

I hope we may soon be able to arrange duplicate samples of all products in sample rooms for the benefit of people who wish, for technical, scientific or business reasons, to examine them closely. It will not be easy to do this adequately without some re-allotment of the courts.

Mention is made on p. 39 of the Imperial Gallery of Art established in the upper east gallery. It was opened with a small exhibition in November and the first exhibition of pictures from the brushes of contemporary artists throughout the Empire is to be held from April to June, 1927. Full information regarding this exhibition was sent early in December to each High Commissioner with a request that he would forward it to his Government. It will doubtless take time before artists overseas will appreciate fully the opportunities offered by the inauguration of this Gallery to make their work known to their fellow craftsmen throughout the Empire and to patrons of art in the Mother Country, but I am confident that, as it becomes better known, this movement will benefit artists in every part of the Empire.

I am glad to be able to report that I have been fortunate in making acquaintance with numerous individuals from many parts of the Empire, whose duties in their respective Dominions and Colonies are akin to ours in endeavouring to advance the plant, animal and mineral development of the Empire. Such personal acquaintance is of immense importance to future collaboration, and I would, in this connection, stress the desirability of the Imperial Institute being represented at Imperial Conferences on such subjects, whether assembled at home or overseas, *e.g.*, the Mineralogical Conference to be held in Montreal in August next, and the Agricultural Conference to be held in Australia and New Zealand in 1928. If the Imperial Institute is to establish itself as an acknowledged and really valuable clearing house of information, it seems to me imperative that it should be officially represented at such meetings, and that provision should be made in our annual budgets for the travelling expenses involved.

The various new developments undertaken during the past year in the activities of the Institute have imposed increased work on all concerned, and I wish to acknowledge the willing and loyal assistance I have received from all my staff. My two principal officers, Mr. Brown and Major Henderson Scott, Major Keatinge the secretary, and the curator of the galleries Mr. Spooner, have each and all worked hard and cheerfully and have been efficiently backed by their respective subordinates.