

The Silk Committee's investigations of the possibilities of sericulture in the Empire have led to the preparation of a memorandum on the need for developing the silk production of the Empire which has been submitted by the Colonial Office to overseas governments for consideration. An important result of the Committee's work has been the establishment in Cyprus of a filature for reeling the entire output of Cyprus cocoons which hitherto have been exported to the Continent. The development of sericulture in Iraq is under consideration, and arrangements have been made for reeling trials of cocoons from Iraq, Jamaica and Rhodesia, and for subsequent throwing and weaving tests.

The Timbers Committee has completed the preparation of a descriptive list of Empire timbers which it has examined and recommends for wider use in this country. Arrangements have been made for printing the list, which it is hoped to distribute widely among timber users and others. The Committee proposes to deal with the enquiries arising out of the distribution of the list of recommended timbers, and to consider other woods not yet examined. Reports have been made on a series of Gold Coast timbers examined at the Institute. Other work has reference to British Honduras woods; the inclusion of selected Empire timbers in official specifications as fire-resisting materials; and timber questions referred to the Institute by Government Departments.

The Committee on Vegetable Fibres has considered several important questions connected with fibre production within the Empire. At the request of the Indian Agricultural Commission, a memorandum was furnished giving information as to the quality of Indian hemp in comparison with European hems and making recommendations with a view to its improvement. Other subjects which are receiving attention include the effect of sea-water on the strength of Sisal hemp ropes in comparison with Manila hemp ropes; the improvement of Sierra Leone piassava; and the utilisation of Sisal waste.

The Committee on Animal Fibres is devoting primary attention to questions relating to the production of wool in the Empire. They propose to deal in the first instance with the improvement of the wools at present produced in Canada and with the possible extension of the industry in the Dominion. Wools from Iraq and Palestine are being reported on.