Empire Roads, Transport and Fuels

A number of important problems and considerations connected with the development of roads and of road transport, and with the creation and distribution of motor fuel supplies within the Empire will be discussed at a Conference in course of organization by the Imperial Motor Transport Council and due to be held in London on October 18th to 21st, at which time the first post-war exhibition of commercial motor vehicles will be in progress at Olympia.

The Council responsible for the organization of the Conference has as its President, H.R.H. Prince Arthur of Connaught, while the Hon. Sir Arthur Stanley, G.B.E., C.B., C.V.O., is Chairman of its Executive. Seven years have elapsed since the last Conference organized by the Council to consider similar subjects, was held, and the developments that have taken place in the interval have, of course, been considerable.

The forthcoming Conference will be divided into two classes, the one dealing with roads and transport and the other with motor fuels. The former will be organized as regards details by the Empire Roads and Transport Committee of the Council, constituted as follows: Mr. H. C. B. Underdown (chairman), President of the Association of British Motor Manufacturers, Ltd.; Mr. H. Percy Boulnois, M. Inst. C.E., Chairman of the Roads Improvement Association; Mr. J. S. Brown, Union of South Africa; Mr. B. Caillard; Mr. Frederick Coates, M.I. Mech. E., Commonwealth of Australia; Sir J. Duncan, K.B.E., M. Inst. C.E., Dominion of New Zealand; Mr. Walter Eraut, M. Inst. C.E., Crown Colonies; Mr. L. Griffith, Dominion of Canada; Mr. Victor Gordon, Dominion of Newfoundland; Mr. C. E. House. Department of Overseas Trade; Lt.-Col. T. M. Hutchinson, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.A.S.C., War Office; Sir Henry P. Maybury, K.C.M.G., C.B., Ministry of Transport; Lt.-Col. W. Paisley Robinson, D.S.O., O.B.E., R.A.S.C., Mechanical Transport Advisor to the Government of India; Mr. E. S. Shrapnell-Smith; and Mr. Horace Wyatt.

The general object of the discussions in this section will be to encourage uniformity of policy in respect of roads and transport throughout the Empire. Thus, for example, consideration will be given to the desirability of securing general approval by the Governments of the Empire of the principle that the proceeds of motor taxation should be allocated specifically to the roads. Another important matter is the provision in all parts of the Empire of a sufficiency of vehicles suitable for military use in emergency, and so constructed as to form efficient and adequately standardized fleets in the event of collaboration of the forces from the various parts of the Empire becoming necessary.

The Roads and Transport Section of the Conference will be presided over by the Rt. Hon. Sir Eric Geddes, Minister of Transport.

The Rt. Hon. Walter Long, First Lord of the Admiralty, will act as Chairman of the Fuels Section. This will deal with various aspects of the fuel problem, and the possibilities of its solution by the creation of new and the development of existing sources of supply. organization will be in the hands of the Empire Motor Fuels Committee of the Council, constituted as follows: Mr. E. S. Shrapnell-Smith. C.B.E. (chairman), Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee of Mechanical Transport Associations; Sir G. H. Ashdown, K.B.E., I.S.O.. Director of Stores, Admiralty; Air Commodore R. K. Bagnal-Wild, C.B.E., C.M.G., Aeronautical Inspection Directorate: Sir Charles Bedford. Kt., LL.D., D.Sc.; Sir John Cadman, K.C.M.G.,

D.Sc., M.I. Inst. E., Director H.M. Petroleum Department; Mr. J. C. Clarke, C.B.E., Deputy-Director, H.M. Petroleum Department; Brig.-Gen. Sir apel Holden, K.C.B., M.I.E.E., F.R.S., Chairman Royal Aero Club; Sir Charles Metcalfe, Bart., Consulting Engineer for Rhodesia; Dr. W. R. Ormandy, D.Sc., M.I.A.E., Consulting Chemist and Engineer; Mr. W. H. Ross, O.B.E., of Edinburgh; Mr. G. J. Shave, M. I. Mech. E. M.I.A.E. Manager of Maintenance. London General Omnibus Co.; Colonel D. J. Smith, nominated by Institute of Automobile Engineers; Mr. G. F. Watson, M.I. Mech. E., M.I.A.E., Engineer, Commercial Motor Users' Association; and Mr. Horace Wyatt.

Invitations to be represented at the Conference have been addressed to the Overseas Governments of the Empire, including the Dominion Governments and the various State and Provincial Governments and appropriate Government Departments in every instance. Invitations have also been sent to the Crown Colonies and to leading municipalities, chambers of commerce, agricultural associations, trade associations and automobile clubs in all parts of the Empire, and a representative and influential attendance is anticipated. Communications from readers who may desire facilities for attending the Conference or may wish to put forward suggestions of subjects for discussion should be addressed to Mr. Horace Wyatt, Hon. Secretary, Imperial Motor Transport Council, Royal Automobile Club, Pall Mall, S.W.1.

Mr. G. R. Hall Caine, who has been a welcome visitor in Canada during the past few months, is turning out to be a first-class ambassador of Canada's Natural Resources since his return to England. It would not be surprising if the testimony of Mr. Hall Caine and others resulted in an influx of British capital that will be an important feature of the next few years in the development of the Canadian pulp and paper industry. Canada has for some time been an attractive field for American money, especially in this industry, and Great Britain is now having an experience which will doubtless have the effect of diverting capital to investment in Canada which a few years ago, would have found employment in Scandinavia.

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