

NEWS AND VIEWS

Joint Council of Professional Scientists

A JOINT COUNCIL of Professional Scientists, representing more than ten thousand qualified men of science, has been set up under the chairmanship of Sir Robert Pickard by the Institutes of Chemistry and Physics in association with representatives of professional botanists, geologists, mathematicians and zoologists. The Council has been established to voice the collective opinion of qualified scientists on matters of public interest, to provide a liaison between professional organizations of scientific men for co-ordinated action in matters of common interest, and in particular to concern itself with: (1) the utilization of men of science to the best advantage in the service of the community; (2) the education, training, supply and employment of scientific workers; (3) the better understanding of the place of men of science in the community; (4) the maintenance of adequate qualifications and ethical standards among professional men of science; (5) the supply of information and advice to public and other bodies on matters affecting men of science.

The members of the Council are as follows: *Institute of Chemistry*: Dr. J. J. Fox, Prof. Alexander Findlay, Dr. G. Roche Lynch, Sir Robert Pickard, Dr. H. A. Tempany, Mr. R. B. Pilcher; *Institute of Physics*: Sir Lawrence Bragg, Prof. J. A. Crowther, Mr. E. R. Davies, Dr. B. A. Keen, Dr. H. Lowery, Dr. H. R. Lang; *Representing Botanists*: Prof. W. Brown; *Representing Zoologists*: Prof. D. Keilin; *Representing Mathematicians*: Prof. S. Chapman; *Representing Geologists*: Prof. H. H. Read. The Joint Council has been established for the period of the national emergency, but it may form the nucleus of some more permanent organization to facilitate the close collaboration between professional men and women practising in all branches of science. Communications to the Council should be addressed to Dr. H. R. Lang, Honorary Secretary, Joint Council of Professional Scientists, c/o The Institute of Physics, at its temporary address, The University, Reading, Berks.

Industrial Reconstruction in Great Britain

A STATEMENT on "A National Policy for Industry" has been issued by a group of 120 industrialists in Great Britain as a contribution to the discussions on reconstruction (*The Times*, November 11). The statement, while urging that, as a producer, industry is by far the largest contributor to the material welfare of the nation, recognizes that industry has a three-fold public responsibility: to the public which consumes its products; to the public which it employs; and to the public which provides the capital by which it operates and develops. The underlying conviction of the whole document is that the spirit which should animate industry is service to the community as a whole, and emphasis is laid on four principles: (1) that the primary duty of industry is to the consumer; (2) that industry should acknowledge by accepting a code of performance towards the workers the partnership of labour in industry; (3) that in any central or sectional organization of industry special steps should be taken to safeguard the interests of small producers; and (4) that whatever form the further organization of industry may take should be and should remain a matter for the determination of Parliament.

The first part of the statement makes a spirited defence of the private enterprise in Great Britain under which industry has shown the essential qualities of imagination, boldness and resource, and the signatories consider that it is a necessary condition of achieving the requisite efficiency that the system of private enterprise continue. It is held nevertheless that the general standard of management can be further improved and that every possible step must be taken to achieve that end. Moreover, industry must recognize its social obligations in contributing to the work of physical reconstruction which will be necessary after the War. In regard to the suggested code of obligations towards employees, the statement refers specifically to co-operation with the trade unions, the development of works councils, holidays with pay, reasonable hours of work, a scheme of family allowances for children, and to part-time compulsory education up to the age of eighteen.

To assure to the consumer the full benefit of technical progress reflected in higher quality or lower prices or both, while establishing greater security for all, the signatories suggest that relations between firms, between different industries and between industry as a whole and Government, should be more fully and comprehensively organized in some form of permanent association. They advocate the classification of industry into sections, each of which should establish a sectional association charged with the duties of co-ordinating the activities and securing the collaboration of all producers in its own section. Beyond this they contemplate a Central Council of Industry representative of the whole of industry in Great Britain. In regard to the specific powers to make regulations and enforce decisions and membership which should be given to the association and Council, the statement points out that this is a matter for the determination of Parliament. It is recognized that ample provision should be made for the protection of the public as consumer, as well as of the small producer, and the establishment of an industrial tribunal or commission is suggested to which appeal could be made.

Colonial Policy

IN the House of Commons on November 26, Sir Edward Grigg moved an amendment to the address in reply to the King's Speech, in which he welcomed the declaration that it is desired to raise the standards of life of peoples in the Colonies, but regretted the lack of mention of specific proposals, including the establishment of a Colonial Development Board. He urged that further arguments about charters and abstract principles are no use, and that machinery should be set up at once to investigate the problems presented by the various Colonies, in order to be able to arrive at an agreed policy on them in relation with other Powers. In the course of the debate, reference was made to the unfortunate effect which may be produced in the Colonies themselves by the frequent changes during recent years in the Colonial Secretaryship.

Mr. Harold Macmillan, Under-Secretary for the Colonies, who replied for the Government, explained that Mr. Oliver Stanley, who has just succeeded Lord Cranborne as Secretary of State, could not be expected to define his attitude immediately. Meanwhile Mr. Macmillan outlined the present position in general terms. As regards the West Indies, he said that £1,500,000 has been spent on schemes under the Welfare Act, and a similar sum provided