

The Statistical Section.

At the head of the statistical section is the Chief Statistician with an assistant and four clerks as his staff.

This section is responsible for supplying statistical information of Empire products to the two technical departments and the exhibition galleries. Outside enquiries concerning statistics are dealt with after consultation with the two principal officers concerned. One of its important functions is the preparation of the Annual Statistical Summary each year. During 1926, the section furnished all the information for the quarterly statistics published in each number of the "Bulletin," and details for special articles and notes. The statistical charts in the exhibition galleries have been revised to a considerable extent, and a number of area production maps for display on showcases have been produced.

The following special information has been furnished: A statistical analysis of the position of the tobacco industry in the Empire in connection with a proposal to constitute an advisory committee on tobacco production in the British Empire.

Statistical information regarding the development of an entrepôt trade in Belgium for the distribution of Indian hemp. The enquiry was suggested as a result of the rapid increase in exports of hemp from India to Belgium.

Replies to enquiries relating to the production and trade in manganese in various countries over an extended period (in one case for 60 years past).

Statistics as to the distribution and stocks of gold throughout the world.

Work was started towards the end of the year on the statistics required for the first of the Mineral Monographs which is to be published.

Information for the use of the Royal Commission on the Coal Industry was also furnished with regard to the working conditions of persons employed in the coal industries of the more important coal producing countries.

Assistance was given to the Economic Section of the League of Nations in connection with a report on the world's economic development and the compilation of index numbers relating to the world's productivity in various commodities.