danger that the Department of External Affairs will get into a position where it secures almost all of the post-graduates across Canada or those who have specialized in constitutional history and international affairs? In the days ahead I think we must watch that we do not get over emphatic on this question of the specialist in diplomacy. We have got to have more than specialists in diplomacy if we are going to have good representation abroad. We must have good representatives of the general fabric of Canada, and one of the important things is with respect to agricultural college graduates. Practical people bring a tremendous amount of important knowledge to bear in any department, and I have the feeling that you will have to watch the department in the days to come to see that it does not get into the position where it is a highly technical department only. You have got to have practical considerations as well as academic considerations in any department, and I would not like to see it become overloaded at one end without consideration being given to the other end. I have no doubt that the department has that situation in mind, but I do feel that there is a definite possibility in this department if it is not very carefully watched.

The WITNESS: I think we are aware of the danger to which you draw attention, Mr. Graydon. In drawing up our examination papers we do try not to give undue advantage to the ones who have studied certain subjects. What we are trying to aim at is general, all-round knowledge and ability.

Mr. LESAGE: Is there not usually a choice in the questions asked?

The WITNESS: Yes, there is usually a choice in the questions asked. Each candidate has the opportunity of choosing questions along the line of what he has been studying. So you see, we do try to be as fair as possible to all types of candidates.