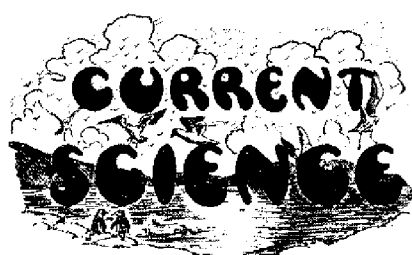


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*B. J. Rao\* is in the Department of Biological Sciences, Tata Institute of Fundamental Research, Homi Bhabha Road, Mumbai 400 005, India and Krishna Jhaveri is in the Lokmanya Tilak Municipal Medical College, Sion, Mumbai 400 022, India*

*\*For correspondence. (e-mail: bjrao@tifr.res.in)*



Vol. IV]      APRIL 1936      [NO. 10

### The New Viceroy and Science

Few Viceroy's have been called upon to assume the responsibilities of their exalted office in circumstances more critical than those which confront Lord Linlithgow, and the problems which await solution are not, however, beyond his statesmanship.

The welfare and prosperity of the people depend on the extent to which the country is scientifically organized, and our firm conviction is that unless the major industry of the people persistently applies scientific method and scientific knowledge to its problems, it cannot escape from the difficulties with which it is surrounded. In the field of science, therefore, no Legislature can reasonably recommend measures of economy which will sacrifice the efficiency of research organization. The Royal Commission on Agriculture has pointed out that 'in spite of marked progress which has been made in many directions during the last quarter of a

century, it is hardly an exaggeration to say agricultural research in this country is still in its infancy.

It seems to us that simultaneously with the inauguration of constitutional reforms, an announcement should be made in regard to the establishment of the National Advisory Council of Scientific Research for the purpose of co-ordinating all the research organizations in order to promote a steady advancement of the industrial prosperity.

The principal task of such an institution will be to emphasize that no industry can afford in these times to neglect any opportunity for increasing its efficiency and, of all the means to this end, the pursuit of research and the applications of the results obtained are often the most far-reaching and fruitful. If the case for research on the production of Indian commodities is as strong as ever, the need for research into their utilization is stronger still. In nearly every industry to-day, movements are on foot to apply old materials to new uses, and to discover uses for new material. Cotton, wool, rubber, food products and alloys of metals are instances in point. Whether the object in view be to create a wide demand for a commodity and thus reap the advantages of modern methods of production or to discover the most suitable material for a particular purpose, it is equally important that the chemical and physical properties of the materials concerned should be fully understood. For investigations of this

kind, the facilities in the laboratories of the universities and in those of the Indian Institute of Science, if extended and supported by increased grants from the funds of the National Advisory Council of Scientific Research will be found ample for industrial research of the highest quality.

The poverty and backwardness of India can be removed only by investing more money in the promotion of scientific research and if, in the midst of his political concerns and duties. His Excellency Lord Linlithgow could bestow some attention on the imperative need of consolidating the work of the Royal Commission over which he so worthily and ably presided, his contribution to the lasting happiness and prosperity of India would be such as few Viceroy's have conceived or achieved. To watch and guide the working of the New Reforms Act is part of the routine programme of the Viceroy's duties, but to devise a scientific organization of this great country 'as a means of assisting the advance of the rural community towards a richer and fuller life, and of awakening the desire in that community for better things and arming each individual member of it against the temptations that beset him, without impairing either his self-respect or his spirit of manly independence', calls for the active and generous exercise of those higher qualities of statesmanship with which Nature and political training have abundantly endowed Lord Linlithgow.