

not be formally encouraged. Experience has shown that there are other agencies through which such work can be more efficiently and satisfactorily carried out.

INDUSTRIAL AND SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH COMMISSION.

In Great Britain where they are now deeply concerned with this question, they established two years ago a Commission on Industrial and Scientific Research*. It is controlled by a Committee of the Privy Council consisting of three or four members of the Government, and directed by an Advisory Council consisting of a small group of men of distinction in Science and of accomplishment in the industries. In Canada through the initiative action of the Minister of Trade and Commerce, Sir George E. Foster, steps have been taken to set up a Commission† of a similar character. It appears that such a body is the best agency for handling the problem with us. Among its activities it will first of all make a survey of the ground for the purpose of seeing what organisations are at present in operation and engaged in research work. It will be the duty of the Commission to co-ordinate these and to extend and develop their efforts. Cognisance will have to be taken by the Commission not only of the work done by the Universities but also of that done through such agencies as the National and Provincial Governmental Departments, the Royal Society, the Royal Canadian Institute the Society for Chemical Industry and perhaps what is most important of all by private firms in their works. The Commission will be able to give definiteness and direction to the efforts now being put forth in this direction by the Boards of Trade, the Grain Growers Association and the Canadian Manufacturers' Association. Machinery will have to be devised to prevent overlapping. Steps will have to be taken to establish in Ottawa, and probably also in such industrial centres as Montreal, Toronto, and Winnipeg, large and fully equipped technical libraries which will contain all Scientific and Technical Journals, Trade and Industrial Magazines, books, and other publications, and also copies of all patents with their specifications wherever issued. We are sadly lacking in such facilities at the present time in Canada and the Commission should take steps to see that this defect is speedily remedied.

In Great Britain a large number of the industries have shown extraordinary enterprise and resourcefulness since the war broke out and there has appeared a greater disposition among individual manufacturers to co-operate by interchanging ideas, putting their trade secrets into the common stock, and calling in all the available scientific and mechanical resources of the country for the purpose of increasing output and improving organisation. In certain trades the changes which

*See Appendices I and II.

†See Appendix IV.