

up-to-date wind tunnels. It is intended to make a beginning as soon as possible; but the rate at which the equipment will be provided will naturally depend upon the finance available to meet what will inevitably be a costly project. The transfer of both apparatus and staff from the present Royal Aircraft Establishment at Farnborough will be gradual. Farnborough will eventually be retained for special research and development on armament, instruments and such auxiliary services. It is understood that the new centre will not affect the R.A.F. station at Cardington, but will be an extension of a present American bomber station and the Bedford airport at Thurlleigh.

The adoption of this scheme completes plans that have been under discussion for a long time in the aeronautical world, and is perhaps the widest organization of industrial applied science ever attempted in Great Britain. The experimentation relative to the immediate progress in aircraft design and the solving of problems arising upon aircraft in use will be the province of the designing and constructing firms. At the Royal Aircraft Establishment the Air Ministry, as purchasers and users of aircraft for the Fighting Forces and possibly to a certain extent for air transport, will deal with their special problems, many of which must be handled in this way as necessarily they will be secret. The new organization will deal with long-range fundamental research of a general nature, that will add to the knowledge of all who use the science of aeronautics in any way. This should extend the usefulness of the Aeronautical Research Committee, a body which, acting in an advisory capacity, has been largely dependent upon the goodwill and the capacity of the industry, Government establishments, and the universities, for the carrying out of its suggestions. The importance of this is obvious, and it is hoped that its development will be able to proceed at a reasonably rapid rate.

### Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851

At the 148th meeting of the Commissioners of the Exhibition of 1851, held on May 6, the Princess Royal was elected president of the Royal Commission in succession to the late Duke of Kent. In his survey of the work of the Board of Management during the period immediately before and after the outbreak of war, Lord Macmillan gave reasons for the partial suspension of the scholarship schemes in 1939, when no fresh awards were made although existing scholarships were continued until their holders were absorbed in the national war effort. So great was the demand for the Commission's experienced research workers and engineering students that by the end of 1940 practically all these men and women had relinquished their awards to take up appointments in the technical branches of the services or in special work for the war industries. Referring to the scientific research awards of the Commission, Lord Macmillan emphasized that the scholarship scheme has produced many of the most eminent men of science in academic, industrial and professional life, including sixty-six fellows of the Royal Society and no less than six Nobel laureates. The Commission's industrial bursary scheme has also been very successful and has helped to place in industry more than six hundred graduates who could not depend on their parents for financial support after their university scholarships came to an end. Sir Robert Robinson described the work of

the Science Scholarships Committee. Since 1922, when the earlier scheme was revised, 90 senior students and 149 overseas scholars from the Dominions have been appointed. The value of the material derived from the Dominions has been more than gratifying. Their records as a whole show that they are using the knowledge and experience gained as scholars to very great advantage in the scientific service of the Commonwealth.

### Coasts of England and Wales

A SURVEY of the scenic qualities of the coasts of England and Wales has been made by Mr. J. A. Steers at the instance of the Ministry of Town and Country Planning. The results are embodied in a map accompanying a paper in the *Geographical Journal* of July-August 1944. The greater part of the coastal scenery is classified as of good or very good quality, with exceptional quality mainly in parts of Wales and Cornwall. Comparatively little, outside certain industrial areas, has been ruined; but Mr. Steers notes the frequent occurrence of bad scattered development marked by huts and bungalows on parts of the East Anglian coast and elsewhere, including, no doubt, coasts in the south-east, an area for the time excluded from the survey. Only a few stretches of coast-line up to the present are under the National Trust, and it is evident that steps will need to be taken speedily, not only to check undesirable building, but also to ensure access to the coast-line. Nor must the coast-line be considered in any rigid conception: in many parts it is a zone, and not a coast, that must be protected. Mr. Steers argues that the many problems relating to the maintenance of our coast-line from both a scenic and also a physical point of view should be the work of a national organization.

### Individual Welfare and Human Progress

THE R.A.F. Penrose Memorial Lecture delivered by the Right Hon. H. B. Butler, British Minister at Washington, has been published (*Proc. Amer. Phil. Soc.*, 88, 151; 1944). Mr. Butler discusses the lessons derived from the work of the International Labour Organisation during the last twenty-five years. Its organization, he says, has needed little amendment during its first twenty-five years. It was founded in the belief that the welfare of the common man must be one of the main objectives of human society, the supreme aim of which is individual progress. There can be no peace without social justice; nor can we have social justice without peace. War must go; but economic upheaval must also be prevented. The great slump of 1929-32, which was due, not to inability to produce, but to lack of purchasing power, is likely to recur after the present War, to a more serious degree. That slump taught us that international economic unity is essential. Nations must act together to prevent a repetition of it. Wise planning is not enough. There must be a true conception of life as well. The Fascist danger, spread far and wide, will still be a menace after the War, and it will be one of the tasks of the International Labour Organisation, which has been repudiated by all the Fascist States, to fight it. If we follow purely egoistic and materialistic aims and ignore the good of our neighbours, putting economic above spiritual values, we shall inevitably decline. The cynicism of despair will be equally fatal. But