

been to gather together young men from the four corners of the earth and to assemble them at Oxford. Already this has proved a great thing for the individual. Its Imperial effect has yet to be discovered.

There are many who consider this a great Imperial scheme. It may be so, but to me it seems that exactly the converse of Cecil Rhodes's scheme would be of infinitely greater service to England and the Empire. Instead of gathering young men of unformed character and ideas from amongst the nations of the world, I should choose able Englishmen from England, and send them into every corner of the earth that is worth visiting; and let them carry their knowledge to those among whom they make their homes, and then bring or send back to us here the information that they derive from moving amongst the people of the world, and particularly of the Empire.

The overseas Briton sweeps the Imperial horizon, for his gaze is ever outward to his "home" so far across the seas. His eyes are upon it, and his heart is with his people there. The gaze of the home-staying Briton is ever at his feet, where nothing new is.

So, not unnaturally, it comes to pass that the Australian, the Canadian, the New-Zealander, the South-African, takes perhaps a wider view of the power and purpose of Imperial union than do many who have never lived in the newer lands.

We must send Englishmen out to live among the people of the Empire—of the world. It is true that nowadays travel is so easy and cheap that many more people journey abroad than in the old, uncomfortable, and expensive times. Naturally we are gradually getting to know our Imperial possessions and our oversea relations better than we did; but most people who travel do so for pleasure, and do not stay long enough in one place to obtain any sound and useful knowledge of its characteristics, its inhabitants, its laws, or its customs.

Nor, generally speaking, even if they did, would they have any means of communicating the result of their study and observation to those less fortunate ones who have to stay at home.

There are only two ways of influencing thought widely, by writing or speaking. Now, of the Rhodes scholars who come up to us, but a very small proportion are naturally writers or speakers. Of that small proportion not all will follow the profession of writing or speaking, and, of those who elect to do so, but a very small number will ever earn the right to be heard in London—for that takes much earning.

So it seems that to serve the cause of Imperial union best a man must be a writer or a speaker, an alert man and a thinker—not necessarily of high academic qualification. From men such as these—men whose characters are formed, and whose minds are sufficiently moulded to enable them to observe accurately, and to digest those observations intelligently—our Imperial Scholarship holders must be chosen.

They will hold their scholarships for, say, the same period as does a Rhodes Scholar now, and upon the same financial conditions. They will go forth to their appointed or chosen land, to study their allotted subjects, with all the prestige of a great Imperial foundation behind them. They will be welcomed upon the platform and in the Press. Every door will be open to them, be their study social legislation in New Zealand, technical education in America, or the ways of life amongst the dominions of the Empire.

They will spread by voice or pen among the people with whom they sojourn the message of true Imperialism. They will carry to their kin across the sea the latest thought, the latest knowledge, the latest feeling that pours always to the heart and brain of the world—London. And in return they will absorb much of the fresher thought and strong virility of the new lands; for the scales will fall from their eyes, and they will see England as no man who does not know the Empire can see her—a land the worthiest to be loved, and fought for, and worked for, of all the lands of the earth; a land for whom her children will pledge their last jewel and shed their last drop of blood should the occasion ever arise—and that is not flag-wagging or melodrama, but just sober fact. We might have to borrow the money from dear old John Bull; but he knows we would repay it. We did borrow the blood from him, and it is our duty to remember it, and we do. There is in surgery such a thing as transfusion of blood. For many, many years the Imperial dominions have drained old England of much of her best blood. It is time for some of it to flow back to the heart. It is beginning to flow. The Imperial sentiment is tingling in the veins of England's children. For all his alleged indifference there is no man on the face of the earth quicker than the Englishman to respond to patriotic feeling when he knows that it is necessary. It is necessary now, and there is little doubt as to what the response will be. The present is pregnant with issues of vast importance to the Empire. That Empire must no longer remain a series of scattered units. By its bonds of steel beneath the ocean waves it must be drawn more closely together; by its intangible gossamer-steel bonds of mutual love and respect it must be drawn more closely together: and this can only be fully accomplished by a wider knowledge of each other.

So when our Imperial Scholars have had time to settle down in their temporary homes they will send up each month or each quarter to the people at Home the results of their observations.

Thus we shall have a continuous stream of the thought of the Empire, expressed by those best able to do it, flowing to and from the heart of the world; and when the term of the scholarship has expired we shall have our speakers and writers home amongst us again, and in terms of their scholarships speaking and writing for a stated period throughout the dear old land. And, again, each man's way will be easy, for he will be back with his own Imperial-scholarship foundation behind him, a returned Imperial-scholarship holder, with something to tell, something to say of those lands across the sea—those wonderful, vast, beautiful possessions that are to so many but mere splashes of red on a page of paper.

So in time we shall have amongst us a class of men who know something of that vast and marvellous "concern," the British Empire, a "concern" that men who have never seen aught of presume to meddle with; ay, indeed, so do many men who have never assisted to manage anything so big and complicated as a coal-yard. Thus in time it would not be necessary, as indeed it is now, to follow Lord Rosebery's suggestion and send our legislators away to take even a fleeting glance at that wonder of the ages—the Empire on which the sun never sets.