

Sources of Helium throughout the British Empire.

At the request of the Admiralty, an exhaustive enquiry was made as to the amount of helium occurring in the natural gases throughout the Empire.

All important oil companies were communicated with, and also the Imperial Institute's Corresponding Members throughout the Empire, with a view to obtaining the information. Samples of gas were obtained in certain instances and were examined by the Government Chemist in the United Kingdom. The results of the enquiry were communicated to the Admiralty.

Sources of Quartz, Fluorite and Iceland Spar throughout the British Empire. Arising out of a meeting of one of the Advisory Technical Committees, the question of supplies of these minerals for the manufacture of optical instruments was considered, and enquiries were made throughout the Empire with a view to seeing if sources of material suitable for this industry were available. Details as to the amount consumed were obtained, and in cases where possible material was reported, samples were asked for. It was, however, found that the amounts consumed for this purpose were so small that the Imperial Institute could not, at the present time, take any further action.

Lithium—its sources and uses. Arising out of the discovery of lithium deposits in Manitoba, the Canadian Mines Department requested the Imperial Institute to draw up a document concerning the sources and uses of lithium.

A statement on this subject was prepared and forwarded to the authorities, and a considerable portion of it has been published recently in an official publication of the Manitoba Government.

Discovery of a Hæmatite Deposit in Sierra Leone.

At the request of the Governor of Sierra Leone, information with reference to the discovery of a large hæmatite deposit in Sierra Leone was communicated to the iron and steel firms in the United Kingdom, with a view to seeing if they were interested in the development thereof.

Investigation into a process of low-temperature carbonisation and briquetting of New Zealand lignite.

At the request of the High Commissioner for New Zealand, samples of New Zealand lignite were tested in Germany under the supervision of Sir Richard Redmayne, the Mineral Adviser to the Imperial Institute, and a report by him was submitted to the New Zealand Government.