

quirements intimately connected with production and distribution.

One of the revelations of the war has been that there lie within the British Empire raw materials the command of which, when the war broke out, would have had a profound effect upon the progress and prosecution of the war. The Empire woke up to find that in many most important particulars its own raw materials were within the hand and clutch of the enemy, and were being and had been exploited by them, forming an important base of supply and a means for offensive action in the way of the manufacture of munitions, and thus tending to aid the enemy and injure the Empire. One thing that will come out of this war, I think, is that the various parts of the Empire will be drawn so closely together in economic interest and their minds will be so devoted to the development of the great estate within the bounds of the Empire itself that the best energy and enterprise and capital of the Empire will be mobilized for the exploitation of its own boundless resources of raw material, and these will be kept primarily for the use of the Empire, whatever may be left over for other countries afterwards. So a part of the work of this bureau of industrial information will be the collection and description and representation of the raw resources of Canada and of every other part of the Empire.

Such a bureau as I mention would exhibit also the processes of manufacture and industry in Canada itself. To-day the stranger who visits our shores must travel from British Columbia to Sydney before he can get a visualized idea of what we make and how we make those things which we do produce. It is possible, with no very great expense, to have in this central museum, distinctly visualized to the visitor, whether he be from a foreign country, or from our own country, the processes of manufacture and industry in this country. Pictorial representation is in these times taking on the efficacy of a fine art. It is a wonderful co-operator and helper in getting together in small space what otherwise could not be seen without extended travel, much time, and great expense. This bureau will not be simply for people outside the country. Our own people in Canada have, in some cases, almost as little idea of what we do produce in this country as people from outside, and it would be a wonderful eye-opener and stimu-

[Sir George Foster.]

lant to our people if they could pass in review occasionally something of the kind that I have tried to describe.

Then, there will be exhibited also in that establishment, in diagram, the resources and productions and trade development of Canada, and our lines of transport, both internal and external. An attempt will be made to co-ordinate the scientific and engineering factors of Canada along the lines of research and technical requirements intimately connected with production and with distribution. I think this is of prime importance to us in Canada. There is to-day in our universities, in our colleges, in scientific societies, and in individual laboratories, excellent resources and ability for chemical research, for all that kind of research which transfers from the laboratory to the factory what is absolutely necessary for the factory at this time, and what will be more necessary for the factory when the period of unexampled competition comes within three or four or five years from now. Science, knowledge, and information are as essential to a well-ordered and successful business as they are to the profession of the doctor or the engineer or any scientific man. Germany's great point of vantage was that her technical and scientific instruction had advanced to such a pitch and had disseminated itself so widely that it worked itself into the very grain of Germany's production and made them the powerful competitors that they were. Britain, Canada, Australia and other countries must not merely take a leaf out of Germany's book; they must sit down before that question and solve it by bringing the aid of scientific research, of engineering capacity, of technical power and expertness into the region of the farm and the factory and the business establishment, and incorporating and bringing together those essentials which ought never afterwards to be disjoined. Such a commercial bureau of information as I have attempted roughly and briefly to describe can, without any very great expense, be brought into existence in Canada, and prove of great help and of great instructive and stimulating power to the business and industrial life of Canada in the future.

Then, I think something else should be done, and should be done soon. It may be that I have been criticised for not thinking that it should have been done sooner, for I have had many statements and suggestions made to me on that score. Men have written to me and men have said to me: What is your department doing all