EMPIRE SCHOLARSHIPS

Gradually all parts of the British Empire are awakening to the fact that if it is to achieve its destiny it must know itself. There must be an intimate knowledge of the productions and requirements of every part of the Empire, in order to foster and promote inter-empire trade. Such an achievement can be wrought out only by publicity and travel, the latter being a personal publicity which is more far-reaching in its results than any other form of propaganda work.

That is the idea at the back of the Empire scholarships which it is proposed to establish in connection with the Imperial Exhibition, an outline of which has been issued during the week. Several scholarships, of the value of £5,000 each, are to be made available to young citizens of the United Kingdom to enable them to settle in any of the Dominions. Other scholarships will be offered to young residents in the Dominions to induce them to undertake a University or technical education course in the United Kingdom.

Broadly, it seems an ideal conception for Imperial education, but any feeling of optimism which it might naturally inspire must be tempered by the reflection that so much will depend upon its administration. Success or failure will turn upon the selection of scholars and securing the right people, the suitable men to carry the ideals and aspirations of the United Kingdom to the Dominions, and again to find the fitting individuals overseas to promulgate in the old country the view points and hopes of the Dominions.

The underlying principle of the scheme is the same as in the Rhodes scholarships—to bring people more closely together by personal intercourse and by instilling into them a more intimate knowledge of each other's history and character.

Results in such cases cannot be immediate. They can be gleaned only from observations carefully noted over long periods. It is this aspect which suggests that the term of the Empire Fellowship, from which the scholarships are to emanate, being limited to the duration of the exhibition, is too ephemeral to achieve that success which might be expected from a permanent institution.

At any rate, a step in the right direction has been taken, and if it is only a step it is so much on the way to the ultimate goal. If the proposition is accorded the support which it undoubtedly merits, it may then be found advisable to give it that permanency which is so essential to any project for Empire education.