

that practically every requirement of the United Kingdom can be satisfied, under proper measures of development, from within the confines of the Empire. At the Imperial Conference, and since then, various schemes for developing these material resources have been considered by the Governments of the Empire. Preferential arrangements as regards raw materials must clearly depend, not so much upon the imposition of duties, which, generally speaking, are undesirable as regards raw materials, as on a favourable disposition on the part of these Governments to support private enterprise and stimulate the adoption of measures by the proper use of national credit.

Progress, however, in the development of the Empire's raw material supplies, must be slow unless active and energetic steps be taken to carry forward schemes of Empire settlement, and so provide the necessary population; also to improve communications within the Empire. The adoption of the Empire Settlement Act provides a legislative basis upon which schemes for stimulating the former movement should be actively undertaken. The circumstances of the different Dominions differ, and no cut-and-dried scheme can be made for all. It is eminently a question in which the closest consultation and cooperation between Governments and private bodies should take place.

As regards communications, it would be found possible, if the stores of information in Government offices were considered, to choose what we may call key points within the Empire, as regards roads, railways, harbours, docks and steamship lines, where measures should be taken, with the aid and countenance of the respective Governments, to link up market centres and localities where raw material resources are to be