

Commission my thanks are due to Professor S. M. Lindsay of Columbia University.

With the American plan may be compared the recent Royal Rescript to the Prussian Diet announcing the appointment of two experienced officials to reform the Public Administration. In order to provide a basis for reform that will be uniform and free from the influence of particular departments the Commissioners are given full powers to select their assistants. Both Commissioners and assistants are free to disregard the instructions of their superiors. The text of the Rescript is worth quoting :

“ The historic construction of the State administration no longer takes due account in all cases of the changed economic conditions. It is in many cases too complicated, and consequently demands a larger personnel than will be available after the War. The experiences of the War have, moreover, shown that it is possible for the organisation and control of the administration to be made simpler. There is the further fact that public burdens will undergo an extraordinary increase after the War. In these circumstances I desire that the question shall be seriously examined how a simplification and reduction of the cost of all the State administrations can be brought about.”