

awarded by the Government in order to encourage commercial enquiry and report. This is one of the most important features of the system. The State makes an annual grant of £1,800 a year to provide these travelling scholarships (*bourses de voyage* — travelling studentships for commercial research, as they may be called. This form of subsidy, which is additional to the annual grant made to the Institute, has been imitated by the French Government. The object of the travelling studentships is to enable young men to extend their practical knowledge of commercial life to that of non European countries. The studentships are worth £200 to £250 a year, according to the country which the student chooses to visit. It is important that the money value of these research studentships should be large. Otherwise they do not enable the holders to undertake journeys which, though costly at the time, may lead to the development of lucrative markets. They are tenable for three years. Students holding these scholarships have gone, in former years, to the Cape, the Argentine Republic, Brazil, the United States, Canada, Mexico, China, Japan, British India, Australia and New Zealand. It is a condition attached to these "prize fellowships for commercial research" that the holder should at half yearly intervals report to the Belgian Government as to openings for Belgian trade. In Antwerp I heard that the results of this system were regarded as highly satisfactory. The Belgian Government means to have skilled outposts in every part of the world, watching and reporting upon the course of trade. Most of the young men who started by holding these travelling scholarships have remained in business in the countries upon which they were origin-

ally sent to report. They find and seize business openings there. Some have been, or are, consuls or vice-consuls for Belgium at Calcutta, Sydney, Melbourne, Buenos Ayres, Odessa and Yokohama. The scheme is intended to have a close bearing on the future of the Belgian consular service. Most of the Belgian consuls of the future will be trained at the *Institut Supérieur de Commerce* at Antwerp. The third year of study there—now just introduced—will be one of the chief entrances to consular life, but the Government properly reserves to itself the right of free selection for consular vacancies, in case it thinks well to appoint an engineer, or other expert, trained elsewhere. In short, however, it may be said that the Belgian Government has resolved to create a highly trained commercial consular service to act as an intelligence department for Belgian trade. In the common room of the Institute I heard a professor read aloud from a report prepared by a former student, a list of the wares which it behoved Belgian traders to have ready for sale along the new line of railroad in course of construction by the Egyptian Government into the Soudan.

In this connection, it may be pointed out that such higher commercial institutes, as that of Antwerp, are likely to do a valuable work in training men who will be eminently fitted to write on commercial subjects for the press. The function of the special correspondent is becoming increasingly important. The courses at the Institute are well adapted to give a young man the kind of general knowledge of trade questions which would best fit him (if he possesses the journalistic faculty to start with) for the duties of a special correspondent commissioned to inquire