

STUDENTS OF EMPIRE.

HERE is genuine ground for gratification in the statement regarding arrangements made to facilitate the entry of Canadian University graduates into the British Colonial service, made by the Secretary of State for the Colonies, the Duke of Devonshire, in the House of Lords yesterday. It will doubtless come as news to the majority of Canadians that machinery is already in operation through which young Canadians can enter the Colonial Office service and that by means of this appointments have already been made — one on the Gold Coast and another in Mauritius.

It is obviously of the utmost importance that selections of men for this service should be made with great care. The present system involves a double examination, one by a selection board at the University, and the other by a central board at Ottawa, which in turn makes recommendations to the Colonial Office. Thus every safeguard is taken to ensure that the names sent forward are those of men suited physically, mentally, temperamentally and physiologically for the work.

Canadians in the Colonial Service will discover wherein the rest of the Empire differs from their native land. They will begin to understand criticism and its values. They will learn to appreciate different perspectives, will begin to see avenues through which a more thorough mutual understanding of hopes and aims may be effected between distant parts of the Empire. They will find common ground for drawing closer together not only along paths of sentiment, but also by ways of a keener sympathy based upon a more intelligent grasp of problems that conflict and ideals that do not coincide.

And above all and beyond all, and of infinitely greater value than anything else, will be the slow but deep realization of what the British Empire means, and what Canada means as a free unit of that Empire. The young Canadian, wherever he may be located, will be a continual source of broadening influence among his own people. The influence of the Service on him will react through his correspondence with the people here at home, and there will be created thus a constant stream of sympathy. By the gradual development of the scheme, it does not require a very serious effort of the imagination to picture the Colonial Service as giving forth from scores of such streams an influence that can only be for the good of all the component parts of the Empire.

Viscount Milner did a fine thing when he inaugurated this system. The Duke of Devonshire is doing the Empire a valuable service when he develops it. Canada, Australia, South Africa, and the Islands of the Sea will all be the gainers, and no less profitable will be the experience to the Englishmen in the service who, through personal contact with representatives of the Overseas Dominions, will find their own sympathies and their own understanding quickened and broadened and deepened.