

Board of Trade the central authority in respect of coast protection, giving the Board jurisdiction over—

- (1) The removal of shore materials;
- (2) The construction of works on the shore;
- (3) Assistance where necessary in respect of supervision of existing authorities concerned with coast protective works, and the creation of new authorities in particular areas where found to be desirable.
- (4) The Commissioners recommend that the Board of Trade should be “equipped with expert engineering advice, and that provision should be made by the Board for establishing suitable arrangements for the watching of the coast”.

The Board of Trade would under these recommendations be constituted the sole Sea Defence Authority of the Realm.

In respect of monetary assistance, the following is the finding of the majority of the Commission:—

“With regard to the borrowing of money for sea-defence purposes by existing local authorities, including Commissions of Sewers in England and Wales, or by new sea-defence authorities to be formed by the Board of Trade, we recommend that the State, as represented by the Public Works Loan Commissioners in England and Scotland and by the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, should be empowered in suitable cases and with proper conditions to adopt the policy of making loans for sea-defence purposes on the security of the rates, where the credit, in the opinion of the Public Works Loan Commissioners or the Commissioners of Public Works in Ireland, as the case might be, was good.

“We think that it is undesirable that the supervision of the financial transactions of local sanitary authorities, at present exercised in England and Ireland by the Local Government Boards for those countries, should be taken away from those Boards. We, however, recommend that, in fixing the periods of repayment of loans for sea-defence purposes, those Boards should accept and act upon the report of the Board of Trade with regard to the design of any proposed sea-defence works for the purpose of which a loan is being raised, and also with regard to the probable life of such works. It is desirable to avoid as much as possible two separate inquiries in these cases by the Board of Trade and by the Local Government Boards. Moreover, the practice of the Local Government Board for England of allowing not more than ten years as the period of repayment of loans for groynes, and twenty years for solid defence works, appears to us to operate detrimentally in the case of many local authorities.”

They further state: “We are not prepared on the evidence laid before us