

4. It should provide educational opportunities for those who are able to return and to devote their time for some months or years, as the case may be, to a course or courses of instruction and training.

5. It should make provision to ensure, as far as practicable, equality of opportunity for all preparing for industrial, agricultural and housekeeping occupations, and for workers in such occupations.

6. It should be carried on in cordial co-operation with existing systems of education, and in such a way as to have the advantage of the use of existing buildings, equipment and teaching staff so far as these may be suitable and available.

EFFICIENCY BY CO-OPERATION

Any effort at control, by means of an administrative body whose members would be appointed on the basis of the relative contributions of money from Dominion, Provincial and local sources, could not apply advantageously to work of this kind. The end to be sought is the most efficient and economical and suitable education which can be provided; and also the maintenance of local interest and the utilization of as much as possible of local talent and the further equipment of that talent by the experience which the individuals would gain only by participating in the administration.

A statement made in this connection by Sir John Struthers, secretary of the Scottish Education Department, is illustrative of much that came to the attention of the Commission in the countries visited. In substance he said that the Scottish Education Department would rather have a thousand men and women in Scotland thinking and planning and striving to make the courses of study and the education meet the needs of their own communities than have ten thousand implicitly doing what the Department directed.

Experience elsewhere indicates that it will be advantageous to leave the initiative, the control and administration of the general work of the school largely in the hands of the local authorities. The central or higher authority should co-operate by putting at the service of the local body the full information which it alone could possess, and the benefit of inspection, counsel and advice by experts whom it only could employ. Supervision