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SCIENCE AND INDUSTRY

In view of the fact that the Canadian public now looks with favor on proposals to encourage scientific and industrial research, it is probable that the services of scientists will be utilized in our industries to a greater extent than heretofore. That the Dominion Government is alive to the need of more closely linking science and industry is a source of satisfaction. We are also pleased to see that some scientists who have had little to do with the application of science to industry are now convinced that they have been out of touch with those who utilize the results of research. We are also pleased that the general public is awake to the fact that there is need for organization to direct research along useful lines and to make the results readily available.

Sir George Foster, Minister of Trade and Commerce, recognizing the demand for such organization, has appointed an Advisory Council in Industrial and Scientific Research. The announcement was deservedly well received. It appeared that Sir George, who has done much for Canada during the war and who seems to have an unusually clear vision, had taken a step that should help Canada to prepare for the industrial struggle that everyone tells us is to follow the war. A Council composed of properly qualified men would undoubtedly be of great use to our industries.

Our hopes were, however, dashed when we were advised of the personnel of the Council. In their respective spheres these men have attained prominence and we are as ready as anyone to congratulate them on receiving some recognition for their work. We are not convinced, however, that they are the right men for this job. And we cannot help concluding that their appointment has resulted from a lack of appreciation of what the nature of the job is.

In our last issue we commented on these appointments. It has been suggested that we might withhold criticism until the Council has a chance to prove its usefulness. We believe, however, that the matter is too important for such treatment. The mining industry, like other Canadian industries, could be helped by such an organization as the Minister of Trade and Commerce thinks he is furnishing. We are not content to wait for a few years so that he may find out that he has not given what the country needs. We could, after the manner of several of our daily newspapers, dismiss the subject by congratulating Sir George and the men whom he has chosen, and hope for the best. We do not intend to follow such a course, as we do not believe it in the best interest of the mining industry or of other Canadian industries.

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