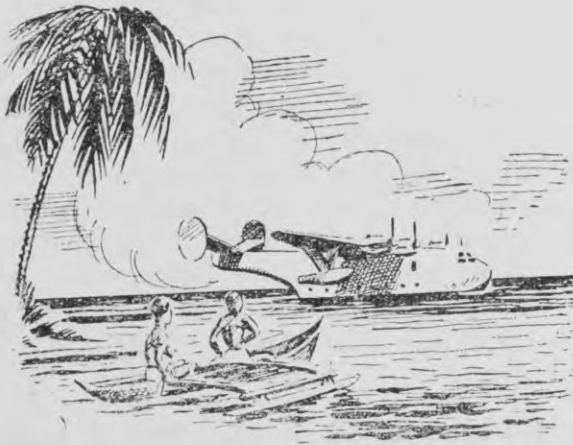


responsibility on the nation concerned in each case, but it would link the economic development of the colonies to some definite national or imperial system instead of leaving them dependent on uncertain world markets, and would provide a clear basis for native political loyalties. Another proposal is that the scattered island jurisdictions which each nation now holds should be integrated in the interests of better administration. Under such a scheme all the South Seas territories of Great Britain, Australia and New Zealand

weaknesses of the mandate system, such as the difficulty of defining the spheres of responsibility as between local administrations, the mandatory governments, and the international body, could be ironed out so as to make the native populations wards of civilization rather than leaving them under the narrower influence of only one political group. In either system—the integration of each nation's interests in the Pacific or the substitution of a type of international control—the immediate advantage would lie in the pooling of resources, financial and economic, for the benefit of all parties.



could be controlled by a joint commission. It would be necessary in the meantime to maintain local administrative entities now in existence, particularly in such politically conscious places as Tonga and Fiji, but the way could be paved for the removing in time of some of the boundaries of today.

There are several methods of organisation under which the development of international collaboration could be applied to the needs of the Pacific. One proposal that has been advanced is that the nations at present exercising influence in the Pacific should establish a South Seas Federation, drawing in as many territories as possible and placing the whole under the control of a joint commission appointed by the Powers concerned. Supporters of the general principle of international supervision contend that the

The disadvantages of having the island groups of the Pacific under several different administrations without any common plan of action in such matters as defence hardly require emphasis. However, it is a consideration to which due weight must be given in formulating the peace settlement, and, in view of New Zealand's close relationship with the island groups of the South Seas and her geographical situation, she has strong claims as an administrative centre. In the event of her accepting the administration of further islands there is every likelihood of an additional charge being made on the New Zealand taxpayer, but that would be merely the price of ensuring stability in the South-West Pacific and as such would return worthwhile dividends. Any such outlay would compare favourably as an investment with the Dominion's contribution of a million pounds towards the cost of the Singapore Base, the final payment on which amount was made as recently as 1937.

About a dozen Pacific Islands, ranging in size from small atolls to the mandated territory of Western Samoa (which is roughly the size of Stewart Island), come within New Zealand's present administrative sphere, as well as the 175,000 square miles area of the Ross Dependency, in the Antarctic, the control of which boils down to the