

effected by the divergent commercial interests of individuals and Governments, and the wide separation in space and the great diversity of the components of the British Empire, are still material considerations of which full account must be taken in thinking of any scheme for unified administration.

6. The Committee of Council, however, believe that even at the present time, when the energies of the Empire are so pre-occupied by the war, it is not only possible but very desirable to make an advance in the direction suggested by the Governments of Victoria and New South Wales.

It may not be possible during the war to undertake, either at home or in the Overseas Dominions, any researches involving the concerted work of a large number of trained researchers, or the provision of extensive plant and equipment. On the other hand, the Committee of Council are more than ever convinced that during the war it is essential to prepare and test, if only on a relatively small scale, an organisation by which the scientific resources of the Empire can be mobilised on a large scale immediately the war is over. The success of anything like an Imperial Scheme of Research must ultimately depend at least as much upon the skill, foresight, and care with which it is managed as upon the zeal and goodwill of the Governments, universities, and industries which co-operate in it; and it would be very imprudent to wait until the demand has become heavy and urgent in the hope of then improvising a satisfactory system of management.

7. The Committee, therefore, suggest that if the general proposal commends itself, each Overseas Government which is willing to enter into a co-operative arrangement should, as a first step and at an early date, constitute some body or agency having functions analogous to those of the Advisory Council which acts for the United Kingdom.

The Committee of Council have, of course, no intention of suggesting that the particular arrangement adopted for the United Kingdom should be taken as a model by other parts of the Empire. The Committee of Council as originally constituted consists of six Ministers *ex-officio* and three ex-Ministers. This body is ultimately responsible for asking Parliament to furnish the necessary funds and for approving their expenditure. It is an essential part of the scheme that all proposals for research shall stand referred to an Advisory Council which is a relatively small body, mainly consisting of eminent scientific men and men actually engaged in industries dependent upon scientific research, and that this Council shall take full responsibility for the scientific and technical soundness of all research proposals recommended by them for State assistance.

In the case of the Overseas Dominions the precise relation of any new body or agency to the Central or the State or Provincial Government, or to a particular Ministry, must obviously depend on local conditions and local preferences. It is, of course, assumed that it would be supported by the resources and influence of the Ministry of Commerce, as in the United Kingdom the resources and influence of the Board of Trade are available for working the scheme of research in its commercial and industrial relations.

The Committee of Council, however, venture to lay stress upon two points. First, any bodies or agencies instituted for the purpose should, under their respective Governments, have really responsible functions and substantial authority. The several bodies, moreover, should be at liberty to communicate freely with one another, and should within the limits of the funds placed at their disposal, be empowered to negotiate with one another for the formation and execution of schemes of research. Secondly, a close connection should be maintained between these bodies and the public educational systems and institutions of their respective countries. It is obvious that the work of Universities and other institutions for advanced scientific and technological education will both affect and be affected by a State system of research, and that the systematic