

or contractor who is farsighted will place his orders now, thus avoiding dissappointments in delivery; getting the benefit of lower prices than will obtain later on; and giving the manufacturer a chance to cover himself with purchases of the necessary raw materials at present prices, and sufficient notice to obtain those raw materials in time to manufacture the machinery required.

AN IMPERIAL DEVELOPMENT BOARD

In their final report, the Dominions Royal Commission, probably as a result of their investigation of the operations of the Canadian Commission of Conservation, recommend for the Empire an "Imperial Development Board," which is evidently designed upon the same lines as the Conservation Commission. The references to the need of a "purely advisory" body to make a "continuous survey and consideration of Empire resources," "to study the best means of co-ordinating Empire effort for the development of these resources," and that it "should not encroach upon the administrative machinery," sound like an echo of the evidence respecting the operations of the Conservation Commission given before the Dominions Commission by its deputy head, James White.

The Dominions Royal Commission say:—

"We believe that the time has come when something less occasional is needed, when a body should be created which could be referred to at any time and by any of the Governments in order to smooth the path of Imperial development. There is, in brief, both scope and need for a new Imperial Development Board, which, without displacing any existing body, would devote its energies and experience to a continuous survey and consideration of Empire resources and opportunities, and to study of the best means of co-ordinating Empire effort for the development of these resources for the extension of Imperial trade, and for the strengthening of Imperial lines of communication. It would be impossible to exaggerate the significance and influence of such a Board, composed, as it should be, of men possessing an intimate knowledge of the Empire and its resources, in constant consultation and collaboration, on the watch for every opportunity, and alive to every possibility.

"To the duty of advising and guiding on these matters would, of course, be added that of collecting the necessary particulars bearing upon them. This would involve research not only into the conditions prevailing in the Empire, but into the methods of production and distribution of rival trading countries which have similar problems to face. Accurate and up-to-date knowledge of such matters will be, in our judgment, necessary, and, indeed, vital, under the keener competition and closer organization which will obtain after the war. The proposed Board should further undertake the elaboration and the critical examination of joint Imperial schemes of development. The submission of questions of joint development to an Imperial Board would save both time and money. It would save time by the curtailment of the interminable negotiations which are now required to achieve joint action between the various Governments. It would save money in the sense that the schemes submitted to it would receive thorough examination, and would pass through the fire of criticism.

"The primary condition of this new Imperial Development Board must be that it should not encroach upon the political or administrative machinery of any of the self-governing parts of the Empire.

"In other words, it should be purely advisory in its initial stage. We are not prepared to suggest that, at its inception, any specific administrative functions should be assigned to it, but equally we hesitate to restrict the future activities of a new, and, to some extent, experimental, organization. If, at some future time, the Governments of the Empire should, either through the Imperial Conference or otherwise, desire to delegate any administrative duties to it, we see no inherent difficulty in giving effect to such a wish."

PERSONALS

W. P. NEAR, city engineer of St. Catharines, Ont., has been appointed manager of the city's gas plant.

WILLIAM HUNTER, Kincardine, Ont., has been appointed overseer of good roads for the county of Bruce.

ALEXANDER GILLESPIE, for the past twelve years resident engineer at the waterworks department, Brantford, Ont., has resigned.

Sapper FRED HUDSON has been appointed by Works Commissioner R. C. Harris, of Toronto, as inspector of water main installation in York Township.

G. PALMER HOWARD, manager of the Phoenix Bridge & Iron Works, has left Montreal for Washington, having been chosen to act on the British Imperial Munitions Board.

STEEL HUNTER, for the past eight years engineer in charge of fire protection waterworks at Lucknow, Ont., has resigned in order to take a position at Calumet, Mich. He will be succeeded by JOHN NEVINS, of Brussels, Ont.

C. ROYER, for several years manager of the L'Air Liquide Society, Montreal, has severed his connection with the firm. He contemplates starting as a consulting engineer in the oxy-acetylene process of cutting and welding in general engineering practice.

W. P. HINTON has been appointed vice-president and general manager of the Grand Trunk Pacific Railway and G.T.P. Coast Steamship Company, with headquarters at Winnipeg. Mr. Hinton succeeds MORLEY DONALDSON, M.Can.Soc.C.E., who has been associated with the Grand Trunk Railway System since 1905, and has now resigned on account of ill health.

Lieut. LEWIS WYNNE-ROBERTS, R.E., formerly of Regina, Sask., has been selected for duty in Mesopotamia. He left England in March, and made the voyage down the west coast of Africa, spending a few weeks in Cape Town and other cities. Letters indicate recent arrival in Bombay, from which point he was sent to Bangalore, where he is attached to a corps of sappers and miners.

R. R. SHAFER, manager of the crushing machinery department of the Traylor Engineering & Manufacturing Co., Allentown, Pa., has resigned his position for the duration of the war in order to become engineer-in-charge of the Traylor Shipbuilding Corporation. The latter company, which has a contract for the building of ten vessels for the United States government in connection with the Emergency Fleet Corporation's work, is a subsidiary of the Traylor Engineering & Manufacturing Co. Mr. Shafter is well known in Canada, having designed a number of the largest rock-crushing plants in the Dominion, including the big crushing plant that will soon be erected for the Hydro-Electric Power Commission at Niagara.