

APPENDIX V.

MEMORANDUM ON THE SUGGESTIONS MADE BY THE GOVERNMENTS OF VICTORIA AND NEW SOUTH WALES FOR MAKING THE SCHEME FOR THE ORGANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF SCIENTIFIC AND INDUSTRIAL RESEARCH APPLICABLE TO THE WHOLE EMPIRE.

1. The Committee of the Privy Council for Scientific and Industrial Research have considered the papers communicated to them by the Secretary of State for the Colonies on the 23rd November 1915 and the 3rd January 1916, including memoranda by the Minister of Public Works of Victoria, and by the Honourable Premier for New South Wales. It is suggested in these memoranda that the scheme described in the White Paper issued by Mr. Arthur Henderson on the 23rd July 1915 [C.d. 8005], and subsequently embodied in the order in Council of the 28th July 1915 (which is reprinted as an appendix to this memorandum), should be extended and made applicable to the Overseas Dominions, or even to the Empire as a whole.

2. In the memorandum by the Minister of Public Works of Victoria, special stress is laid on the statement made in paragraph 3 of the White Paper that—

“it is clearly desirable that the scheme should operate over the Kingdom as a whole with as little regard as possible to the Tweed and the Irish Channel. The research done should be for the Kingdom as a whole, and there should be complete liberty to utilise the most effective institutions and investigators as available, irrespective of their location in England, Wales, Scotland, or Ireland.”

The Committee of the Council have no hesitation in expressing their concurrence in the view that the principle of the passage above cited is capable of a much wider application, and so far as in them lies, they are prepared to co-operate cordially with the Secretary of State in promoting such an arrangement between the Mother Country and the Overseas Dominions as would secure the effective application of the principle throughout the Empire. A complete and effective system of research implies the power to carry out each piece of work in the place where the conditions are most favourable and where it can be performed most thoroughly, quickly, and economically. It is obvious that a reciprocal arrangement by which the scientific and industrial resources of the Mother Country in men, material, and equipment could be made available for a research in which any of the Dominions was primarily interested, and which conversely would place the resources of the Overseas Dominions at the disposal of the Mother Country and of each other, would greatly augment the aggregate research capacity of the Empire and enhance the productivity of its industries.

3. The simplest form of Imperial co-operation would be an arrangement by which one Government (or some administrative body acting under its authority) would act as the agent of another Government for the purpose of arranging, carrying out, and supervising a specific research, the entire cost being borne by the Government initiating the research. It is not outside the existing powers of the Committee of the Privy Council to aid a research intended to benefit a British industry, even though the research may be conducted beyond the borders of the United Kingdom. For instance, the best means of recovering a metal found in one of the Overseas Dominions and needed for the production of some new alloy required by the British Metallurgical or Engineering Industry, might form the subject of a research conducted in that Dominion at the instance and at the cost of the Committee of Council. For this purpose their Advisory