

THE PRESIDENT, BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

INTRODUCTORY.

The Imperial Institute Act, passed in May, 1925, opened a new chapter in the life of the Institute. The Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau became an essential part of the Institute from 1st July, 1925, and, at the request of the new Board of Governors, which was set up on the passing of the Act, under your Presidency, as the Minister for the Department of Overseas Trade, Sir Richard Redmayne consented to act as the administrator of the Institute until the new Director was selected. I was appointed Director by the Board in December, 1925, and took up my duties as such on 1st January, 1926. Major Keatinge became Secretary of the Institute on the same date.

My first duty was to arrange a proper establishment of the staff. This was completed and approved by the Board in March. Details of a pension scheme for the staff have been worked out and it is hoped that this scheme will be inaugurated as from 1st January, 1927. In both these matters, my thanks are due to the staffs of the Treasury and the Department of Overseas Trade for their valuable assistance.

An Advisory Council on Plant and Animal Products, under the Chairmanship of Sir David Prain, was set up in the early spring, while the Advisory Council of the Imperial Mineral Resources Bureau has continued its work for the Mineral Resources Department of the Institute under its original chairman, Sir Richard Redmayne. I cannot too early acknowledge the great help so constantly given me by these two gentlemen as my technical advisers in their respective departments.

Much of my time has been devoted to the re-arrangement of the Exhibition Galleries. During the spring and summer the heating and lighting systems were modernized and the whole of the galleries re-decorated, and we utilised this period, during which they were necessarily closed to the public, to change the system of arranging the exhibits themselves. My hope and belief is that these galleries, if made sufficiently attractive, will be of immense value to the public, and especially to the younger generation, as a permanent "Wembley" from the educational point of view. It is the one and only place in the Empire where the products of each and every part of the Empire, other than those of the Mother Country, are displayed under one roof. Its educational value has been appreciated by the Empire Marketing Board. They have granted the £6,000 needed