

1909.

NEW ZEALAND

EDUCATION:

PROPOSED IMPERIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME:

COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE THAT HAS PASSED BETWEEN MR. P. A. VAILE, OF LONDON,
AND THE RIGHT HON. THE PRIME MINISTER RELATIVE THERETO.

Laid on the Table of the House of Representatives by Leave.

DEAR SIR JOSEPH WARD,—

London (the Press Club), 21st August, 1909.

I have to thank you very heartily for your encouraging letter and for your promise to bring my Imperial Scholarship scheme before your parliamentary Education Committee. I did not lose much time in using your letter. I left the Cecil at 11 p.m. Next morning there was a leader on you and it in the evening papers with the largest circulation (outside ha'pennies), and now it is ploughing the seas to every country where English is spoken to let them know that once again you have been quick to encourage the Imperial sentiment. New Zealand may not hanker after giving £25,000; but she might, and I think should, give, say, two or more scholarships, costing about £2,500 in all, and give the holders free travelling on all railway-lines. You have already helped me, and again I thank you. This thing is the greatest or nothing. If you have time on your journey, will you think it over? and, if you can write me anything encouraging or stimulating that I can use here, do so. I think you can trust me to use it in the best way. I am getting much encouragement.

With best wishes for safe and pleasant voyage to you and yours,

Sir Joseph Ward, K.C.M.G., P.C., Premier, New Zealand.

I am, &c.,
P. A. VAILE.

DEAR MR. VAILE,—

London, 18th August, 1909.

With reference to your interview with me yesterday respecting the Imperial Scholarship scheme, I have perused your communication on the subject, and am very much impressed with your proposals.

It is not possible for me to do anything in the direction desired at this end, but I shall be glad upon my return to New Zealand to bring the whole matter before the parliamentary Educational Committee for full consideration and report.

With kind regards, yours, &c.,
J. G. WARD.

P. A. Vaile, Esq., the Press Club,
6 and 7 Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

DEAR MR. VAILE,—

London, 31st July, 1909.

I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 31st instant with reference to your desire to have an interview with me respecting the Imperial Scholarship scheme. It is not necessary for me to say that I am in thorough sympathy with the objects of the undertaking; but, as I have already intimated, it is not possible for me to make an appointment with you on the matter until after the Defence Conference. The pressure is so great at the present moment that I have found it necessary to decline all appointments.

With kind regards, yours, &c.,
J. G. WARD.

P. A. Vaile, Esq., the Press Club,
6 and 7 Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, E.C.

The Press Club, 6 and 7 Wine Office Court,
Fleet Street, E.C., 30th July, 1909.

DEAR SIR JOSEPH WARD,—

You were good enough to say that you would go into my Imperial Scholarship scheme with me after the Defence Conference. It has just occurred to me that it would then be rather late for me to approach the other Premiers.

If you consider the matter important will you give me an early appointment if possible?

I am going into it with Lord Northcliffe now, and am expecting important developments soon. I should not trouble you, but time is getting short.

Yours, &c.,

P. A. VAILE.

Press Club, Fleet Street,
London, E.C., 19th July, 1909.

DEAR SIR JOSEPH WARD,—

I wrote you *re* my Imperial Scholarship scheme, addressing my letter to catch you at Port Said. You have, no doubt, read that letter. I am sending you herewith copy of a letter which appeared in the *Evening Standard* and *St. James's Gazette*. The writer has slightly misunderstood my idea. It is wider than he thinks.

Things seem to be progressing very quickly in connection with the scheme. I had a consultation with Mr. Hall-Jones about it, and he, with much foresight and kindness, suggested that I should write you laying the present position before you briefly, so that you may understand it fully before you are caught up in the whirl of your London engagements.

You have, of course, had the scheme, and have probably seen the reports of my interview with Lord Milner. He says it is of greater importance to the Empire than the Rhodes scheme. The day the article I sent you appeared, the first scholarship, of £1,250, was guaranteed. That, however, is a small matter. I can get the money I want in England without trouble, for they recognise now the magnitude of the idea, *but I want* it to come from New Zealand. I want New Zealand to start it.

Within the last year New Zealand has added £60,000 per annum, equal to interest on about £2,000,000 per annum, and has promised a two-million-pound warship, with another if required—a mere matter of a liability, assured and contingent, equal to a capital of £6,000,000. Now, if we can rightly and joyfully do this—and it was nobly done—we need not shrink from a small liability which should go far to prevent the necessity for these great sums: for, properly carried out, it will put our Empire away from everything else—unapproachable, unassailable.

My suggestion is that, provided you agree with the idea generally held here of the scheme, New Zealand should offer, say, £25,000 to start it if the other States and Dominions will come in on the same lines. It will be another world-educating *coup* such as your splendid decision with regard to the Dreadnought. It was the moral effect—the instantaneous, spontaneous speaking for a young and vigorous people by a man who knew the right thing to do, and who was bold enough to interpret his country's sentiment.

As you were backed up in that instance, so I believe would you be in this. Possibly some one of the States would not come in. In that case you could reconsider your decision, and make whatever offer you thought fit: but I feel strongly that, if this thing is going to be the stupendous organization prophesied by those who ought to know, its lesson of Imperialism should be sent forth to the world with all *dramatic*—I use the word advisedly—force and effect possible. If you had offered the Dreadnought a month after you did, the offer would have fallen “stone cold.” It was the sentiment. It showed the value of the children of the Empire. So I wanted to be with this. I have been engaged on it for four years. If it is right, who should first see it and show it my mother State, and how greater the force and effect if the States of the Empire start it! England *must* (and will willingly) come in then.

I am hoping that soon after your arrival you will be able to give me an appointment, and that you will be able to make the announcement suggested by me shortly after, and to arrange if possible for the oversea Premiers to consider the proposal. I hope you will not think that I am importunate in this matter. I am putting it as plainly and clearly as I can, for I know its importance to the Empire, but I shall not try to persuade any one to come into this thing with me. As I told Lord Milner, if the thing is not good enough to bring the man in, I do not want him. Unless it is great enough and good enough to bring you and New Zealand in, I do not want either. Nothing less is good enough. It has to be great enough to attract and, having attracted, to inspire all those who will work for it. If I find it cannot do this, I shall not be with it very long: but I have no doubt.

I shall hope to hear from you as soon as you can conveniently manage it, when I could explain anything about which you may be uncertain.

On Mr. Hall-Jones's suggestion I am duplicating this letter and sending one to the Hotel Cecil, London, and the other to the P. and O. s.s. “China” to catch you at Marseilles. I hope you will consider the importance of the subject and the position it has already taken in this country sufficient excuse for my troubling you with the matter.

I am, &c.,

P. A. VAILE.

MR. VAILE'S IMPERIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

(To the Editor of the *Evening Standard* and *St. James's Gazette*.)

SIR,—

I was very pleased with “A New Zealand Editor's” able and sympathetic letter, and with his promise of active support on his return to the Dominion.

He has, however, fallen into the error of thinking that I intend this scheme to be confined to university men. In dealing with Imperial matters, it seems to me that nothing but the broadest will do. There are no restrictions as to academic qualification. There are no cast-iron rules about diplomas and degrees. We want the men who can serve the Empire best, irrespective of mere book-learning.

"A New Zealand Editor" is correct in his statements about the Rhodes scholars. The fact is that the Rhodes scheme is a scheme for the benefit of individuals rather than for the Empire.

I fully appreciate "A New Zealand Editor's" remarks about women being allowed to take part in the scheme. Coming as I do from a land which places woman in her right position, it is but natural that I have had that in my mind. If a woman can serve the Empire better than a man, surely she should have the opportunity. This, in my mind, follows so naturally that I should no more state it than I do that I require money to carry out this scheme. In New Zealand our women have nobly borne a trust most freely given, as women always will. They have shown us clearly what we never doubted—that woman's influence in political life must make for good.

The idea of "A New Zealand Editor" as to approaching the various States and Dominions of the Empire is good, and, as a matter of fact, is being acted on now.

It is now certain that my scheme will be in operation within a short time. It is four or five years since I started work on it, and I have, particularly recently, received the greatest encouragement and assistance.

The time is absolutely ripe for putting it into active operation, and no time is to be lost in doing so.

P. A. VAILE.

MR. VAILE'S IMPERIAL SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME.

SIR,— (To the Editor of the *Evening Standard* and *St. James's Gazette*.)

"Some such plan is certainly worth a trial, if we mean to make an end of baffling and hampering ignorance. It would be the complement of the labours of the Press Conference."

The above extract from your Note in a recent issue in which you discuss and favourably criticize Mr. P. A. Vaile's scheme for sending to the oversea dominions the brainiest products of the universities of the United Kingdom tempts me to offer a few words of encouragement to its promoter, who, in my humble judgment, is proceeding on sounder lines than the author of the proposal for an exchange of university students within the Empire. The Rhodes Scholarship scheme was admittedly conceived in a spirit of broad Imperialism, its objective being to enable the very pick of the products of the colonial universities to proceed to Oxford, there to acquire the democratic air, literary tastes, and aspirations of that ancient seat of learning, and thereafter to return to the land of their birth or adoption and spread among their own people the benefit of the liberal education that Oxford is able to impart. It was a magnificent conception; but is it likely to be wholly and entirely realised? There is every reason to believe that Oxford is receiving from the oversea dominions, as well as from the United States, the *crème de la crème* of the graduates of the universities of these countries, selected in all cases with scrupulous regard to the terms of Mr. Rhodes's will by impartial and independent selectors: but thus early in the operation of the scheme a large proportion of the Rhodes scholars are not likely to become men of light and leading in their own countries, which apparently do not offer to them the attractions and emoluments of older lands. So far as my own country (New Zealand) is concerned, it is true that the first of our Rhodes scholars (Mr. Thomson) on his return to the Dominion accepted a lectureship at Victoria College, Wellington; but the satisfaction over his decision was very short-lived, because before he took up his work it was announced that he had been offered and had accepted a more lucrative position in Australia. Another Rhodes scholar from New Zealand who has just gained his degree of science with honours at Leipzig is off to Rangoon, and I am told that our third scholar has already had his attention drawn to the possibilities of the Indian Civil Service. Nobody can blame these young men, who have to make their way in an already overcrowded world, for seeking pastures that are likely to yield them at an early period of their careers the substantial realisation of their hopes; but if their example is to be generally followed, will the underlying principle of the Rhodes bequest be given effect to?

On the other hand, if Mr. Vaile's scheme materialises, the "intellectuals" of the United Kingdom will be given an opportunity of studying on the ground the political, social, and educational problems that are being to-day grappled with and yet remain to be solved by the oversea dominions. I purposely employ the phrase "intellectuals" because I trust that Mr. Vaile and those helping him to elaborate his scheme will not confine its benefits to one university, nor restrict them to one section of students. If he hopes to appeal to the colonies for monetary assistance, as I naturally conclude he intends doing at the psychological moment, he can only be successful by demonstrating that the newer universities, as well as the two most ancient seats of learning in England, are included in his scheme, and that female as well as male graduates shall be eligible for selection. There must be no bar of nationality or of sex. There are in Australia and New Zealand important economic issues to be settled which concern the welfare of our womanhood quite as much as the sterner sex, and the consideration of those problems by intellectual British women with open minds will be most helpful. I would counsel Mr. Vaile, when he has worked out the details of his scheme to his own satisfaction, to lay them before the Prime Ministers of the several oversea dominions, and bespeak their support on purely Imperial grounds. Of late years the consolidated revenue of my own colony has been frequently and largely drawn upon in aid of projects that were thought to have a nexus with Imperial consolidation, and on all these occasions the vote was awarded with such practical unanimity as to warrant me in saying that the average colonist is prepared to do his duty in strengthening the bonds of Empire on purely sentimental

grounds. If my assertion be true, then *a priori* the colonies will come cheerfully to the generous assistance of a scheme that possesses inherent merit—the potentiality by educational means of the highest order of drawing the Britisher and the colonist closer together through the medium of brains. Lord Rosebery's dream of a legislative picnic, in order to insure a better acquaintance of the governed by those who for the nonce have to perform the task of governing the Empire, served its purpose—it gave point to an epoch-making speech; but when men regarded it from the standpoint of practicability it was generally recognised that it could never be accomplished. But Mr. Vaile has taken hold of the idea, and is using it to the greatest advantage. Send to us for, say, three years the ablest of your "intellectuals" (in this term I include not only the academic but the scientific), attach them for that time to the recognised universities of the oversea dominions, and let them come among us with a determination to view us and our difficulties impartially; and the net result of the operation of the scheme must be to remove mutual prejudices, to clear away misunderstandings, to strengthen the Imperial tie, and, to adopt your own simile, to found "a true and wide Imperialism." What amount of money is needed to put the scheme on a sure basis I know not—Mr. Vaile has doubtless closely calculated the cost, and is prepared to state it; but I am confident that if the details are put clearly and squarely before the citizens of Greater Britain they will rise to the occasion, do the part required of them, and again demonstrate that their Imperialism is not founded on lip service, but is in their heart of hearts. Believing firmly as I do in the potentialities of Mr. Vaile's scheme, and feeling sure that its realisation will be of immense value in the upbuilding of the Empire, I gladly indorse it, and on my return to my own land shall use my voice and pen to bring its salient features before my own people and to secure their adoption by them.

A NEW ZEALAND EDITOR.

IMPERIAL SCHOLARSHIPS.

SIR,— (To the Editor of the *Evening Standard and St. James's Gazette*.)

The Imperial Scholarship scheme, recently broached in your columns, strikes one as appealing to the imagination; but, like everything which appeals to that overworked faculty, it is based on a true instinct. Will you allow me, as one who has had a good deal of practical experience of education and theoretical experience of sociology, to refer to some points which the idea of the scheme suggests?

No one but the hide-bound pedagogue or the Socialist "endeavourer" doubts that education to-day is a monstrous growth in the flesh of the social organism. The obsolete curriculum through which 80 per cent. of the upper and middle classes are pushed at school and college is a "rudimentary process" which drains or perverts the mental and moral development of its victims. It has no relation to the facts of life. The invaluable part of it—Greek thought—was long ago absorbed by western culture and science. To extract a few drops of this in each generation is unnecessary. The draught is only appreciated by dreamers, and it is bad even for them. Far better to bring up our youth on the sincere milk of reality, instead of on the condensed wisdom of the ancients.

In the next place, there is the huge and unwieldy growth of elementary education, so-called. It has had many years of trial, and its results are ridiculous. It elevates an occasional "sport," 1 per cent. of the proletariat; by a process more clumsy and with an outlay far greater than are involved in that proverbially difficult feat—the conversion of a Jew. And this at the expense of the ninety-and-nine persons whose usefulness and content as workmen and artisans is spoilt, to their own and their country's injury. In his address last year to the British Association, Professor Ridgeway emphasized this lesson of elementary education. Again, the majority of the middle-class schools are crippled by a scheme of "elementary scholarships," as futile in its results and as misguided in its aims as the scheme of old-age pensions.

The whole system is fostering physical and mental degeneration. Its cost is enormous, and it grows. Thus, education, the most important concern of the State, bids fair to lead to national bankruptcy in credit, physique, and brain. Confine elementary education to the three Rs; cut down its ridiculous list of "subjects," and its enormous and costly machinery. A small outlay on a scheme such as that of Imperial Scholarships would have fifty times more result for the individual and the Empire than the present educational budget. The individual would receive the highest crown of education—initiation into living ideals as a preparation for living reality; the Empire would advance its own interests without wasting its money.

A study of individual benefits might be expanded into pages. The best sociology of all times has had a similar method of completing the education of its best subjects. The old systems of the "wanderjahr" and the Grand Tour are examples from two strata of society. America has followed the latter custom, and the colonies are beginning to do so. Greece and Rome had a similar practice. The ideal man of the Greeks was one who "had seen the cities of many men and learned their thoughts."

The present scheme will organize a well-tried instinct; it will combine the highest individualism with the highest Imperialism, and should insert the thin end of the wedge of science—in the widest meaning of that term—into modern Anglo-Saxon education.

A. E. CRAWLEY.

[*Evening Standard and St. James's Gazette*, 7th July, 1909.]

RHODES REVERSED.—A NEW IMPERIAL SCHEME.—BY P. A. VAILE.

THE Rhodes Scholarship Trust has been in existence for some years, but it is too soon for any one to say with certainty what the effect of it will be. So far as it has gone at present the result has

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.

IN IMPERIO.

Once more in our columns Mr. P. A. Vaile returns to the charge, and reiterates his enthusiastic belief in the value of that Imperial Scholarship scheme which he first propounded in the columns of the *Manchester Guardian*. Now, as then, we should like to back his scheme with our appreciation of its very great possibilities. There are, as we have said, points of possible disagreement in the details—somewhat shadowy as these are as yet—of Mr. Vaile's plan, and we have commented on the difficulties which we see in the carrying-out of these large ideas. But we do believe that the scheme is feasible, we do believe that it has the germ of a true and wide Imperialism, and we certainly hope that a founder or founders pious enough to lend a name and money to the scheme will be discovered. Of course, there is now another Imperial Scholarship scheme in the field. But it differs essentially from this scheme. It is more academic and, in a sense, less Imperial. When Lord Rosebery spoke of sending our legislators round the Empire to learn something of it, he really indorsed the principle that underlies Mr. Vaile's ideas, and he spoke very well and truly. Some such plan is certainly worth a trial if we mean to make an end of baffling and hampering ignorance. It would be the complement of the labours of the Press Conference. And the cost should not be prohibitive. Are there not several millionaires at large in the Empire?

DEAR MR. VAILE,—

Wellington, 21st May, 1908.

I am duly in receipt of your letter of the 14th January, in which you bring under my notice your scheme regarding Imperial Scholarships, and forwarding a copy of the *Manchester Guardian* and also a copy of the *London Standard* containing articles in respect to your proposal. I may say that I have read with very much interest the correspondence on the subject which you were so kind as to send to me, and can quite understand that the scheme would fit in very well with the Rhodes Scholarship movement. I shall keep your communication before me, and have to thank you for your kindness in writing to me as you have done in the matter.

Yours, &c.,

J. G. WARD.

P. A. Vaile, Esq., the Press Club,
6 and 7 Wine Office Court, Fleet Street, London, E.C.

The Press Club, 6 and 7 Wine Office Court,

DEAR SIR JOSEPH WARD,—

Fleet Street, London, E.C., 14th January, 1909.

I send you a *Manchester Guardian* with my Imperial Scholarship article in it, also *Evening Standard* with a leader dealing with it.

Since then, as you will probably have seen by the papers, I have had an interesting interview with Lord Milner, and now the matter is going before the Prince of Wales and perhaps the King.

Lord Milner reckons my scheme would run hand in hand with Rhodes's idea, and he assured me that he would be glad to work it and assist me in developing it. Before this reaches you we may have offered the first scholarship—for things are moving here.

I have suggested that possibly some of the colonies would offer a scholarship or a series of scholarships. If the idea commends itself to you, might not New Zealand be the first dependency of England to put into practice this great imperialising influence? Please do not think I am trying to urge this. As I told Lord Milner, this thing must be good enough to carry itself along. It could be done by cable if desired. There is enough in the article to show the lines of the scheme: and I should send the first scholar to New Zealand to study her legislation and life. Will you think of it, and pardon my troubling you? but if it goes it would never be forgotten; if it doesn't it would.

Yours, &c.,

Sir Joseph Ward, K.C.M.G., Premier of New Zealand.

P. A. VAILE.

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