

**Timbers for rifle-stocks.** (*Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield*). Information regarding (a) Empire and (b) foreign timbers suggested as possibly suitable for use in place of walnut for the manufacture of service rifle-stocks; with particulars regarding their botanical origin, geographical distribution and general characters.

**Canadian timbers for telegraph poles.** (*Post Office Stores Dept., London*). In continuation of a previous enquiry regarding Canadian timbers (December 1925), a representative of the Department inspected specimens of timbers at the Imperial Institute and discussed the feasibility of obtaining certain of them in commercial quantities for use as telegraph poles. As a result it was proposed to obtain trial shipments of selected species, for practical tests by the Department.

**"Tsinglee" canes.** The question of procuring from Empire sources bamboos or other products which could replace Chinese "tsinglee" canes in the manufacture of umbrellas and walking-sticks exported to India. Samples of possibly suitable canes were supplied, and in addition, the Imperial Institute arranged to make official enquiries overseas on behalf of the firm.

**Fixation of drifting sand.** (*Director of Agriculture, British Somaliland*). Information regarding the methods employed for the fixation of drifting sands in Europe, South Africa, Palestine, New Zealand and other countries; the kinds of plants utilised for the purpose; and for the reclamation and commercial development of sandy areas; and suggestions as to various species which might be employed in this way in Somaliland. Required in connection with a proposal to carry out the fixation of sand on the coast near Berbera.

Among the subjects of other enquiries dealt with by the Intelligence Section during the year the following may be mentioned:—

The utility of Kenya bamboo and South African tambokie grass for paper-making; the suitability of British Guiana mora timber for railway sleepers; the sources of supply and utility of "Port Orford cedar"; the employment of East African "pencil cedar" from Kenya in competition with the American product; the quality and uses of Gold Coast copal; the feasibility of exploiting nipa palms in New Guinea as a source of industrial alcohol; the possible cultivation of vanilla