

Council would naturally try to find some body or institution in the Dominion willing, as the Committee's agent, to arrange for and supervise the actual execution of the research. Conversely, there is no reason why the Committee of Council or their Advisory Council should not act as the agent for an Overseas Government (or for any body or institution acting under the authority of the Government), for the purpose of arranging and carrying out on its behalf and at its cost any research which could more conveniently or effectively be conducted in the Mother Country. For instance, it may be worth while for an Overseas Dominion to defray the cost of a research in the Mother Country into the best method of utilising an earth or metal which is found in the Dominion but for which there is not at present a sufficient market in the Mother Country, with a view to creating such a market.

4. If, however, an effective agency arrangement were established between different parts of the Empire, it is highly probable that this relation would quickly develop into a more intimate and a more highly organised relation. The scope and methods of modern scientific research, especially when it is directed to the solution of the practical problems of trade and industry, are such as often to require the combined efforts of many workers in many places, involving a co-ordinated division of labour, and a series of investigations into problems arising at many points in the process between the raw material and the finished product. When the raw material is produced, and especially where it is grown, in one part of the world and manufactured in another, a satisfactory solution of the series of problems with which the industry is confronted will often require concurrent and concerted investigation in both countries. For instance, wheat, cotton, silk, rubber, and wool offer a number of distinct though related problems which intimately affect more than one of the constituent parts of the Empire, and which can be most effectively dealt with by simultaneous and co-ordinated investigation in different parts of the world. In such cases, moreover, it is not at all likely that the commercial interests of the two countries in the results of the different parts of the research will be so distinct as to admit of separate valuation of and separate payment for the work actually done for each country. The character of modern organized research, and the character of modern commerce and industry, are in fact such as to render it almost inevitable that a relation which starts as one of reciprocal agency between different parts of the Empire should lead to a more definitely co-operative relation of "joint venture" or "limited partnership." Under such an arrangement two or more parts of the Empire would combine to frame a scheme for the investigation of a specific problem in which they were all jointly interested, would contribute in agreed proportion to the cost of the whole work, and would arrange between themselves for the distribution of the work among the laboratories, factories, & c., at the disposal of the contributors for the supervision of the work and for the collection, statement, and use of the results achieved.

5. It is not inconceivable that in the future the relations of agency or "joint venture" may lead to a still more extensive and comprehensive partnership or union of interests. The White Paper already referred to declares, at the end of paragraph 3, with reference to the United Kingdom, that "there must be a single fund for the assistance of research under a single responsible body." The question whether it would be practicable to extend this principle to the whole Empire by the constitution of a Central Body for the purpose of administering a common fund supported by contributions from the United Kingdom and Overseas Dominions, raises issues with which the Committee of Council are not competent to deal. The "pooling" or consolidation of the resources of the Empire for the purposes of scientific research is a stimulating ideal, but though pure science is cosmopolitan and disinterested, it is in its application to trade and industry inevitably