

# VAST TOPICS AT SCIENCE CONGRESS

## Plea For Migration

### STUDY OF MANKIND

LONDON, September 25.

Papers on oversea settlement, unemployment, better organisation in agriculture, and racial progress were read at today's meetings of the British Association for the Advancement of Science.

"The present setbacks to migration do not lessen the desirability of intensive propaganda," declares the report of the committee of the British Association on educational training for overseas, of which Sir John Russell, director of the Rothamsted experimental station, is chairman.

"The enormous resources of the Dominions will enable them to recover more quickly than Europe, and they will probably reach prosperity by the time the majority of our pupils are old enough to migrate. We were impressed by the ignorance in schools concerning the wealth of opportunity overseas offered to British boys in the past decade. Schools throughout Britain appear to be sadly lacking in initiative, which is equalled only by the indifference and hostility of parents, who prefer that their children shall accept blind-alley jobs at home rather than adventure in the unknown. Schools ignore the practical boy likely to succeed overseas, and do not train him in skill of hand and eye for outdoor pursuits. It is argued that boys lack the pioneer spirit of their ancestors. It is truer to say that the adventurous boy is too often discouraged by those ignorant of the Dominions."

The committee stresses the importance of the personal touch by those knowing and having faith in the Dominions, and considers that teachers should be given greater encouragement to travel overseas.

Other recommendations include the appointment of a "careers" master acquainted with the labor market in England and abroad; the establishment of a co-ordinating agency to link up the work of the different migration societies; that scholarships won in Britain should be tenable overseas, if the holder desires it, and that no time should be lost in developing a comprehensive campaign of enlightenment. The committee urges the British Association to approach the Dominions Office.

#### Changed Outlook of Population

"Contrary to common belief, declining population will not cure unemployment," declared Mr. Edwin Cannan, the famous economist, formerly connected with the London School of Economics, in a lecture to the British Association on the changed outlook to population. "On the contrary," he said, "when population increases, the absolute diminutions of the demand for commodities are fewer. A stationary population provides us with a greater, not a less, reason, for promoting the mobility of labor in place and occupation. If it continues stationary, less labor will be employed in agriculture, and the heavy industries, where the demand is limited, and more in the lighter industries, where the demand is insatiable."

"Even politicians are losing their enthusiasm for land settlement, and realise that fewer workers are needed, to raise food for all. Agricultural subsidies are not intended to increase productivity, but, supposedly, to increase employment."

## Agricultural Production

"The Empire's greatest need is better organisation in agricultural production," declared Sir John Russell, director of the Rothamsted Experimental Station, addressing the British Association, on the changing outlook in agriculture.

"British, foreign, and Dominion farmers are ruthlessly competing in the British market, and obtaining wholly inadequate prices. The consumers do not gain what they lose. The Ministry of Agriculture and the Empire Marketing Board had worked out Britain's food requirements. We must organise production to meet them on a contract basis in order to eliminate terrible waste of competition and enable agriculture to offer a reasonable livelihood to Empire farmers and workers."

### Need For World Planning

The geographer saw the world as two main areas, east and west, measuring together less than 10 per cent. of the world's surface, but containing more than 80 per cent. of the world's population, declared Sir Halford Mackinder, in his address on the human habitat. Both east and west the growth seemed to be intensive rather than extensive, he said, and though some functions might be delegated to lesser cities, it did not look as though the few great world's centres, London, Paris, Berlin, New York, and Chicago, would tend to diminish. Minor, less developed, peoples might, in some cases, be absorbed, but the momentum of the greater nationalities was at present increasing.

If civilisation was not to go down in a blind, internecine conflict, there must be a development of world planning out of regional planning, just as regional planning had come out of town planning. The statesman of the future would have to know something about geographical national regions if he was to build for stability.

### Racial Anatomy

"Progress in the field of comparative racial anatomy is disproportionate to the time and energy expended," declared Professor Radcliffe Brown, in an address on the present position of anthropological studies. "The reason for that is that we are preoccupied in our attempts to reconstruct the racial history of mankind without a precise knowledge of how the varieties of human species actually come into existence. There should be a closer co-operation of racial anatomy with human genetics, also a further development in comparative racial psychology, in which little progress has yet been made. Any attempt to discover the general laws of human society must be based on detailed study. The de-

velopment of really scientific sociology, except on this basis of anthropology, has been largely neglected.

"The material for the scientific study of mankind is rapidly disappearing. Two things are urgently needed. The first is some provision for the scientific study of the Empire's native peoples, which has been overlong neglected owing to lack of funds. There seems to be little difficulty in raising big sums annually for archaeological investigations, for which there is no such urgency as the immediate study of living cultures, which are being destroyed by the encroachment of the white man. The second urgent need is further provision for the application of anthropological knowledge to the problem of Government education of the native peoples."